



Ackworth Parish Magazine



Maddalena penitente (english: "The Repentant Mary Magdalene").
Location: Hermitage, St. Petersburg.

Antonio Canova (November 1, 1757 - October 13, 1822)

June 2009/July 2009
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~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

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Dear Friends

It's around this time of year that I often get stuck for what to write about. All the major festivals are finished and even the church lectionary calls this period 'ordinary time' implying that little is going on in these summer months.

The Lord's work never ends however, and this term of ordinary times is a reminder that, such work is done by ordinary people—like you and me. If we look a bit closer at the lectionary for these two months we see that ordinary people are very much in evidence. Many of the more well-known saints are remembered in June; Barnabas (11th), John the Baptist (24th), Saints Peter and Paul (29th) and in July; St Thomas (3rd), Mary Magdalene (22nd) and James the Apostle (25th). All ordinary people who have led lives of exemplary devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ, even to the point of dying for their faith.

Whilst I can't cover them all in the space this article affords, I would like to focus on what are arguably the two most important ones. Two saints without which we wouldn't have the Christian Church today—Saints Peter and Paul, both celebrated on the same day. This raises a paradox however, why do they share the same day? Are they not both important enough to the church to warrant a day each of their own? As I have already said, they were both responsible for establishing the Christian church and contribution to its early growth.

Two founders of the Church of Christ yet very different characters, Peter was a simple, uneducated fisherman who would have had little knowledge of the theological debate in his day. Peter responded to Jesus, call in a direct and emotionally impulsive way; his heart ruled his head. Paul on the other hand was well educated, a Pharisee who was well versed in the theology and church (Jewish) law. He was intellectually sharp and passionate about the truth as he saw it; even willing to persecute those he considered to be in the wrong. He had to be pushed or receive a life changing shock to bring him to discipleship.

Two very different personalities, yet both responsible for laying the foundations of the Church. The ONE church, not two, one for simple emotional people and another for intellectual debaters! Each had their own role to play and even though they didn't agree on occasions they were both true to the master—Jesus Christ. Together they founded a Church whose doors should be wide enough for anyone, regardless of tradition. A Church which welcomes all, the simple souls as well as the

intellectual giants; all are equal in God's eyes. By the same token we should also remember that we are not a church that wields power.

Remember when Peter was called by our risen Lord to lead his church. He was told by Jesus (John 21:18) *"... when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."*

This reminds us that we are a servant church which must be willing to be led to places where we would rather not go; perhaps sometimes to painful, hard places to preach the gospel. This can be a hard truth to take, the destiny of the servant leader that Jesus himself taught; a leadership of powerlessness and humility; a suffering servanthood. This is the legacy of Peter and Paul—both in their own ways strong characters who were taught by Jesus that these were not the ways of his church.

Yours in Christ Paul



Auch, it'll do rightly!



I got really cross on Saturday and was all set to write a rant, venting my annoyance about what I see as a problem throughout the Church but possibly a bit worse in Ackworth. I still feel there is something to be said but through my scripture reading on Saturday evening God showed me that there might be a better way to set about this. My reading was from Ephesians 5 and the first verses which struck me were:

You used to be like people living in the dark, but now you are people of the light because you belong to the Lord.
So act like people of the light and make your light shine.

You may wonder what the rather odd title of my article means and what relevance it has to Paul's words in Ephesians. I'd like to tell you about my headmaster at grammar school in Northern Ireland. I was privileged to go to a wonderful school where, not only did I get an excellent academic start, but, more importantly I came to know Jesus as a personal Lord and Saviour. Sullivan wasn't a faith school but had a very strong Christian tradition, many Christian teachers and a very active Scripture Union movement where I got my grounding in love for the bible.

The headmaster was called Jack Frost, a larger than life character. We probably didn't appreciate him as much as we should have but, with hindsight, he had a huge influence for good on generations of children. Mr Frost was a committed Christian, a Methodist lay preacher and a church organist. He was active in many walks of life and his obituary in the Belfast Telegraph ran to two columns. Mr Frost was full of wise sayings and one of his favourite themes was to talk about 'the curse of Ulster' - AIRD (Auch, it'll do rightly). What he meant was that willingness to settle for second best rather than striving for excellence. He hated that apathetic sloppiness which is so often seen, not just in Ulster or in schools but in all walks of life.

