



Ackworth Parish Magazine



The Holy Feast
of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
on Mount Tabor
August 6

August 2008/September 2008
50p per copy (£3 per year)

~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

<u>Rector:</u>	Rev'd Paul Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<u>Assistant Curate:</u>	Rev'd Dr Jenny Montgomery, 37 Highfield Road, Pontefract	702726
<u>Lay Readers:</u>	Dr. Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove Mrs Marie Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill	613834 616074
<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Mr Bill Branston, 8 Andrews Grove Mrs Lynne Ward, 83 Station Road	610590 616384
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs Caroline Longhurst 27 Springhill Avenue, Crofton	01924 865026
<u>Christian Stewardship:</u>		
Treasurer:	Mr Bryan Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill	616074
Covenant Secretary:	Mr Donald Marshall, 17 Hill Drive	700961
Stewardship Recorder:	Mrs Sue Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<u>Car Lifts to Church:</u>	Mrs Ann Tait, 5 King's Close	612613
<u>Children and Young People:</u>		
Junior Church:	Dr Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove	613834
Mums & Tots Group:	Mrs Jackie Fox, 5 Andrews Grove	613834
Children's Society:	Mrs Helen Parkinson, 48 Holly Bank	614400
The Howard C E School:	Miss Sue Jackson, Headteacher	722275
<u>Third World and Missions:</u>	Mrs Lynne Ward, 83 Station Road	616384
<u>Social Committee:</u>	Mrs Biddy Branston, 8 Andrews Grove	610590
<u>Church Flowers/Brasses:</u>		
St Cuthbert's:	Mrs Phyllis Asquith, 70 Pontefract Road	704732
All Saints':	Mrs Jean Hancocks	610887
<u>Weekly News sheet:</u>	Mrs Maureen Richardson 45 Woodleigh Crescent	612859
<u>Parish Magazine:</u>		
Publishing:	Mrs Stella Hall, 32 Station Road Mr Nigel Parkinson, 48 Holly Bank	612003 614400
Distribution:	Mrs Biddy Branston, 8 Andrews Grove Mrs Margaret Seaman, 20 Flounders Hill	610590 611400
<u>St. Cuthbert's Bell Ringers:</u>		
Tower Captain:	Mr Ian Hall, 32 Station Road	612003
Ringling Master:	Mrs Stella Hall, 32 Station Road	612003

Dear Friends,

With most of the big festivals out of the way we seem to become buried in what is known as 'ordinary time' in the Church's seasons and many thoughts will be turning to the holidays in the months covered by this issue of the magazine.

It's an odd time for the church I always think; a time when everything seems to wind down and we seem to go into a state of hibernation; a time when we just 'tick over'. It can be however, for those of us deeply committed to the church's work, a time for renewal, an opportunity to review and renew our spiritual lives when we are not struggling to get through a welter of extra services that the period from Christmas to Pentecost brings; a time for refreshment and a recharging of our batteries.

With this in mind, it's probably no coincidence that this is a time for holidays - a word which I'm sure I've written about in the past - derived from the two words holy & days: a time of renewing the holiness in our lives were the ancient forerunners of today's holidays, times when Christians embarked on long journeys or pilgrimages to religious shrines which served the same purpose as the holidays of today. And really, we are not far removed from those early travellers, the pilgrims. How many of you, I wonder, whilst on holiday will occasionally visit site of important religious significance—a church, cathedral or monastery; one of those deeply spiritual places where something extra-ordinary has happened. These are often places which touch us in ways we cannot explain, places where we feel something of God's glory; places where we somehow feel closer to God.

Some people have been lucky enough to visit the Holy Land, the country where our Lord himself and other important religious figures walked around and lived. One of the many places often on the itinerary of those Holy Land tours is tied in with a major festival which happens at this time of year on Mount Tabor—the Mount of Transfiguration. This was a place where some of Jesus' disciples felt very much closer to God and saw God's glory shining through Jesus as he was transfigured and their lives were transformed forever. A festival of equal importance in the life of our Lord as Christmas, Easter, Ascension or Pentecost, it's sad isn't it that it is a festival that is often forgotten, pushed to one side almost. At one time celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent and smothered by Mothering Sunday it is now restored to its traditional time of August 6th.

