

Ackworth Parish Magazine



HENRI NOUWEN

Henri Nouwen was born in Nijkerk, central Holland. He was ordained a secular priest in 1957, and then pursued studies in psychology for several years because of his interest in the relationship between religion and pastoral psychology. He attended the Second Vatican Council, whose influence shaped the rest of his life. He was deeply in love with Christ and devoted to the Eucharist.

October 2009/November 2009
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>		
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mrs Ann Tait, 52 Banks Avenue	615574
<u>Covenant Secretary:</u>	Mr Donald Marshall, 17 Hill Drive	700961
<u>Stewardship Recorder:</u>	Mrs Sue Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<u>Car Lifts to Church:</u>	Mrs Ann Tait, 52 Banks Avenue	615574
<u>Children and Young People:</u>		
<u>Junior Church:</u>	Dr Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove	613834
<u>Children's Society:</u>	Mrs Helen Parkinson, 48 Holly Bank	614400
<u>The Howard C E School:</u>	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>		
<u>St Cuthbert's:</u>	Mrs Jean Clayton	704042
<u>All Saints':</u>	Mrs Jean Hancocks	610887
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<u>Hand bell ringing:</u>	Mrs Jane Gosney, 5 Wenthill Close	793579

Dear Friends

As the nights begin to draw in and the thermometer starts to fall we begin to see the changes in our surroundings the onset of autumn brings with it.

This time of year, both in nature and in the church's life, is very much a time of transition or change. As the 'ordinary' or 'proper' times, as the lectionary calls it, gives way to the lead up to Advent, marked by a season of Remembrance, we begin to see a change in pace or urgency ecclesiastically and spiritually speaking. After the long lazy days of summer, with its seemingly endless Sundays after Trinity, we are rudely awakened from our slumber by All Saints' Day

We are called to attention by the imperative 'follow the path that the Saints before us have trod'. But who are these extraordinary people and how do we become like them? I came across this wonderful description in 'Bread for the Journey' a book by my favourite Christian author - Henri Nouwen - he writes: *'Through baptism we become part of a family much larger than our biological family. It is a family of people 'set apart' by God to be a light in the darkness. These set-apart people are called saints. Although we tend to think about saints as holy and pious, and picture them with haloes above their heads and ecstatic gazes, true saints are much more accessible. They are men and women like us who live ordinary lives and struggle with ordinary problems. What makes them saints is their clear and unwavering focus on God and God's people. Some of their lives may look quite different, but most of their lives are remarkably similar to our own. The saints are our brothers and sisters, calling us to be like them.'*

And how do we become like them? Jesus puts it quite simply but explicitly - 'become like a child'. Again as Henri Nouwen puts it in his book 'Return of the Prodigal Son' (a good read for Advent!) *'Jesus makes it clear that the way to God is the same as the way to a new childhood. Unless you turn and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus does not ask us to remain a child but to become one. Becoming a child is living toward a second innocence; not the innocence of a new-born infant, but the innocence that is reached through conscious choices.'*

If you want an instruction list on how to achieve this state of innocence - sainthood - you could do no better than to read the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12 or Luke 6:20-26).

In this season of change I pray that you may open up your lives to God's transforming power. None of us like change, but unless we allow ourselves to be changed by the Holy Spirit we cannot move any closer to God.

Yours in Christ

Paul.

Transforming Lives – The Next Steps

In October 2008, the PCC charged a group of people to look at a Diocesan initiative called Transforming Lives. After careful consideration it was felt that this was something that our Parish could grasp and use for our own purposes. This steering group met quite regularly during the remainder of 2008 and during the first half of 2009. The aim was to carry out a community audit of Ackworth, and a so-called SWOT analysis of our church. This was a way of finding all the strengths and weakness of our parish together with the opportunities and threats that we face. Putting all of this information together, the group spent a whole day looking at areas where we could spend our time, effort and energy in order to promote the Gospel and fulfil the calling of Christ, which is in each of us, to serve this community in which we live. Following this, a Transformational Plan was written. This was presented to PCC at its June meeting and accepted unanimously as a plan for the Parish over the next 10-15 years. This plan is to be presented to the Bishop in November 2009 and will be used as a discussion document by the Archdeacon on his regular visits.

This was initially a plan to serve the purpose of the Diocesan initiative. However, the PCC, and Transforming Lives group have taken this initiative and made it its own. Therefore the Transformational Plan is written and presented in a way which suits the needs of our Parish and not the Diocese.