I got annoyed on Saturday by precisely the kind of apathy and indifference which Mr Frost was so against. Churches Together had

arranged an hour of prayer for the village and out of all five churches only five people turned up! I was fuming about the lack of commitment shown. Is this how little we care about our friends and neighbours? Is this how little spreading the gospel means to us? This might be a fairly extreme example but this kind of thing permeates our church life. For instance Paul Hartley commented in his Rector's report at the AGM on the poor numbers at our Easter worship. We might also talk about our sloppy attitude towards the upkeep of our churches. We might talk about giving the second hand which we have no use for. We might consider just how poor our financial giving is.

Maybe you think I'm being too harsh. Maybe you think that its just Jenny off on one again! However, in the light of Paul's words to the Ephesians perhaps I might be right. We are 'people of the light because we belong to the Lord'. We are called to be distinctive, set apart from those around us. People should look at us and see Jesus. How can this happen if what they see is that we won't get out of bed to pray for them or if we give God our cast-off rubbish? Our attitude cannot be 'auch, it'll do rightly' but rather an offering of the best that we are and can give whether time or goods or money. A few verses after the ones I quoted at the beginning St Paul says this:

Act like people with good sense and not like fools. These are evil times, so make every minute count. Don't be stupid. Instead, find out what the Lord wants you to do.

Make every minute count. Seek God's will and then act. We're very close to Pentecost as I write this. This Pentecost I pray that we may all be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit, energised and equipped to serve God with our whole hearts.

With love in Christ

Jenny

STRANGE HAPPENINGS

Since December we have stayed overnight in Cleobury Mortimer each month. This very old village is on the Shropshire/ Worcestershire border. One of its claims to fame is that its Parish Church has one of the only three twisted spires in England. The most famous of these is the one at Chesterfield in Derbyshire but we don't know the whereabouts of the third one. (Perhaps one of our readers may?)

The reason for these regular visits is work related and we have always stayed in the pub owned by the local brewery, whose latest beer being brewed is appropriately called 'Twisted Spire'. We were there at its launch as was the local vicar. The pub is straight opposite the Church and one can enjoy a leisurely visit, as it is always unlocked during the day.

Most of the buildings in Cleobury are very old, dating back many centuries, including the King's Arms where we stay. Along with us on our visits goes Simba, the dog. When we go away we always make sure that wherever we stay they accept dogs. So he is quite used to staying in different places without any fuss. He has been to the Lake District and Derbyshire and slept through the night quietly, apart from the occasional snoring! However on each occasion when we have stayed here he has woken us barking three or four times a night. We have hastily quietened him so as not to disturb other guests or staff. We ourselves have never discovered what noises he had heard to upset him until on the last visit we also heard the noise of a toilet being flushed in the middle of the night.

However next day when apologising to the owner and explaining why he had been barking and saying we hoped he hadn't had complaints about him we were amazed to hear that on no occasion had there been anyone else, including guests or staff staying there; we were the sole occupants each time!

Then came his question, 'Do you think we have a ghost?'

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EXTRACT FROM SAYWELL

PARISH REGISTERS PART TWO

VOLUME ONE

"Volume one is a parchment book, interleaved with paper. It would appear to consist of two parts, and considering its antiquity, is in excellent repair. The writing is, however, in some instances, nearly illegible. Dr. Timothy Lee, who was instituted to the Rectory of Acworth in 1744, employed an expert in writing to copy each page. That copy is interleaved with the original. The volume is bound in calf with brass clasps.

The 1st part is from 1558 to 1648

The 2nd part is from 1648 to 1687

The first baptism is February 10th, 1558

The first marriage is in October 1558

The first burial is January 8th 1561

The last baptism is May 5th 1686

The last marriage is January 5th 1686

The last burial is March 20th 1685.

On the first page of parchment is this entry, 'Thomas Hartyndon, Rector, presented to this living by Queen Mary, April, 1554'.

Amongst the Baptisms for 1558 and 1559, are to be found the still familiar names of 'Austwicke' and 'Heptinstall'.

In this first volume are many entries worth transcribing. These are a few of them.

'Richard Pickeringe and Frances Ledsome, Married June 25th, 1645, in which year there died of the Plague in Ackworth, 153 persons—Richard Pickeringe being then Constable.

Baptisms 1663

Charles the son of Daniel Godfrey, by Barberry the daughter of Dr. Thomas Bradley, Rector of Acworth, Chaplain to His Majesty King Charles the First, and Lady Frances his wife, daughter of the Right Honourable John Saville, Baron of Pontefract, and was baptised on the 24th of November 1663: being the first that was baptised in the font newly set up after the ancient font was destroyed and broken down in the late Civil War.