Transfiguration or transformation is an experience which we all need from time to time; rare moments when we feel closer to God, touched by his grace and transformed or renewed. Often such experiences occur in isolated places—on the top of mountains where we are ‘blown away’ by the view, in quiet ‘holy’ places such as ancient sites, churches, cathedrals where prayer has been said for millennia, even in deserts or vast wildernesses. God can reach out and touch our hearts and lives in any place which makes us receptive. It is in such places where our faith is renewed and reinvigorated, places where we can offer ourselves anew in God’s service.

Holidays or holy-days are usually occasions when we get away from our usual surroundings but what about those who get away and visit our village, maybe on just a tour or day trip or perhaps a few days to visit friends? In recent months we have begun to open St Cuthbert’s on two days a week (Thursday and Saturday) for visitors. For this purpose we have asked for volunteers to ‘church sit’ during opening times to welcome pilgrims who come perhaps looking for place where they can be touched by God’s grace and be renewed. So far we have had problems raising enough volunteers to keep the Church open. If you can help, even if it’s just for an hour per month then please contact me or either of our churchwardens (details inside the front cover of the magazine). Who knows, what you can offer may just be the turning point or a moment of transfiguration for someone’s life!

Yours in Christ

Paul.



Shooting Ourselves in the Foot!

As I write this, the Anglican church is in the news. Sadly this is not for any good reason such as our care for those in need nor indeed because people are flocking to the church in droves but rather because we've been washing our dirty linen in public again. The popular press is full of stories of dissension within the church with breakaway groups, with vicars defying their bishops to conduct same sex blessings, with arguments about the ordination of women to the episcopate. Some of these stories are reasonable matters for public debate but unfortunately the general trend is to make the church look silly and irrelevant.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Despite being ordained in the Church of England and having a deep love for it, at one level how silly the church makes itself doesn't matter to me. In fact, making ourselves silly for the right reasons is entirely appropriate and scriptural. St Paul says:

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ----- but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1)

However, I do object strongly to us making public fools of ourselves in ways which do not proclaim the gospel but rather hamper its spread. How can anyone take us seriously or take the message we proclaim to be good news when we cannot agree among ourselves and when we behave towards each other in ways which would be laughed at in any other sector? Sensible theological debate is fine and indeed is healthy. Stupid sniping, misogyny, disobedience to the organisation to which clergy swear obedience at ordination is not.

Perhaps this article should be submitted as a letter to the 'Church Times' or indeed to a national newspaper but I believe these issues do have relevance to every one in every parish. As Christians we need to

focus first on the gospel truths. I'm fond of quoting Isaiah:

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

but doing a new thing is not the same as throwing the baby out with the bathwater. It seems to me that we have become so keen to be seen as 'modern', 'liberal', 'in touch with the real world', that we have moved away from the timeless truths of scripture. Each generation has to rediscover these truths for themselves and to understand their application in the light of the society in which we live but this does not change the basic truths.

Most of you know that I would place myself firmly in the evangelical camp. This means two main things. One, of course, is my enthusiasm for proclaiming the message of salvation only through personal belief in and commitment to Jesus Christ. The other is my firm adherence to the bible as the source of truth. It may not always be fashionable to ask 'Is this scriptural?' but I can think of no other foundation for true, living faith.

What has this to do with my concern about our current poor image? One of the most important things every Christian can do to bring transformation and to make the gospel relevant is to be firmly rooted in the bible. Each of us has a responsibility to seriously, regularly read the word of God, both individually and together, to reflect upon it and then to live it out and proclaim it. Bible study isn't just for ministers or strange, terribly holy Christians. It is for each of us. Only by refocusing on God through his word can we stop shooting ourselves in the foot and become a force to be reckoned with.