This process has been publicised via the notice boards in both our churches, and through sermons and regular announcements. The next step of this process is to present the Transformational Plan to our congregations. This will be done at an evening meeting on Saturday 10th October 2009 at St Cuthbert's Church, starting at 7:00 PM. There will be a faith supper to accompany this meeting. If you wish to find out what the group has put together, and what the PCC has agreed to, you should attend this meeting. The plan is challenging and ambitious.

Here are some highlights.

The plan is split into five areas; Pastoral Care, Worship, Prayer and Spirituality, Evangelism and Community. Under each of these heading, several objectives have been written, which are specific and time scaled. All together there are 24 objectives.

Under pastoral care there are objectives to provide for those people in our community who need care, either occasionally or regularly, such as the bereaved or socially isolated, or those who need long term or regular care.

Under worship, ^{there} are objectives to enhance, not change our worship style, for regular planning and reviewing of our services, and look at ways of using new things such as audiovisual aids.

Under Prayer and spirituality there are objectives to improve the prayer life of the parish, and to provide greater opportunities for study groups, as well as giving greater support to our social events.

Under Community there are objectives to improve communication, both within the church and with our community, as well as enhancing opportunities for members of our community to engage with the church.

It is expected that other objectives will develop with time, and that some of the objectives in the plan will become less relevant with time. In this way the plan is not set in stone, but will be shaped and moulded continuously.

The event on 10th October 2009 at 7:00 PM St Cuthbert's Church will be an opportunity to see and hear in more detail about these objectives and to discuss them with members of the Transforming Live Group as well as share supper with other members of our congregations. I hope that as many people as possible will attend this evening as it will be an important step in the growth and development of our church, our Parish, and our Community. And once the plan is presented to the Bishop in November, then the group will meet to look at how these objectives can be met, and who is going to be responsible for them.

The next day is Harvest Festival, and will be an opportunity to present ourselves to God and offer all we can, not only to transform our own lives, but to transform the life of our church and community as well.

God & Change

The theme song for the first week in September in Wakefield Diocese might well have been:

Where have all the clergy gone, all gone missing?
Where have all the clergy gone, so far away?
Where have all the clergy gone?
Gone to Swanwick everyone.
Oh, what on earth will they learn?
Oh, when will they return?

Wasn't it extraordinary? What normally requires nearly thirty clergy in our deanery was being covered by one eighty year old retired priest. Where had all the clergy gone? Gone to Swanwick everyone, to the Wakefield Diocesan Clergy Conference. Was this just an excuse for a jolly, a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones? Was it just a chance for me to reacquaint myself with scotch whisky after twenty years?

The conference was indeed about all those things but it also was a time for hard work, for serious reflection, to listen to challenging speakers and to worship and pray together. Despite the financial challenges faced by the diocese this was money well spent in informing, encouraging and refreshing those called to lead churches. The theme for this conference was 'God & Change' as we reflected together on the changing face of the Anglican church, not just in our diocese but globally. We considered the sociology of religion, the implications of leadership in a changing culture and what it might mean to be authentically God's people in a world which apparently is trying to place him on the sidelines.

We were privileged to have excellent speakers. On the Tuesday we kicked off with Professor Grace Davie reflecting on the sociology of religion. This encompassed the changing face of religious practice, the concept of 'vicarious religion' - 'say one for me' in common parlance, and reflections on the likely future. Professor Davie certainly challenged us but there was also hope in that challenge, not least in the realisation that some of the problems faced by the church may not be as we think and are not our fault. The challenge for each of us, clergy and lay, is how we present the gospel of Jesus Christ in a meaningful way in the 21st century.

Wednesday morning provided quite a contrast. Our speaker was Sir James

Burnell-Nugent, retired Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy. It would have been easy to dismiss him as a career military officer and to dismiss his message as 'Let's all pull together, chaps!' but underlying the institutional attitudes there was robust good sense about the nature and responsibilities of leadership and ways of managing change. As followers of Jesus we might have expected more reflection on where God was in this process and on collaboration, not direction, but he certainly provided much food for thought.

Bishop Stephen shared his reflections with us on Thursday and emphasised the importance of our diocesan 'Transforming Lives' initiative. His talk was rooted in God and in the life and worship of the church. One of the treats of the conference was the input offered by the Revd Canon Stephen Cherry, the Durham Diocesan Director of Ministry. He had the unenviable job of pulling together and reflecting on the input from all our speakers and he did this in an engaging way which made us this. I particularly appreciated his thoughts on Proverbs and those proverbs with especial relation to leadership.

