



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

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Contact:  
Church Leader

Ashley Guest  
01977 649320



Lisa's Garden

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## What's Happening This Month

Ash's Letter - Pages 2&3

Our Web Site - Page 4

You're Always There for Me  
- Page 5

Five Ways God's Word Is a Gift  
- Pages 6&7

Geography Quiz - Page 8

Book Review - Page 9

Psalm 25 - Page 10

Deep-Rooted Faith - Page 11

Prayer Diary - Page 12



## Ash's Letter

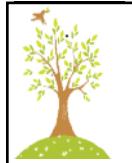
*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. – John 10: 14 - 15*

It is now over three months since lock down begun and I think it's true to say that it has been one of the most unusual, surreal and testing years of our lives. I have been thinking again over these past few weeks about our January prayer evenings (how distant those evenings seem away from us now) when we had the privilege of praying, listening and sitting together. It is hard to think that this was this year. I hope to share again some of the things we were thinking about during those evenings and reflect on them bit further at some point. But for now, my eyes remain locked on the good shepherd. It is good to think that just like we did in January we can still sit with, fellowship with listen to Jesus.

Recently on Sunday mornings we have been thinking about the song of the shepherd (Psalm 23), the heart of the shepherd, which is one of compassion toward the crowd and the individual and also the call of the shepherd.

It is important to know and respond to the voice of Jesus and these quieter days of lock down give us the perfect opportunity to intentionally set aside time, to sit with the shepherd, to talk to him and also to listen to him. I have been thinking about these three big questions during lock down: what are you saying to our nation? What are you saying to your church? And what are you saying to me through these times? Perhaps you could join me in asking these questions of the Lord in these days ahead.

John 10 also goes onto give us more wonderful insights into the character of the shepherd. We read of Jesus being the gate. In the first century sheepfolds were fenced enclosures where the sheep might be kept. Often the sheepfolds didn't have gates as the shepherd would often sleep in the opening where the gate might be. He literally became the gate and said to all the wolves, bears and other predators, 'if you want to get at the sheep you have to come through me first'. It's another insight into the care of the shepherd for his sheep.



William Barclay in his commentary on John 10 said of the shepherds of the first century that they displayed constant vigilance, fearless courage, and patient love for his flock. We see all of these in Jesus.

Indeed John 10 goes onto say that the good shepherd would make the ultimate sacrifice for his sheep: I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

What a shepherd, the awesome and incomparable good shepherd, what better place to focus our attention in these scary days of lock down.

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.



## Our Web Site

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

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

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### Birthday Celebrations

3<sup>rd</sup> July - Steven

17<sup>th</sup> July - Nick

19<sup>th</sup> July - Taylor

23<sup>rd</sup> July - Hope

23<sup>rd</sup> July - Lilian

24<sup>th</sup> July Dot

24<sup>th</sup> July - Jeff

26<sup>th</sup> July - Joan B

27<sup>th</sup> July - Anne-Marie

31<sup>st</sup> July - Archer

A Very Happy Birthday From Everyone At  
Ackworth Community Church



## You're Always There for Me

When the world comes crashing in  
And chaos rules my mind,  
I turn my heart to you, Lord,  
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble  
You comfort me in pain;  
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,  
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,  
When things are going right,  
You lift me even higher,  
And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;  
You hear my every plea;  
I'm safe because I know  
You're always there for me.

By Joanna Fuchs

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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.



## Five Ways God's Word Is a Gift

*"Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word."*  
*James 1:17-18 (NLT)*

If you're going to anchor your soul to something that never changes, then you need to treat God's Word as a gift. The Bible says, "Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession" (James 1:17-18 NLT).

James says five important things about God's Word in this passage.

### **1. God's Word is good.**

It's for your benefit. If you're not reading the Bible, you're missing all the promises, instruction, and benefits God wants to give you.

### **2. God's Word is perfect.**

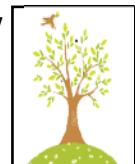
It's a "perfect gift." If it's perfect, it means it's infallible. There's no error in it. You can count on it. And, if it's perfect, that means it's exactly what you need.