With love in Christ

Jenny



Season 2008 - 2009

20th September 2008 at Featherstone Library
Leodiensian Strings

25th October 2008 at Featherstone Library
Helen Issitt - Piano

13th December 2008 at The Meeting House,
Ackworth School
Simon Lindley with Choir and Orchestra

17th January 2009 at Ackworth Methodist Church
Poco Brass

21st February 2009 at Ackworth Methodist
Church
Madrigirls - Female Chamber Choir

21st March 2009 at Featherstone Library
Enchanted - Recorders and Piano

25th April 2009 at Featherstone Library
Elizabeth Kenwood Herriot - Oboes
Richard Kenwood Herriot - Piano

VILLAGE SIGNS

Around the country there are over 2500 village/towns bearing simple, ornamental or elaborate sign posts, not council signs. Most are concentrated in East Anglia, with Norfolk having over 500, followed by Suffolk 350, and Cambridge & Essex with 250 each. Yorkshire has 113 with Castleford, Pontefract, Thorpe Audlin & Wakefield being nearby ones. Thirty-five other counties have at least one of these signs.

A traditional village/town sign is defined as being carved or painted depicting its topography, heritage, heraldic devices, myths, history, culture, glories, traditions and trades. Signs may be fashioned from wood, wrought iron, forged steel, moulded glass fibre, stone or cast aluminium. The earliest signs were invariably the handiwork of the local wood carver or blacksmith. They are usually mounted on a brick or stone base and some are double sided. The majority of the early signs were carved or painted wood, which suffered the ravages of Mother Nature. Most newly erected signs are metal or fibreglass for longevity and low maintenance cost, although carved oak still remains popular. Some ingenuity is evident in that signs are also incorporated into seats, bus shelters, plaques on walls, obelisks, notice boards, wells etc. Some are in the form of sculptures, and I know of two that incorporate vintage ploughs; the one at East Dereham fully spans the High Street.

Signs are usually located on a road leading into the village, on the by-pass, by the church, or on the green, but some defy logic being hidden away at some point of historical significance, behind hedges, in gardens or in the middle of ponds. One, which I found, was only a few hundred yards from the sign in the next village! Simple signs bearing just the name may be relatively cheap to manufacture but more elaborate ones may cost a thousand pounds or more (£1000-£1500 was quoted in 1990).

Norfolk was the birthplace of the traditional village sign and that they have blossomed there is for two reasons, interest from the Royal Family and the inspired craftsmanship of one Swaffham schoolmaster.

The original idea came from Edward VII, when, at the turn of the 19th century, as Prince of Wales, he commissioned four signs for the Royal estate in Norfolk. By chance or design his wife Princess Alexandra had instituted a Carving School at Sandringham where they were produced. The first replacements and additions came about in 1912 to commemorate the coronation of George V. He had carried out and expanded his father's interest as did his son George VI. At the Royal Academy banquet in 1920 when as Duke of York, he said, 'The

development of motor travel has brought back to our highways some of the importance which they enjoyed in the coaching days. I feel sure that many of my fellow motorists would welcome the revival of the village sign or emblem, lettered and conspicuously displayed- a welcome guide to the visitor in a strange land. The name of many a village would offer scope for the wit and humour of the artist. In the neighbourhood of Sandringham village signs have been introduced with considerable success.'

The Daily Mail heard of his speech and decided to run a competition for the design of village signs, suitable to be erected on a village green and costing no more than £200. The £1000 prizewinner, from 525 entries, was from St. Peter's Thanet, and the total prize money £2100 was a not inconsiderable sum in those days. The newspaper also paid for the erection of the six prize-winning signs and their successors can still be seen to this day.

From the 1920's onward it became commonplace to erect signs to commemorate significant events:

The Coronations in 1937 & 1953

The Festival of Britain

The Queen's Silver & Golden Jubilees

The Gold & Diamond Jubilees of the Women's Institute

The Millennium

Harry Carter, whose uncle had discovered Tutenkaman's tomb, a schoolmaster from Swaffham had an inspired gift for carving and between 1929 and 1982 he is reputed to have been commissioned to produce somewhere between 185 & 300 village signs. I have seen both these figures quoted and although six a year may seem implausible I can only note that every other recorded early Norfolk sign appears to be credited to his craftsmanship. Whilst almost all of his signs were destined for Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire, I did come across one in Warwickshire, which shows that his fame spread even further afield.