Additionally, we had the option of attending various workshops. I chose to attend those on 'Changing Patterns of Ministry' and 'Leading Your Church into Growth', both of which have huge relevance to our situation in Ackworth. Underpinning all the academia was prayer and praise and worship, a chance to meet God together. Entertainment was offered by Ian MacMillan, the Barnsley poet. However, probably the highlight of the whole conference was the bible studies led by Professor John Rogerson, an eminent Old Testament scholar. We spent two sessions looking at Leviticus 19 and the amazing interplay between the sacred and the secular. In brief summary the conclusion was that holiness did not just reside in direct worship but was equally reflected in our social action and care for neighbour.

So now we have returned. What did we learn? We learnt that God is not a static God but a God of change and transformation and that every one of us is called to be his agent in this process. Change comes in many guises and one cannot separate the sacred and the secular. As St Paul said:

(God's) plan for the fullness of time, (was) to gather up all things in him (Christ), things in heaven and things on earth.

We are his people, chosen to reveal him in the world.

In Christ
Jenny

EXTRACT FROM SAYWELL

THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL & SCHOOLS

"These buildings owe their existence to the munificence of Mr. Fields, an American gentleman, who temporarily resided here. The population of Ackworth had so rapidly increased at the Moor-Top, that it was deemed absolutely necessary that a place of worship, with schools attached, should be erected to supply the spiritual needs of the people.

It is well known that an attempt to do this was first made by the Rector of Ackworth, but the difficulties in the way of procuring a suitable site, etc., were found to be so great, that the attempt was temporarily abandoned until a more convenient opportunity presented itself.

Mr. Fields then stepped in and enabled the Primitive Methodists to erect the present commodious chapel and schools, which have admirably served their purpose up to the present time. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. William Fields, son of the above, and the chapel was formally opened for public worship on May 10th, 1863. The school was opened in October, 1877, and in December, 1878, there were 62 infant children on the books.

The following extract is from the examiner's Report on his visit to the School in June, 1878: -

'The School which has been very recently set on foot, already gives excellent promise of future usefulness. The children are taught in a kindly and sympathetic manner, which evidently wins their confidence, and quiets their attention.'

Miss Fanny Jones, of Ackworth, was the first mistress appointed by the Trustees, and she held the position until her marriage in 1885. The Government Grant earned by this school in 1878, was £18 8s. 8d".

Unfortunately nothing is left to be seen of this man's generosity as the buildings have been demolished.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
ST. CUTHBERT'S VESTRY
Making of Christingles at 2:00pm
ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME
COME AND ENJOY OUR PRE-CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

CLEY MARSHES

Although we are not avid twitchers/birders we have been members of the RSPB for a number of years and have a passing interest in the birds that visit our garden. It was therefore not surprising that an article in the Eastern Daily Press caught our eye; a guided tour of the nearby Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserve at Cley-next- the-Sea, led by the warden. This nature reserve lies eight miles from our caravan site and we have passed by hundreds of times over the years without actually visiting it.

The warden, of forty years standing, whose father and grandfather had preceded him in a similar role, met us at the recently built visitors centre. It is a modern building which fits in well with the surroundings and has been designed with energy conservation in mind, a wind powered turbine feeds electricity into the National Grid and rainwater collected on the roof is used to flush the toilets. The reserve had been set up in 1926 following the purchase, almost by accident, of the marsh by a Dr. Scott, originally with the intention of continuing its use for wildfowling, but who had seen a need for a conservation project and established the Trust, the first to be established in the U.K. The second, many years later was established in Yorkshire.

The warden confided in us that he lived in a house overlooking the reserve and slept in the bedroom where he was born. The close proximity was useful for the control of the four-legged predators, although the worst offenders, herons, were protected and although they can decimate new chicks, they cannot be culled. We learned that avocet chicks have to be self sufficient from birth and are therefore particularly vulnerable to predation.

He explained how he was able to control the water levels in the scrapes (ponds), named after benefactors, essential at times of heavy rain to prevent flooding of nests. The connecting drains, which were full of crystal clear water, once held large stocks of freshwater fish (Rudd) but flooding by saltwater had killed these off twice and elvers have now been introduced in their place, as they can withstand both fresh and salt water.

