



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

[www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk)

Issue 177  
April 2020

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Then Jesus went with them to a place called  
Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while  
I go over there and pray"

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## What's Happening This Month

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## Ash's Letter

*For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.- Psalm 27: 5*

I have to say it has been a strange winter weather wise. While we have avoided the snow and ice that can sometimes come, it has been a very stormy season and at one point during February every weekend heralded another named, storm battering our shores from across the Atlantic. In some ways those storms were almost a little forewarning of what was to come. As I write this we have now been in lock down for these past couple of days as the world seeks to find a way through the corona virus crises. It is a time like we've never known before and it feels like walking through the centre of a particularly violent storm.

In one of our recent Simply Jesus services, I shared a picture that had come to mind of a group of penguins that huddled together as the storm raged around them. Sometimes the thing to do in periods of storms is to stand together. Whilst we can't do that physically at the moment, as the government has rightly asked us to socially isolate, we can certainly do so in prayer. Also, as part of the picture I saw Jesus in the midst encouraging one after another with the words 'stand firm, the winter will pass'. So let us remember that Jesus is with us in the midst of this storm, we needn't be isolated from Him.

Easter, which is fast approaching, gives us another demonstration of the way that Jesus faced up to a raging storm. I always get a sense as I read through the gospel accounts of both an incredible momentum as Jesus reached out to thousands of people, sharing incredible teaching and performing extra-ordinary miracles but also a growing opposition as both the powers of darkness and the Jewish authorities were increasingly hell-bent on extinguishing the light of the world.

I often reflect on what it must have been like for Jesus as he approached the culmination of his life and ministry, death on a cross – with the resurrection to follow of course. It must have taken incredible bravery and an unshakeable sense of purpose to walk into the storm that faced Him at that first Easter time. We often reflect on the horror of the crucifixion itself, but the lead up also must have been very difficult in itself.



Then there were the days around the Passover celebration when Jesus was arrested, tried, beaten, mocked and finally crucified. An incredible fierce incessant storm which must have tested every fibre of Jesus' being, yet he stood, faced the storm and finally came out having won the greatest victory every won, defeating the powers of darkness, sin and death; A victory that we benefit from today.

So as we stand as a nation and face this unprecedented storm, stand firm, looking to Jesus the one who has gone before us. As we walk along through this difficult time, even in our isolation we can stand together and remember the winter will pass.

Ash.

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## Prayer and Pastoral Support

Just a reminder that should a need arise; there are a couple of means of support available. Firstly, there is prayer support, so if you contact Ash or any of the elders with a prayer request then they can circulate it to people through e-mail and word of mouth.

Also, there is pastoral support, so again you could contact Ash, Tony, Neill, Alyn or Denise and they will arrange some appropriate help where possible.

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## Healing Ministry Team

If you would like to receive ministry and prayer for healing, please contact Alyn or Carole who will arrange for members of the ministry team to come and wait on the Lord and pray with you. The healing ministry team are: Alyn and Carole, Brenda, Denise, Jacquie, Catherine, Dot & Ash.



## Our Web Site

Our Sunday services are now online as well as the monthly news letters both are in the resources tab on the website.

[www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk)

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### **Birthday Celebrations**

2<sup>nd</sup> April - Sue L

10<sup>th</sup> April - Anne

10<sup>th</sup> April - Neil R

11<sup>th</sup> April - Anu

11<sup>th</sup> April - Sue G

12<sup>th</sup> April - Oscar

19<sup>th</sup> April - Joanna

22<sup>nd</sup> April - Lisa

22<sup>nd</sup> April - Julie

23<sup>rd</sup> April - Becky

28<sup>th</sup> April - Jeanie

**A Very Happy Birthday From Everyone At  
Ackworth Community Church**



## Love to the Fullest

*Love to the fullest once roamed our earth.  
He arrived here by means of a heavenly birth.*