We first became aware of one of these signs when visiting the picturesque harbour village of Blakeney in 1986 and thought that it might be a pleasant holiday pursuit to photograph one or two in passing. In no time at all, from such a low level of aspiration, we caught the fervour of collectors and the hobby became a passion. We have journeyed far and wide throughout the county of Norfolk and even over the borders, in the last twenty-one years, enjoying getting out and about in the countryside, visiting different villages many well off the usual tourist trail, our earliest sign dates back to 1937. At the last count we had photographed over 500 signs in Norfolk and would like to think we had them all, but each time we come to that conclusion another new one

is identified. We are not the only anoraks pursuing this hobby, there is a thriving Village Sign Society which is the source of much valuable information, which aids us not going on as many wild goose chases as happened when we were going it alone. In the time we have been collecting many signs have ceased to exist, mainly due to weathering, or vandalism, but many more new ones have been erected. There is great satisfaction in having a photographic record of a no longer existing historical sign as there is of finding and recording a new one. One thing is certain our collection will never be complete.

Colin & Sue Tanswell



ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

AUGUST 3 RD	ALAN CAMPLIN
AUGUST 10 TH	WENDY LAYBOURN
AUGUST 17 TH	MOLLIE GARDHAM
AUGUST 24 TH	FLOWER FUND
AUGUST 31 ST	FLOWER FUND
SEPTEMBER 7 TH	RUTH HARRISON
SEPTEMBER 14 TH	FLOWER FUND
SEPTEMBER 21 ST	EDITH SKIDMORE
SEPTEMBER 28 TH	FLOWER FUND

ST. CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

AUGUST 3 RD	MARGARET LLOYD
AUGUST 10 TH	HEATHER WALTERS
AUGUST 17 TH	BIDDY BRANSTON
AUGUST 24 TH	MRS. BARNARD
AUGUST 31 ST	VACANT
SEPTEMBER 7 TH	MRS. DODD
SEPTEMBER 14 TH	STELLA LEE
SEPTEMBER 21 ST	JEAN REAST
SEPTEMBER 28 TH	VACANT



BRASSES

AUGUST	COLIN TANSWELL
SEPTEMBER	COLIN TANSWELL



Readings Rota for August 2008, September 2008

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's	ser	All Saints'
03/08/2008	Proper 13	Genesis 32:22-31	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21	Sue Hartley	B	Mrs M Walker
10/08/2008	Proper 14	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33	Keith Shaw		Dr McWilliam
17/08/2008	Proper 15	Genesis 45:1-15	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28	Pauline Wong		Mrs S Hall
24/08/2008	St Bartholomew	Isaiah 43:8-13	Acts 5:12-16	Luke 22:24-30	Emil Brown		Mrs M Walker
31/08/2008	Proper 17	Exodus 3:1-15	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28	Anne Atack	B	Dr McWilliam
07/09/2008	Proper 18	Exodus 12:1-14	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20	George Scargill		Mrs S Hall
14/09/2008	Proper 19	Exodus 14:19-31	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35	Jane Siddall	P	Mrs M Walker
21/09/2008	St Matthew	Proverbs 3:13-18	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Matthew 9:9-13	Sue Hartley		Dr McWilliam
28/09/2008	Proper 21	Exodus 17:1-7	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32	Keith Shaw	B	Mrs S Hall



ICING ON THE CAKE

Celebration Cakes made to order
Christenings, Birthdays, Anniversaries.

Wedding Cakes to compliment
your wedding theme.

Sugar Flowers ~ Icing accessories sold

17 Gillygate, Pontefract. WF8 1PH

Tel: 01977 792222

www.weddingcakesandmore.co.uk



Pat Olbison

Traditional Joiner

Mission Room House

Wakefield Road, Ackworth

WF7 7AB

Tel: 01977 612733

Mob: 07779 485572

**J C POWERCO
HILLSIDE
BARNSELY ROAD
ACKWORTH 612319**



**Lawnmowers, Chainsaws,
Cultivators, Shredders etc.
Sales, Service, Spares.
All leading makes.**

**Nurseryman and Florist
JAMES LAMPREY & SON
Pontefract Road
High Ackworth**



**Shrubs, Trees, Plants, Cut Flowers,
Floral Tributes, Fresh Produce
794387**

ACKWORTH PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC

For all your musculoskeletal problems
including: Low Back Pain, Neck Pain
including Whiplash, Arthritis, Sports
Injuries, Shoulder, Knee and other joint
problems.