Until two years ago, the local Water Authority had annually built up the bank of shingle along the boundary of the reserve, using a bulldozer, to protect it from flooding, but recently experience has shown, and it is more economic, to succumb to wave power and allow the bank to build up naturally. It had been estimated that the shingle would encroach on the reserve at the rate of five metres a year, and fencing was erected at points where it was expected to reach in twenty-five years. Unfortunately during a recent violent storm it encroached 180

metres in one night! One such storm occurred just after an extensive stretch of boardwalk had been erected. The timbers were transferred into the gardens in nearby Cley-next-the-Sea and the coastal road was shut for a week due to debris. The Prince of Wales was due to visit shortly afterwards and declined suggestions that his visit be postponed.

Cley-next-the-Sea was an important port hundreds of years ago: it now lays half a mile inland due to the silting up of the estuary. History records that it provided more ships to fight the Spanish Armada than any other port in the country. As we passed along the boardwalk our guide explained that we were now crossing what had been the main channel and when they drove in the stakes supporting the timbers they could not reach the bottom!

The purpose of the tour was not especially to observe birds but we did spend some time in the hides observing Avocets gracefully sweeping the water with their long beaks, and Gadwall, Lapwing, Little Egret, Marsh Harrier, Oyster Catcher, Redshank and Sandling. Outside the hides we observed Black Headed Gulls and a Kestrel. One of our members was keen to see a Bearded Tit and we stood for a while listening for the *ping* like noise they make but were unable to see one. It was windy and our guide explained that birds do not like wind and stay hidden.

The warden noted that Sue was not using binoculars and she explained that it was difficult as she wore glasses. He offered use of his pair, which was wonderful, although the price tag of £1,000 dissuaded us from obtaining a pair for her use. We were told that occasionally very rare birds visit the reserve; the number of twitchers attracted is unbelievable with the surrounding roads becoming clogged with traffic.

On our way back to the caravan we again noted the pair of swans who had built their nest within a few feet of the main road, apparently they have been the subject of national press and television coverage and the police have even erected warning signs to slow down the passing traffic.

Colin & Sue Tanswell

LOADS OF MANURE

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Strange title, you will probably ask, but all will be revealed. I would like to attempt to answer the question of what God is really like or what can we know about Him? If you, like me, are inquisitive you will try to leave no stone unturned, no question unasked, no reply ignored or unheard, no piece of scripture unread- in short, a good little detective! You, like me, would be just as puzzled when after such intense 'busy' work, you and me were left no nearer an answer than when we started!

Of course, you and I would be approaching the problem in the wrong sort of way! Let me try to explain: when we were little children we viewed our world through the eyes of a child and as adults through those of an adult; what we saw, heard, touched, smelled and tasted appeared quite differently to us as children from what those same things do now as adults. Well, God in that sense is no different, except that in our relationship with God we can only be like children not adults this side of mortal death because we are spiritually immature. Now, keeping that firmly in mind, let us turn to our Bible once more and see what we can learn.

The clues are in the names! Knowing somebody's name in Biblical times was seen as giving great power over that person. (It is still true-we still take great store over finding out the name of new acquaintances and knowing their name does confer some power over them as any gossip-spreader well knows!) In the early part of the Bible we hear Moses asking just this question of God (Exodus Ch.3v.13). What is interesting is God's reply to that question: 'Yahweh', which means 'I AM WHO I AM' is what seems at first to be some linguistic riddle that even Moses seems to have not fully grasped the full meaning of. Hebrew at the time when his part of the scripture was recorded had a rather quaint idiom for expressing a deliberate vagueness by the use of a linguistic device called an ellipsis where a statement of fact is simply returned to and repeated. For example, 'THEY WENT WHERE THEY WENT', means 'I haven't a clue where they went but they went somewhere else and didn't stay where they had been'.

Ah ha! You say, this name for God is the same sort of thing and you would be on the right track! God is saying in modern 21st century speak, 'Mind your own business!'-but in a much gentler way-don't fill your head with things you are unable to comprehend at present-be patient: all will be revealed at the proper time! Indeed, God even confirms He is the deity known to Moses' ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! Wow! (Exodus Ch 3 v. 14-16).

In the New Testament, the answer to our original question is expressed differently in the form of what is called an epiphany and especially in the Gospels. It is of course the second person of the Trinity, our beloved Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is the answer-humanity perfected. If we follow his example and strive to be like Him in all we do and are, then we will see God in all His Glory and as we mature our spirit with His help we become ready to receive God's grace in faith and humility, thus having our question answered in full! AMEN (Philippians 2,1-11).