On Candlemas Day immediately following, was the Honourable Lady Frances, honourably interred, who died the Saturday before, being the 30th of January, the day wherein his late Majesty of blessed memory, was put to death, and the very same hour (as near as may be conjectured) wherein His Majesty suffered, did she breath her last, and returned her Spirit unto God that gave it."

LIFE AS SEEN BY CHILDREN

Wedding

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed all in white?' Her mother replied quietly, 'It is because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The little girl sat quietly thinking about her mother's answer, and then she said, 'So why is the bridegroom wearing black?'

Boasting

Three boys were in the school playground, and were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, 'My dad is a poet, he scribbles a few words, calls it a poem, and he gets paid £50 for it.' The second boy was unimpressed and said, 'That's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a song, and he gets paid £100.' The third boy was even less impressed and said, 'My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

Sunday School

A Sunday school teacher asked her young class why Mary and Joseph took Jesus with them when they went to Jerusalem. A little girl replied, 'I expect they couldn't get a babysitter.'

Meal times

A little girl was eating her dinner but refused to try the cabbage on her plate. Her mother said to her, 'Eat your cabbage or you will get scurvy.' Looking rebellious she retorted, 'Well I won't eat that either!'

OBELISK-OPPOSITE QUAKER SCHOOL- RESTORATION UPDATE

In 2004 Ackworth Heritage Group published a book, 'Miles Around Ackworth' in recognition of Harry Miles (the Heritage Group photographer). From the sale of the books £8,000 was raised over three years and was put into an account to be used for restoring the obelisks.

The obelisks are listed so English Heritage were contacted and they sent their architect, Robert Mortimer, who said that the Station Road one was badly in need of restoring. The architect surveyed it and drew up a specification for the restoration. The cost was more than the £8,000 raised but the Highways Department of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council agreed to help together with a small grant from the Leche Trust.

Tenders were invited for the job and varying quotes were received. As well as trying to restore a complex hexagonal tapering stone monument which was a 'one off' the site was in the middle of a busy road junction. In the 21st century safety assessments, fencing, scaffolding and permits were required and some contractors dropped out realising the difficulties of doing the work. Mr. Beal, a stonemason, from Mexborough was appointed and the work started in January 2009.

Long Lane obelisk was erected in 1827 and is probably a copy of the one near the Quaker School.

And now a short history lesson for you readers. The Station Road column is dated 1805 and was possibly erected as a memorial for the great sea battle where Lord Nelson defeated the combined French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar in that year. Although being commemorative or memorial in appearance, its main function was as a combination guide and distance stone. Shown on the upper triangular shape stone is-Pontefract 3 miles, Hemsworth 3, Snaith 16, Wentbridge 3 and Doncaster 13.

The obelisk wasn't anything to do with Ackworth School and seems not to appear in their records.

When restoring a monument which is over 200 years old one's ability to decide what it looked like when erected is tested. The decision should be based on documentary evidence rather than living memory or aesthetic choice. Remember written records are thin on the ground and it was well before the age of photography. We know that when it was built there was no gas in the village whatsoever and that town gas came sometime later, firstly to the school and later to the village. By the year 1900 the globe on the top of the obelisk was crowned by a gas lamp

which was later removed when the village converted to electric street lighting. A new metal structure replaced the lamp in memory of a Harry Smith and it was this and car emissions which caused the erosion of the stone. This structure has now been removed and a globe and bell shaped stone put in its place. The railings have been replaced as they were shown in early illustrations and hopefully they will give the monument some protection from the traffic as well as the small number of vandals and graffiti artists.

Restoration has been delayed by injecting a resin mainly into the lower half of the monument and having to wait for it to set. Hopefully the now warmer weather will speed this up and together with the paint, the corrosion by weather and car emissions will be halted.

The finished article including colour and paint has been decided by English Heritage although the Heritage Group has put in its own 'two-pennyworth'. Work is progressing well and nearing completion.

If all goes well I will be writing an article in the next edition of the magazine about the official opening ceremony. A well-known long standing Ackworth resident may be asked to cut the ribbon but things have not been finalised yet. I am preparing a list of people who deserve a 'pat on the back' for their hard work (often unseen) with this worthy project. Watch the local press for reports and photographs. Until next time.