John Lane, Chartered Physiotherapist,
Health Professions Council Registered.
College Lane Surgery, Barnsley Road,
Ackworth

Tel: 07906 838846

Health Insurance Company Approved

ENGLAND & HINTON

Opticians

8 Bell Lane, Ackworth

613633



Sight tests by appointment
Family Eyecare



A S YAGER Opticians
32 Ropergate, Pontefract
702565

Sight Tests, Contact Lenses
Wide Range of Budget
and Designer Frames

MORGAN
LANDSCAPES
 13 Birch Street,
 Wakefield
 WF1 5ER



Decking, Fencing,
Landscaping
& Garden Maintenance
 "No Job Too Small"
 Tel: 01924 387273
 Mob: 07921 223453



STEVEN K. F. LO
CHEMIST
 29 Barnsley Road
 Ackworth
 613132

Friendly advice on all healthcare.
Open daily 9am - 6:00pm;
Saturday 9am - 12:00pm

BRACKEN HOUSE FISH SHOP
ACKWORTH
 Mob: 07703 258725
 After hours: 01977 610519



Opening Times
 Tues 11.30 - 1.30 & 4.30 - 9 pm
 Thurs 11.30 - 1.30 & 4.00 - 9 pm
 Fri 11.30 - 1.30 & 4.30 - 7.30
 Sat 11.30 am - 1.30 pm
Satisfaction Guaranteed

RITA BENN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Professional tuition in
Piano
Singing (Modern)
THEORY OF
MUSIC



Exam preparation in most instruments
Accompanist
 Call: 01977 649595 for details
 Rita Benn Dip ABRSM

Granville Brooks
Funeral Service
36 Green Lane,
Featherstone 791869
or Pontefract 702583



Personal service day and night
Contact Graham Waring

FAIRTRADE
Third World Products
Fina Petrol Station,
Wakefield Road, Ackworth.



Tea, Coffee, Dried Fruit, Nuts,
Gifts etc
Weekdays 2 pm - 5 pm
(Wed ~ Closed all day)
Sat 10 - 12 noon

SIMPLE FOOTCARE

Corns and callus; nails and skin
By Keith Peatfield
01977 704508



8 Elm Terrace
SWALES YARD
Pontefract
WF8 1DG
(behind Malt
Shovel)

GPS
The Workshop
55 Wakefield Road
Ackworth



Ironmongery, timber,
plywoods, fixings.
General DIY goods
613961

The Brown Cow
Pontefract Road, Ackworth.
Tel: 01977 704753



Freshly prepared
and cooked...
Lunches ~ Mon. to Sat.
12 noon - 2 pm
3-course Sunday Lunch £6.95
Tea-time specials
Friday 6 - 8 pm



THE CARD GALLERY **ACKWORTH**

**THE ONLY PLACE TO GO FOR
HANDMADE GREETING CARDS
AND VERSE CARDS FULL OF
SPECIAL SENTIMENTS
COME AND SEE US ... YOU
WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED**
01977 611532

Lancaster Memorials Ltd

Tel: 791426 Mob: 07801336896
www.lancastermemorials.co.uk
**FOR UNBEATABLE ALL ROUND SERVICE
AT THE LOWEST PRICES PRODUCING
OUTSTANDING QUALITY**
Request a brochure or home visit or choose
from our showroom. Design your own stone
on our computer.
**OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT YORKSHIRE**

AN EXTRACT FROM SAYWELL

Edward Watkinson M.D.