Wow! What is in the name?

Emil Brown.

(Epiphany-God appearing in human form-is not just a New Testament phenomenon-Abraham at Mamre experienced God the father as an epiphany-Genesis Chapter 18)

**You are invited to
"LADIES SOCIAL NIGHT"
Clothes and Accessories
By EARTH COLLECTION Wakefield on
Tuesday October 6th 2009 at 7.30 pm.
At St Cuthbert's Church**

Drinks and nibbles available - Make this evening a must!!

Tickets are £5 each. Please obtain them in advance if possible so that the committee can arrange the catering They are available in advance from Bidy Branston (01977 610590) or book tickets by telephone and pay on the night.

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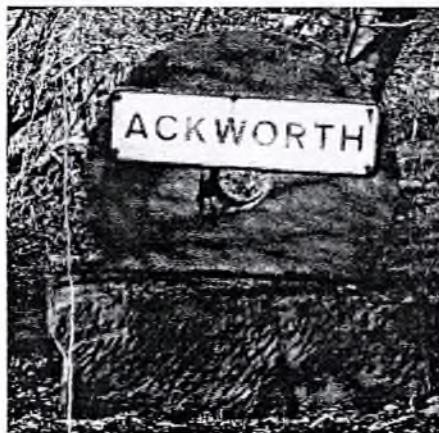
Ackworth Calendar 2010 is now on sale

As in previous years the Fund Raising Committee has created an Ackworth Calendar for 2010 that will be valued and sought after by residents and make a splendid Christmas present for friends and relatives that have moved away from the village and carry fond memories of Ackworth.

The 2010 Ackworth Calendar has again been created using old photographs of Ackworth some of which show property that has now been demolished. The scenes depicted give a glimpse of bygone Ackworth as well as showing how areas of the village have changed since the photographs were taken.

The calendars are sold in aid of the Repairs, Restoration, Re-ordering Appeal, and will be on general sale from 27th September 2009. Previews have been very well received. Make sure you get your copy (and a quality envelope for posting, if needed). Do not miss out!

The calendars,
are available for £6.99 each at
All Saints Church's (Thursday Coffee morning)
St Cuthbert's Church
Bell Lane Stores, Bell Lane
James Lamprey & Son, Pontefract Road
and other outlets.



Readings Rota for October 2009, November 2009

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's	ser	All Saints'
04/10/09	Proper 22	Job 1:1 & 2:1-10	Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16	Pauline Wong		Dr McWilliam
11/10/09	Harvest Thanksgiving	Joel 2:21-27	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 6:25-33	Anne Atack	P	Mrs S Hall
18/10/09	St Luke	Isaiah 35:3-6	2 Timothy 4:5-17	Luke 10:1-9	Jane Gosney		Mrs M Walker
25/10/09	Proper 25	Job 42:1-6 & 10-end	Hebrews 7:25-end	Mark 10:46-end	Anne Bullock	B	Dr McWilliam
01/11/09	All Saints' Day	Isaiah 25:6-9	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44			Mrs S Hall
08/11/09	3rd Before Advent	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 1:14-20	George Scargill	P	Mrs M Walker
15/11/09	2nd Before Advent	Daniel 12:1-3	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8	Jane Siddall		Dr McWilliam
22/11/09	Christ the King	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37	Sue Hartley		Mrs S Hall

The response should be said after both the Old and New Testament. It would be helpful if readers would organise their own cover (swoops) for arranged absences - please also let Lynne Ward know if possible. At St Cuthbert's please check for baptism or parade services if both readings are required: remember during Lent and Advent the OT reading is usually read if only one reading is used. Generally speaking the response is used after each reading.

ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

OCTOBER 4 TH	FLOWER FUND
OCTOBER 11 TH	HARVEST FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 18 TH	FLOWER FUND
OCTOBER 25 TH	FLOWER FUND
NOVEMBER 1 ST	JOYCE MORRELL
NOVEMBER 8 TH	ADA PRITCHARD
NOVEMBER 15 TH	MARY WALKER
NOVEMBER 22 ND	JEAN HANCOCKS
NOVEMBER 29 TH	ADVENT

ST. CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

OCTOBER 4 TH	JEAN BURT
OCTOBER 11 TH	BETTY FELL
OCTOBER 18 TH	BIDDY BRANSTON
OCTOBER 25 TH	ANNE HILL
NOVEMBER 1 ST	JANET BATEMAN
NOVEMBER 8 TH	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY JEAN CLAYTON
NOVEMBER 15 TH	ANNE HILL
NOVEMBER 22 ND	VERA McWILLIAM
NOVEMBER 29 TH	ADVENT



A STRANGE VISITOR

One Sunday afternoon in May whilst I was sitting at the dining room table trying my hand at the various crosswords in the newspaper I became aware of something flying around the room in an agitated manner. It was bumping into objects as it careered about until finally it hit me. At first I believed that it was a swallow that had entered the house through an open upstairs window and then in its attempt to escape had found its way downstairs. To my amazement on closer inspection it was the largest bat I have seen. We see a lot of the small Pipistrelle bats around the garden and have put up boxes for them but have not seen a bat this size here. Quickly closing both doors of the room I went for help to release it. Ian came in from the garden but of course by then there was no trace of it.

Then began the big search. We took down pictures, looked under all the furniture, shook all the curtains, but there was nothing to be found. Eventually we flushed out a large bluebottle. 'Do you suppose it has shrunk?' I was asked!

We gave up our search until it was dark and then it did put in another appearance. Fearing that it would die without any visible food source we tried to catch it in a net. No success. Then it alighted on the mantelpiece. Moving quickly towards it we thought that we would be able to capture it but it had other ideas. Seemingly able to shrink to almost nothing it managed to crawl into the minute space between the wooden mantelpiece and the stone fireplace. There it 'clicked; at us angrily. We gave up. Opening one of the upper windows we left it for the night. Next morning there was nothing to be seen. Mission accomplished (we thought).

No sign of the bat on Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday morning. Then at half past four it started flying around the room again. Now seriously worried for its well being we had to try another ploy when night came. We took off all the ornaments from the mantelpiece and then carefully lifted up the part where it had hidden on Sunday and with the net in hand managed to coax it into the net. Then getting a ladder, climbed up to a bat box to place it there. However it again had better things to do and flew off into the night.

We haven't seen it in the house since. We are still puzzled as to how it got there in the first place and why it was flying about in the daytime.

ACKWORTH CONCERT SOCIETY

“Barbican Brass”

will perform as part of the

**Ackworth Concert Society’s 2009/2010 Programme
of Concerts**

at

St. Cuthbert’s Church Ackworth

on

Saturday 24th October 2009 at 7.30 pm.

This is an exiting opportunity to hear **“A stunning brass ensemble playing a programme of popular classics!”**

Tickets are £12 each; Concessions £10; Children (under the age of 18) free if accompanied by an adult. They are available in advance from Wakefield Tourist Information (0845 6108353), Yager Opticians, Ropergate Pontefract or Simon Karl Hairdressing Ackworth (01977 618914) or at the door on the night. **Season ticket holders** are welcome.

Hospice Visits

During July it was the turn of our churches here in Ackworth to minister to the day patients at the Prince of Wales Hospice. I invited members of the congregation to join me and on average six people did so each week. These times proved a huge blessing, not just for the patients but for each of us. Read what Elsie has to say.

When Jenny announced she was going to hold a weekly service at the Prince of Wales Hospice During the month of July, I thought it was an excellent idea and something I would like to participate in. I have been fortunate to attend all the services and found it a very enjoyable experience. The patients were able to take part in the service which included hymn singing and saying prayers. Jenny also offered them the opportunity to request a special prayer. The services were very well received by the patients and staff. The next visits are planned for November and will be led by Paul which we hope will be well supported.

Elsie Groom

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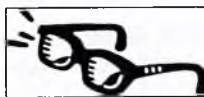
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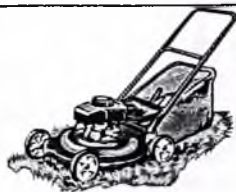
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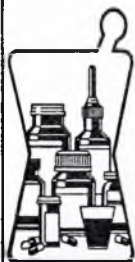
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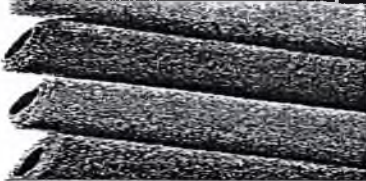
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GOD FAVOUR

Hello Friends. I hope you have had a good summer and enjoyed your holidays wherever you have been. I, for one, have mine to look forward to. Danny and I are heading back to Hong Kong to see his mother and family. This year we are taking our friend Mary and Danny, Stephen and Lisa are coming along as well.