*From the very beginning most everyone knew  
there was something so special this child would do.*

*As time would prevail He became a man,  
teaching us love from God's own hand.*

*Though to some He knew He would be such a dread.  
They never could rest until He was dead!*

*He knew His own fate from beginning to end.  
He knew and still loved His betraying friend.*

*He carried His cross using His own two feet  
to die for our sins and our total defeat.*

*Why did He do it? No reason but love!  
He wanted to help us to heaven above.*

*Who was this man with such merciful love?  
None other than Jesus, our Saviour above!*



## Holding Fast to God:

What is holding fast to God? How do you hold fast to someone you can't see or touch?

When we read through the Bible and look at the men of God, there are a few that stand out. Some because they hold fast to God...and some because they don't.

Pretty much everyone knows who David is, and who Goliath is. They've heard of Samson and Noah and maybe even Jonah. But many people miss Hezekiah. He's not one that automatically jumps to mind as particularly remarkable and yet Scripture reveals something very impressive about him: Hezekiah knew about holding fast to God.

He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.

2 Kings 18:5-7, ESV

### Holding Fast to God

Hezekiah was one of a kind among the kings of Israel "for he held fast to the Lord." Among all of the kings, godly and ungodly, he is singled out for this lifestyle. When I read this, I immediately asked myself: "What does that even mean? Am I holding fast to the Lord?" And I'd like to ask you to consider that same question.

Are you holding fast to the Lord, my dear friend? Let's look at what that means.

### Stands Out & Hold Fast

To us who follow this example we must start where Hezekiah started which was trusting God. Then we must hold fast to Him. After that, we need to obey His instructions. Let's look at what that means for us today.



## **Holding Fast Means Trusting the God of Israel**

Trusting God is hard. He asks for some pretty big things from those who follow Him. Abraham was asked to sacrifice Isaac, David defeated a giant with a handful of pebbles, Peter walked on water, Paul was shipwrecked, and His own Son hung on a cross. We have trust that no matter where He leads us, His love and grace will be enough. It might be hard, it might even be downright painful. But it will also be worth it. Holding fast starts with trust.

## **Holding Fast Means Being Anchored**

To hold fast means to be tightly secured or anchored to something. Are you anchored to the Lord? If so, the storms of life may toss you to and fro a bit, but you don't wander from His side when they do. If you are tightly secured to Him, the world may get your attention but it cannot woo you from His hold. It means while you might be tempted, you hold fast and don't give in.

## **Holding Fast Means Staying In The Word**

First, we need to read the Word. Then we need to do it. It's very simple in theory, but so challenging in execution. But Hezekiah did it. He upheld the Law of God. And because of it he was blessed, and the nation of Israel was blessed under his rule.

## **The Rewards of Holding Fast to God**

The Bible says that wherever Hezekiah went out, he prospered because God was with him. And then it notes that he would not serve the king of Assyria. This means he would worship God only, and not bow to an earthly authority that threatened him. For us, today, that means that we need to make sure we don't have other idols that rule our affections. It also means we get to enjoy the benefits of holding fast to God. Whenever He sends us out and we follow Him, He will prosper us. That prosperity might not be earthly riches, but they will be heavenly.



## Keep trusting in Jesus

Luke 8:19-39

There may be times in your life when fear seems overwhelming. Sometimes it comes like the unexpected storm that the disciples experienced (v.22–25).

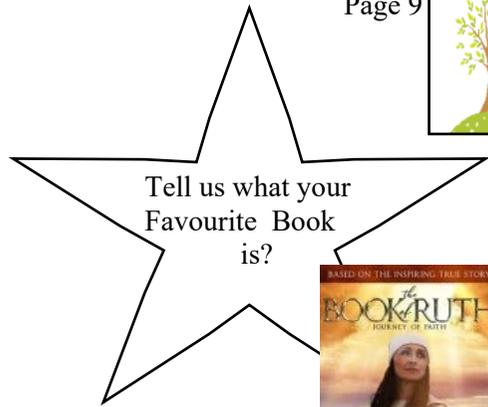
This section starts with an extraordinary combination of intimacy and awe. Jesus says of his followers that ‘those who hear God’s word and put it into practice’ (v.21) will have an intimate relationship with him. They are his ‘mother and brothers’ (v.21).