"The late Edward Watkinson, of Ackworth, by his will dated April, 1765, gave (after payment of some small legacies) all the residue of his personal estate, after the death of his wife, unto the Rector of Acworth, the Rector of Hemsworth, and the Vicar of Pontefract, upon trust that they and his friend Mr. Alderman Samuel Saltonstall should put the same out at interest, and pay and apply the produce thereof for the maintenance, support, and comfortable living and subsistence of nine poor unmarried persons of the Protestant religion, for ever; to be nominated, chosen, and elected as follows, viz: the said trustees to nominate and choose two poor men and two poor women who should live in Ackworth, and two poor men and two poor women who should live in Pontefract, and also one other woman who should live in either of the said townships, to be the servant of the said eight poor persons, and to wait and attend upon them as such; and which said eight persons and their servant should from time to time have the said interest, produce, and dividends paid equally amongst them, share and share alike.

And the said testator wills and declares that no married person shall be capable of being elected one of the said nine persons, and that if any of them do afterwards marry, that such person shall cease to have any share in the said produce and dividends, and be displaced from having any benefits or advantages. And he also gives the said trustees power to displace any of the said persons guilty of any immorality, misconduct, or bad behaviour. And also to fill up vacancies, so as there shall always be therein two poor men and two poor women, belonging to each of the said townships of Acworth and Pontefract, and a maid servant.

On February 9th 1778, the trustees held their first meeting to put the said will into execution, and soon afterwards purchased a piece of ground in Northgate, and built a handsome house thereon under the directions of the said Mr. Saltonstall. On October 25th 1779, the said hospital being ready for the reception of its intended inhabitants, the trustees nominated eight poor persons and a servant to dwell therein according to the said will, and ordered them to be paid ten shillings each calendar month.

The vacancies arising by death or otherwise have been regularly filled up from time to time, and the trustees have laid out the testator's estate in the purchase of South Sea Annuities, the dividends of which

are paid monthly to the poor people of this hospital, now amounting to fifteen shillings each person; and the trustees take care to keep their respective apartments clean and in good repair, rendering this place a desirable and comfortable retreat to old age and infirmity."

SOME CYNICAL VIEWS ON EDUCATION

'Anyone who has been to an English public school will always feel comparatively at home in prison.' Evelyn Waugh

'He can barely read or write-Eton of course.' Lawrence Durrell

'I was educated during the holidays from Eton.' Osbert Sitwell

'A lecture is a process by which the notes of the professor become the notes of the students without passing through the minds of either.' R.K. Rathbun

'He who can does-he who cannot, teaches' George Bernard Shaw

'Those who can-do. Those who cannot-teach. Those who cannot teach become deans.' Thomas L. Martin

'One can always tell when it summer when one sees school teachers hanging about the streets idly, looking like cannibals during a shortage of missionaries.' Robertson Davies

'When a teacher calls a boy by his entire name it means trouble.' Mark Twain

'When Scythrop grew up, he was sent, as usual, to a public school, where a little learning was painfully beaten into him, and from thence to the university, where it was carefully taken out of him; and he was sent home like a well threshed ear of corn, with nothing in his head.' Thomas L. Peacock

'It is only when the gods hate a man with uncommon abhorrence that they drive him into the profession of a schoolmaster.'
Seneca

'Education is the inculcation of the incomprehensible into the ignorant by the incompetent.'
Josiah Stamp



"I expect you all to be independent, innovative, critical thinkers who will do exactly as I say!"

A WILDLIFE UPDATE

As in previous years the bird population seems to be ever growing- at least in our garden. We have had all the usual birds we have had before raising their various broods in and around the garden. This year we added an additional three nesting boxes. At first there was much coming and going and inspecting of possible homes but eventually one pair of blue tits took up residence in one of them. Fortunately it was the one placed near a window where we eat our meals and we could watch the parent birds from the comfort of the dining room chairs.

Several wicker horns filled with fat have been purchased for them, which usually lasted about twenty-four hours after the starlings had located them. We did not see much of the starlings in the winter, as they preferred to be in flocks in the fields behind, but they soon 'rediscovered' the garden when it was nesting time. Rather than keep buying these feeders we put peanuts into the blender and whizzed them until very fine and then refilled the 'horns' with the food. These have proved to be a joy to watch as the smaller birds, particularly the robin, have descended on them and they are unafraid to disappear into the very bottom of the feeder.