Summer has been good this year; we have had some nice weather and I have been enjoying my time with the Lord. During my quiet times the Lord has placed on my heart where Isaiah prophesied the coming of our Lord and Saviour, proclaiming that the broken hearted would be healed and the captives freed (Isaiah 61). The word 'captive' means anyone serving the devil and not following Christ! Jesus himself read these Scriptures in the synagogue in his own village of Nazareth (Luke 4:18). The Pharisees were angry at His teaching and they tried to kill Him, but Jesus managed to slip away through the crowds.

If we too are called like Christ, then we are a disciple of the living God and Jesus gave the disciples a command (in Mark 16) to go into all the world and preach the Gospel and all those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Jesus proclaimed freedom and liberty to those that are bound in sin.

Jesus told His disciples that He was about His 'Father's business' so we are we not also called to be about our Father's business and finish the work of the Father making disciples and healing the sick? These are the days of God's Favour and God has given us the Holy Spirit so that we can finish the work that Jesus has called us to do.

In John 15 Jesus talks about the relationship of the believers and staying connected to the vine, which is 'Jesus'. The Father cuts off all the branches that do not stay connected to the vine and throws them into the fire. Jesus says, 'Remain in me and I will remain in you', as a branch cannot bear any fruit if it is cut off from the vine.

When we stay connected to the vine we can ask anything in Jesus' name and He will do it so that the Father is glorified. We are no longer servants but friends of Jesus. In Matthew 10:1 Jesus sends out his 12 disciples and gives them power and authority over unclean spirits and says to them 'Lay hands on the sick and they shall recover'. We too have been given this authority when we obey Jesus and keep His commandments.

Simon Wigglesworth wrote that the gift of healing is the solid fact of a divine nature within the person pressing forward, the very nature

and the act of the Lord, as if he were there.

St. Paul says, 'Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish'. As we endure God's divine discipline remember that God treats us as His own children. Our own fathers disciplined us for our own good, so our Heavenly Father disciplines us because He loves us. God's discipline is always right and good for us because it means we will share in His holiness. Discipline can be painful but there will be quite a harvest for those who are trained in this way, as we seek to live in peace with everyone and live a clean and holy life.

For those who are not holy will not see the lord. (Life Application Bible)

I pray that we as individuals will run our race and seek to do the Father's business. In Isaiah 24 God warns of the destruction of the earth, of how the earth will dry up and wither, its people must bear the guilt and the inhabitants are burned up! But praise be to God for He has given us a Saviour Jesus Christ and whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. These are the end times and Jesus is coming back soon! So let us lay aside every sin that will slow us down and hinder our progress as a church and individual. May God bless you and keep you always.

Pauline Wong

Alpha

As most of you know, as part of Churches Together in Ackworth we are involved in Alpha. Alpha is a very powerful tool for change, for bringing people into a relationship with God and for developing that relationship in new and vital ways. Read below two stories of experiences on Alpha. I pray that they will excite you as much as they excited me.

Jenny

The Alpha Course and Me

I had regularly attended church for about 15 months but that was the end of my involvement with God for the rest of that week. Whilst I enjoyed most of the services, the sermons, the singing and the camaraderie it still all left me feeling a bit flat but I didn't know why.

One Sunday the Vicar mentioned that an "Alpha course" would be starting the next day and that it was a great course to attend. Even though I had no idea

what to expect I decided to give it a go.

I was met by smiling faces, given a very warm welcome and to my surprise a hot meal. I hadn't realised food was provided every week as part of the course. During the meal we all chatted and I slowly relaxed and began to join in.

Every week we would watch a video that covered a different aspect of Christianity, after this we went into smaller groups to talk about what we had heard. Each session was non judgemental, definitely thought provoking and at times even mind blowing.

Due to illness I've had a very rough 5 years and to my total dismay life had permanently changed beyond all recognition because of it. I had time to rethink and restructure what it was I was going to do with the rest of my life within the limits of this illness. I have a wonderful husband and two grown up sons whom I love dearly but there was still a hole in my life that I just wasn't able to fill. Previously I had been so busy with work and family commitments that I hadn't had time to realise that this huge void was there.