Intimacy and ‘fear’ (in the good sense) are not opposites – they complement one another. This is true of the best relationships – whether in marriage, in close friendships or with parents and children. Extraordinary intimacy is combined with healthy respect.

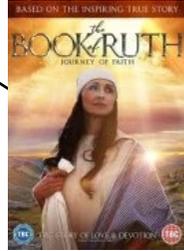
The disciples experienced two different types of fear when they were on the lake with Jesus. When a storm came, they were in ‘great danger’ (v.23) and the disciples were afraid. They woke Jesus and said, ‘Master, Master, we’re going to drown!’ (v.24a).

Jesus ‘got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm’ (v.24b). He said to his disciples, ‘Where is your faith?’ (v.25a). Again, we see the contrast between unhealthy fear and faith. Jesus said to them, ‘Why can’t you trust me?’ (v.25a, MSG).

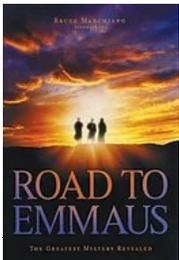
The answer to their fear is so simple and yet so hard to put into practice. I have found it is a lesson I have had to keep re-learning. In the midst of your fears, keep trusting Jesus – keep putting your confidence in him. Sometimes Jesus calms the storm as he did here. Sometimes he lets the storm rage and he calms you.



The Book Of Ruth DVD £9.77



A Biblical Cinderella story. The Book of Ruth is a triumphant love story in the face of adversity. Choosing to leave her homeland of Moab, Ruth follows her mother in law Naomi to Israel after the death of her husband and marries a man named Boaz, who is of the Royal House of Judah. This chain of seemingly unrelated events, sets the stage for the future kings of the nation of Israel, and the glorious coming of the Messiah.



Road To Emmaus DVD

£8.94

Mourning the death of Jesus, two first-century travellers were joined by a mysterious stranger. Over the next few hours, the stranger revealed many mysteries that lay hidden in the ancient Scriptures. Soon, the purpose of Jesus' life became clear and the travellers' sadness turned to great joy.

Now you can learn what they learned. Discover the key to life...on the Road to Emmaus.



## Coming Events for May - (if possible)

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Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

4.00pm – 6.00pm Messy Church at the Parish Rooms.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Church Youth – Hemsworth Christian Fellowship – Time TBA

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

3.30pm Annual Christian Aid Service at St Cuthberts.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May

All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Fasting and Prayer Walk for breakthrough meet at 11.30am at Brian and Linda's old house for a prayer walk round Millgate.

# Prayer Diary

Please pray for each other.

If you would like to be on the prayer list please let Lisa know.

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 Andy, Sue & Rachel	2 Derek Catherine & Family	3 Neil & Eileen	4 Somesh & Jasmine	5 Stan & Moiria
6 Dayo, Anu, Shalom & Shekinah	7 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	8 Adrian,& Anne	9 Tony & Evelyn	10 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	11 Ash, Di, Joel & Cerwys	12 Owen & Vickie
13 Alyn & Carole	14 Jacquie May Julie	15 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna	16 John & Lilian	17 Joan A James Vera	18 Kevin & Jeanie	19 David & Carol R
20 Brian & Linda  Julian, & Caroline	21 Kate & Jean L	22 Dot Brenda Jean	23 Steven & Christina	24 David & Janet	25 Denise Joan B Lisa	26 Ann-Marie & Alison
27 Florence. Nick, Becky, Lycan & Archer	28 Parent & Toddler	29 Julian & Valerie	30 Elders			