To our surprise we have had regular visits from crows too. The rooks have not ventured in but three crows, which we named Pythagoras, Archimedes and Euclid have been around all winter and spring. They are very early morning feeders and were very wary of us at first, flying off at the first sighting of our interest in them. The smaller birds seem to be unaffected or intimidated by their very large presence. In addition to our usual birds we have had visits from a greater spotted woodpecker and early in June we were thrilled to see a beautiful bullfinch resplendent in his breeding plumage on the largest feeder. We haven't seen one of these since we were in Scotland, staying near Ben Nevis

A handsome stoat appears now and then and one day I had to make a dash outside when I saw him pursuing one of our pretty voles that appears from the undergrowth. The hedgehog has resurfaced and often activates one of the security lights as he looks for food we have put out for it. Although we have no garden pond we seem to have no shortage of frogs. I am not sure who jumps the higher when we disturb one of them when working in the garden.

We love our garden and all the flowers and shrubs in their various seasons but it is probably the wildlife that gives us the most pleasure.

FROM THE OLD MAGAZINES

GOD'S ACRE at Newton Ferrers

"As we pass through country villages we see many churchyards. Some of us like to go searching amongst the tombstones for some of those quaint inscriptions that may be found. At times one may find an inscription of historic value. The grave of a famous headmaster of Eton who lived at the beginning of the nineteenth century was found and according to the inscription was the first to make Eton famous throughout the world. Yet Eton College not far away had shown no regard for the grave and had long forgotten it. In this same church in 1803 for the first time occurred what was very unusual—a lady churchwarden whose tombstone was in the shadow of the porch.

The greater part of God's acre is always on the south side. There was a strong desire on the part of our ancestors to have their remains laid to rest on the sunny side. But there is on record that one aristocrat wanted his grave on the north side because he said that he would continue in death as in life to keep away from the crowd!

It is true that until the beginning of the nineteenth century the more important people had their graves beneath the floor of the Church and tombstones lying over them flush with the floor of the building.

In some old churches these tombstones remain with the inscription on them still clear where it has not been worn away with the tread of worshippers over the years. In such cases the graves of the clergy would be in the chancel and also those of the Patron and his family. When these stones are placed outside during restoration work the action of the wind and the weather rapidly causes the writing to fade away.

The beauty of churchyards is increased by the presence of trees particularly the beech from which our word 'book' is derived. Early books were made from the bark of the beech tree. No churchyard is complete without a yew tree. Many suggestions as to why there is always a yew tree have been put forward. The most common one is that when men fought with bows and arrows these were usually made from the wood of the yew and these were grown in churchyards so that the cattle could

not eat them, as it is fatal to cattle. So as no cattle were allowed into the churchyard they could be safely grown there. As by Royal command, the men of the village must practise shooting on Sundays and holidays, each village needed a good supply of yews.

Some say that the yews were to protect the Church from the storms, as the yew does not grow to a great height and it is not easily uprooted, and its wood being very hard, insects do not burrow into it and cause it to decay and fall. Another reason is that the yew being an evergreen and living to a great age it became a symbol of immortality.

The custom of laying flowers upon a grave is a very old one though some prefer to plant flowers such as daffodils, roses, crocuses etc. so that when the grave cannot be attended there is always something of beauty to be seen."

YOU PECK ME, I WILL PECK YOU

I was woken from my afternoon nap (on Tuesday, 1st July 2008) by a strange sound like flapping birds' wings. At first I thought it was a bird tangled in the branches of the large holly tree in our front garden, but as I looked I could see it was in fact TWO woodpigeons having a fight over which of them could perch on a particular branch. No amount of clapping of hands, throwing of sticks or shouting seemed to have any effect. They continued to wing-flap and peck at each other. It seemed my nap was not going to resume what with all the noise they made.

I quietly said a little prayer: 'Lord Jesus, if it is your will to have me take a nap please could you ask these birds to be quiet.' Strange as this sounds, as the last word of prayer was said BOTH birds stopped, looked at me and flew off.