The Alpha course has really helped to turn my life around. As the course progressed I began to realise that what I lacked was a relationship with God. Whilst I had been attending church regularly that had been the end of my commitment to God. On the Alpha course I learned that being a Christian is not just about going to church on Sunday you need to live as one for the rest of the week. My life now has purpose, without God in my life I was lost. I believed in God prior to the course starting but had absolutely no relationship with Him at all. Having now started to develop one I feel like a burden has been lifted from me and the void in my life is starting to fill. I am proud to say I have a growing relationship with God who loves me for who I am and this makes me feel happy and content with my life.

Anne Hill
My Alpha Experience

In October 2001 Jesus helped to restore my marriage in a very real way. Both my husband and I, at the same time, recognised Jesus' image in the room we were in while we were discussing our future together. Neither of us had been involved with church life. I hadn't even been baptised, and we certainly

wouldn't have dreamt of 'praying' for any help - it was a foreign concept back then.

A few years later I was encouraged by my 6 year old daughter to take her to the All Saints' church in Hessle. She attended the All Saints' Primary school and liked the assemblies that the vicar gave. I soon felt a need to learn more about Jesus because he had helped me and I started going to church regularly. I was baptised and confirmed in Hessle All Saints church in 2004 at the age of 27.

The Alpha course that ran earlier this year has really helped me to develop a relationship with God. Although I knew that Jesus is with us all, I struggled with the concept of suffering, both human made and natural. These questions held me back from God. Before the Alpha course I didn't know if I would ever find a forum to be able to openly ask these challenging questions. The course was beginner friendly and was perfect for setting aside some real quality time to seriously think and discuss these things.

I now have a real desire to read the bible for the first time in my life. I have always been reluctant to pick it up and read it. I never thought I would understand it or that it would make sense to me. I now feel very comfortable opening up the bible and reading whichever page it opens on. I have been astounded on occasions where I have been pondering on a subject and have opened on a page which has related directly to that subject and sometimes even answered questions.

I have learned about the Holy Spirit who has touched me during the course. He helped me to approach an 8 year broken relationship. Another broken relationship has been completely restored during the course which was amazing. I laughed to myself when Nikki Gumble clearly said in one DVD that as your relationship with God builds, relationships around you are strengthened.

Jesus was my friend in the start and always will be but I am so grateful that now, I also have a growing relationship with God. Instead of my normal catchphrase 'we're all doomed...' I am now hopeful for the future. Jesus has held my hand for a few years now but the Alpha Course has shown me I also have God to lean on and the Holy Spirit to help.

Lucy Haigh

From the Registers

Baptisms

- 12 July Lucas William Barratt, Isabella Mac Barratt, Bradley Craig Swales
- 19 July Sebastian James Joseph, Lucas Mateo Joseph
- 26 July Thomas Keith Williams, Eva Darraugh
- 9 August Mya Elizabeth Hackett, Kirsty Christie Etherington-Beach
- 30 August Adele Armstrong, Callum James Armstrong, James Harry Peter Davies

Marriages

- 17 July John Ewart Briggs and Zoe Margaret Eager
- 19 July Wedding Blessing, Joan Pau Joseph Preciado & Susan Claire Joseph
- 7 August Colin Timothy Adshead and Emma Minghella
- 8 August Jonathan Outhwaite and Adela Louise Anne Bardett
- 22 August Craig Joseph Last and Rebecca Gail Swain

Funerals

- 2 July Eileen Swales (57) 10 Wakefield Road, Ackworth
- 10 July Rita Ashman (78) 13 Hawthorne Grove, Ackworth

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

Sacred Heart, Hemsworth, Sunday, 10:45am
Saturday Night Mass, 6:00pm

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 October and November

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

- 1 November All Saints Day
10.15 am All Saints' - Patronal Festival
- joint service of Holy Communion
5.00pm St Cuthbert's - Commemoration of
the Faithful Departed.
NOTE: No 8.30am service at All Saints or
10.15 am service at St Cuthbert's
- 8 November Remembrance Sunday
8.30am All Saints' - Holy Communion
10.00am St Cuthbert's - Holy Communion
(said)
11.00am St Cuthbert's - Service of
Remembrance
NOTE: Wintertime Evensong Services change
to 3.30pm.
- 29 November Advent Sunday
4.00pm All Saints' - Christingle
Service
6.00pm St Cuthbert's - Christingle
Service
NOTE: Morning services as usual no 3.30pm
Evensong