Phil Richardson

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Readings Rota for June 2009, July 2009

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's	ser	All Saints'
07/06/09	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6:1-8	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17	Pauline Wong	P	Mrs S Hall
14/06/09	Proper 6	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Mark 4:26-34	Anne Atack		Mrs M Walker
21/06/09	Proper 7	1 Samuel 17:32-49	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41	Briony Lewis		Dr McWilliam
28/06/09	Proper 8	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43	Jane Gosney	B	Mrs S Hall
05/07/09	Proper 9	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13	Anne Bullock		Mrs M Walker
12/07/09	Proper 10	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29	George Scargill	P	Dr McWilliam
19/07/09	Proper 11	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jane Siddall		Mrs S Hall
26/07/09	Proper 12	2 Samuel 11:1-15	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21	Sue Hartley		Mrs M Walker

ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

JUNE 7 TH	PEGGY HUBY
JUNE 14 TH	MARGARET BLANCHARD
JUNE 21 ST	FLOWER FUND
JUNE 28 TH	FLOWER FUND
JULY 5 TH	SUE & COLIN TANSWELL
JULY 12 TH	FLOWER FUND
JULY 19 TH	FLOWER FUND
JULY 26 TH	FLOWER FUND



ST. CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

With the sad death of Phyllis Asquith who organised the flowers in the Church for very many years, we are having to start afresh.

We would like to organise a rota of people willing to help with arranging and clearing the flowers from week to week. The more people we can recruit, the less the burden. It is not essential to be an active member of the church or to be an experienced flower-arranger.

There has been a list of people who like to remember anniversaries and special dates. Either they arrange the flowers themselves or give a donation and ask someone to arrange the flowers on their behalf. We would like to update that list and add any further names who would like to be included.

Only in exceptional cases are we involved in flowers for weddings.

It would be appreciated if anyone interested would telephone Jean Clayton (01977 704042) who is prepared to coordinate the rota should there be sufficient support.

MISERICORDS

Misericords- a strange looking and sounding word, it comes from the Latin for 'pity' and 'heart'. As these objects were made to give the monks some degree of comfort during extremely long services and sermons, it is clear how they came to have this name.

We always enjoy looking around old Churches and Cathedrals, particularly when on holiday and one of the things we especially look out for are the more interesting misericords and then try to find out something of their history and meaning.

Misericords are carved wooden tip up seats found in choir stalls. These carved seats were for the benefit of the older, frailer monks and discomfort and boredom could sometimes be relieved by these misericords.

They were mainly built from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries and were decorated with wonderful carvings made from oak. Surprisingly most of the scenes (hidden of course from the public gaze) were not, as might be expected, scenes from the Bible, but of events from everyday life, folklore and fables. From them we can find out much about how fashion developed over these centuries.

There are many wonderful Churches and Cathedrals to visit to find these gems of our history. It is fascinating to observe them and admire the craftsmen who made them and to wonder at their choice of subject. However it is always much more rewarding if there is a guide book on hand to explain some of the more obscure carvings. People in those times would be well versed in these stories, which may well be unfamiliar to us today.

Particular favourites of ours are those to be found in St. Laurence's Church in Ludlow, Shropshire, where there are twenty-eight of them, the largest collection in a Parish church. One unusual one is a fox dressed as a priest preaching to a congregation of geese. From one of our old Parish magazines comes this extract; "Although Sneinton Church is only 100 years old it is the proud possessor of mediaeval choir stalls of great interest, with quaint misericords. One of these depicts a fox riding a hound at the gallop and blowing a huntsman's horn"

Another favourite fox scene for the carvers was that of the fox running off with the goose. In Ripon Cathedral a housewife is seen with her stick trying to head off the fox whilst the dog looks on unsure about chasing the much larger fox. Also in Ripon can the story of Jonah and the whale be seen.

The owl wasn't always seen as a wise bird. It was despised in mediaeval times, as it was a bird of darkness and seen as shunning the light of The Gospel. There are many instances of the owl to be found.

Elephants with castles on their backs were a popular theme for the craftsmen as well as inn sign painters. Crusaders returning from the Holy Land told stories of the enemy going into battle on elephants protected inside great wooden 'castles'. In Gloucester Cathedral the carver gave the elephant horse's feet as he'd never seen an elephant and assumed it was like a horse! However after 1255 carvers got it right for the first elephant arrived in England as a gift for king Henry the third from King Louis the ninth of France and was taken in procession through the streets of London to the Tower.