Well, is that not the power of prayer!

Emil Brown



Ackworth Hospice Support Group invite everyone to a
COFFEE MORNING

on Saturday 1st November 2008
10 - 12 noon

at the Low Ackworth Community Centre
50p inc. coffee & biscuits
various stalls, raffle etc.

All proceeds for the Prince of Wales Hospice



LOADS OF MANURE

Large quantity of well-rotted manure available to anyone who has a trailer or is willing to bag it for themselves. Access for cars is possible. Free apart from donation to Church Restoration Fund.
Ring 01977 795450 if interested!



A MISCELLANY

Schoolboy howlers-

'The Royal Mint is the stuff the Queen puts on her roast lamb.'

'They could not get wheat to grow in Egypt so they irritated it.'

'Dead heat is the fire when it is out'.

Retribution

'He criticised her puddings and he didn't like her cake.

He wished she'd make the biscuits his mother used to bake.

She didn't wash the dishes and she didn't make the stew and

She didn't mend his socks as his mother used to do:

Oh, well, she was not perfect, though she tried to do her best,

Until, at last, she thought it was time she had a rest.

So one day when he said the same old rigmarole all through,

She turned and boxed his ears-just as his mother used to do!

Advice

'Don't rest on your laurels-they make a poor mattress'.

'Face powder may catch a man- but it's baking powder that keeps him.'

'Please make sure brain is engaged before putting mouth into gear'.

'I live by this code-'You can't have bread-and loaf'. Louis Armstrong

A thought

Today I pray for one thing

Tomorrow quite another.

I am afraid that I give God

An awful lot of bother.

Karen Collins

Dip Hyp. N.A.P.C.H.

Clinical Hypnotherapist

Smoking cessation, phobias,
weightloss, stress & anxiety, pain
management, confidence, exams

etc. **Tel: 01977 614390**

Mob: 07961 646470



You could advertise here!

From the Registers

Baptisms

11/5/08 Elliot Ward-Power & David James Oldham
25/5/08 Adrianna Sophia Coop & Riley Joe Hook
8/6/08 Destiny Ruby J Beach & Erin Grace Alexis Butler
29/6/08 Daniel Darley & Enya Rose Varley

Marriages

10/5/08 Alan Sean Graham Fish & Rachel Claire Pease
31/5/08 Stephen George Godfrey & Belinda Jane Smith
7/6/08 David Paul Bartham & Vanessa Maria Hepworth-Porritt
14/6/08 Simon Roberts & Ruth Elizabeth Moxon
28/6/08 Simon Richard Gittins & Lindsay Irene Trevelyan

Funerals

2/5/08 Valerie Kinder (68) 8 Hartley Park Avenue,
Pontefract
21/5/08 Doreen Violet Spencer (50) 66 Mount Pleasant,
Ackworth Moor Top
29/5/08 John Robert Tate (86) 48 Rhyddings Avenue.
Ackworth Moor Top
20/6/08 John William Hinchcliffe (79) 6 Linden Terrace,
Ackworth Moor Top
27/6/08 Ernest Raistrick (81) Sprothorough

Mass Times for The Parish Of The Sacred Heart RC Father Anthony Fenton

Our Lady of Lourdes, Ackworth, Sunday, 8:45am
Our Lady of Graces, Kinsley, Saturday, 6:00pm
Sacred Heart, Hemsworth, Sunday, 10:30am

ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday	10.30am	Worship
	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	9.30—11.15am	Parents and Toddlers Group
Wednesday	9.30—11.15am	Parents and Toddlers Group

All services and meetings are held at the Ackworth Parish
Council Community Centre, Bell Lane.

Sunday Services for February and March

Sunday Services

8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong (except last Sunday in month)	All Saints'
6.30pm	Evensong with Healing Prayer (third Sunday in month)	All Saints'
4.00pm	Open Door Service (last Sunday in month)	All Saints'

Wednesday Service

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
--------	----------------	-------------

3rd August 2008 6.00pm

Ackworth Methodist Church

Rev'd Iris Musgove's last service in Ackworth

NO evening service at All Saints'