Nearer to home in Beverley Minster can be found the musical pigs. Music had long been thought by the clergy to encourage bad behaviour and in particular bagpipe music. Pigs were seen as greedy creatures and so the two went together. There can be seen the sow playing the bagpipes whilst the piglets dance around the trough and a little pig plays a harp with an ecstatic look upon its face. Also here can be found a beautiful carving of a shepherd, with great attention to his dress of 500 years ago, patting his dog with affection.

There are so many fabulous carvings to be found around the country. Happy hunting!



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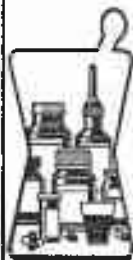
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EPITAPHS

Here lies the body of Emily White
She signalled left
And then turned right.

Here I lie
And no wonder I'm dead
I fell from a tree
Rolled over dead.

Here lies Mary, the wife of John Ford.
We hope her soul has gone to the Lord.
But if for Hell she has changed this life,
She had better be there than be John Ford's wife.
Died 1790

A zealous locksmith died of late,
And did arrive at Heaven's gate.
He stood without and would not knock,
Because he meant to pick the lock

Here lies John Higley,
Whose mother and father were drowned,
In their passage from America.
Had they both lived
They would have been buried here.
Belturbet, Ireland.

In Kingston Churchyard
Against his will
Here lies George Hill.
Who from a cliff
Fell down quite stiff.

Father's Day in UK - 21st June 2009

Father's Day festival is celebrated on the **third Sunday of June** and therefore the date of the festival is never fixed. People celebrate the occasion by honouring their father and expressing affection for them by presenting popular gifts like cards, flowers, chocolates and ties. Little children often give handmade gifts to their dad.

Several clubs, schools and cultural societies in United Kingdom organize Fathers Day parties and get-togethers and provide people an opportunity to celebrate the day. Games and fun-filled add joy to such celebrations.

It may also be noted that Father's Day festival has been commercialized in England to a great extent. Days before the festival marketers launch an aggressive advertising campaign to lure people and cash in on the sentimental value of the occasion. Though critics are very much against rude commercialization many people feel that marketing of the festival helps to create awareness about the day and therefore strengthen the bond of love shared between father and a child.

The Beginning of Father's Day Story

Historians have recorded that there was a tradition to celebrate Father's Day even thousands of years ago. Their study say that 4,000 years ago in Babylon a son called Elmesu carved a father's day message on a clay card. In his message Elmesu wished his father a long and healthy life. There is no knowledge as to what happened to this father son duo but it is believed that several countries retained the custom of celebrating Father's Day.

4 years: My Daddy can do anything!

7 years: My Dad knows a lot... a whole lot.

8 years: My father does not know quite everything.

12 years: Oh well, naturally Father does not know that either.

14 years: Oh, Father? He is hopelessly old-fashioned.

21 years: Oh, that man-he is out of date!

25 years: He knows a little bit about it, but not much.

30 years: I must find out what Dad thinks about it.

35 years: Before we decide, we will get Dad's idea first.

50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?

60 years: My Dad knew literally everything!

From the Registers

Baptisms

9/4/09 Jack Flynn William Antal-Smith
Marr. reg's
2/15/09 Craig Robert Swales Louise Marie Baresford

Funerals

20/3/09 Daniel Colin Bland (2) 18 Rhyddings Avenue,
Ackworth Moor Top
27/3/09 William Jordan (71) 27 Ashfield Road, Hemsworth
30/3/09 Phyllis Asquith (94) 70 Pontefract Road, High
Ackworth
8/4/09 Vera Bentley (76) 21 Rhyddings Avenue, Ackworth
Moor Top
9/4/09 Clifford Parkinson (83) Victoria Nursing Home,
Ryhill
16/4/09 Linda Cullum (53) 4 Hillside Road, Ackworth Moor
Top
16/4/09 Margaret Clark (101) 17 St Clements Court,
Ackworth Moor Top
21/4/09 Dennis Emery (78) 118 Pontefract Road, High
Ackworth
28/4/09 Ronald Fisher (69) 120 Pontefract Road, High
Ackworth

Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,
in your wisdom and love you made all things.
Bless these men,
that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honour them always
with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sunday Services for June and July

Sunday Services

8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong (except 3rd Sunday in month)	All Saints'
6.30pm	Evensong with Healing Prayer (third Sunday in month)	All Saints'

Wednesday Service

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
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Special Services and Events

11/6/09	7.30pm	SC Holy Communion - St Barnabas
29/6/09	7.30pm	SC Holy Communion - St's Peter & Paul
25/7/09	10.30am	SC Holy Communion - St James

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

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.