### **3. God's Word is true.**

It says, "his true word." Scripture will always tell you the right thing to do. It will never lead you in the wrong direction. It's always correct. Its truth will set you free!

### **4. God's Word is unchanging.**

The Bible says God never changes, and so his Word never changes. Some of the gifts you get in life wear out—they fade, rust, and break down. You can't always depend on them, but you can always depend on God's Word.



## 5. God's Word is life-giving.

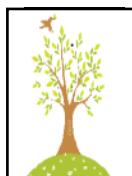
James says, "God chose to give life to us by giving us his Word." You were made in God's image, which means you have the ability to love God and be loved by him. God created you and gave you his Word so you can know him. This is the only way to true life.

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the encouragement taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope" (Romans 15:4 NIV). Everything in the Bible was written to give you hope, even the parts you may not understand.

The one thing you may need most right now—encouragement—is in this book.

Have you been feeling discouraged? There is great hope, and it's at your fingertips. Just open up your Bible!

[Www.rickwarrendailyhope.com](http://Www.rickwarrendailyhope.com)



## Geography Quiz

1. What country has the longest coastline in the world?
2. What is the oldest recorded town in the UK?
3. How many US states begin with the letter A?
4. What is the highest mountain in Britain?
5. The world's first national park was established in 1862 in which Country?
6. What is the currency of Sweden?
7. What is the capital of New Zealand?
8. The southern tip of South America has what name?
9. What is the longest river in the UK?
10. Which Central American country has a name which translates to English as "The Saviour"?
11. What is the smallest country in the world?
12. The Strait of Gibraltar separates the Iberian Peninsular from which African country?
13. How many states are there in Australia?
14. What is the most recent state to be added to the USA?
15. What is the name of the largest river to flow through Paris?

Answers on page 11



## Book Review

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

**Summer Reading**

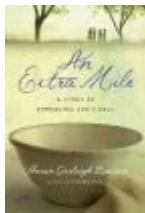
### Shelter of the Most High £10.98



The daughter of a pagan high priest, Sofea finds solace from her troubles in the freedom of the ocean. But when marauders attack her village on the island of Sicily, she and her cousin are taken across the sea to the shores of Canaan.

Eitan has lived in Kedesh, a city of refuge, for the last eleven years, haunted by a tragedy in his childhood, yet chafing at the boundaries placed on him. He is immediately captivated by Sofea, but revealing his most guarded secret could mean drawing her into the danger of his past.

As threats from outside the walls loom and traitors are uncovered within, Sofea and Eitan are plunged into the midst of a murder plot. Can they uncover the betrayal in time to save their lives and the lives of those they love?



### An Extra Mile £14.87

The women of Sensible Shoes are navigating both deep joy and devastating loss. Can they find equilibrium in the midst of all that has changed? Mara: While faced with the turmoil of divorce and chaos at home, she is also listening for a call to serve others with courage and creativity. Hannah: As she grieves the twin losses of her dear friend and her Chicago ministry position, she also begins to embrace the joys and challenges of a new marriage. Charissa: Overwhelmed by her pregnancy and the demands of her teaching schedule, she is in need of even more grace for herself and others. Becca: Bereft and filled with regrets, can she find hope for the future and a way home? In this final instalment of the Sensible Shoes series, you're invited to travel with these beloved friends as they endure trials that test their trust and their willingness to walk an extra mile.



## Psalm 25 NIV

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; In you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No-one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God, my Saviour, and my hope is in you all the day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands for his covenant. For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, for it is great.

Who, then, is the man that fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land.

The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish. Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. See how my enemies have increased and how fiercely they hate me! Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you. Redeem Israel, O God, from all their troubles!



## Deep-Rooted Faith

The seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23

The Holy Oak, towering next to Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church in New Jersey for more than three hundred years, had to be removed after more than six hundred years of life. At its prime, the twisting branches spanned high and wide. Cool breezes rustled its green leaves and acorns. The sun peeked through wind-blown gaps, creating dancing glimmers of light in the shade below its canopy. But beneath the ground's surface lay its true magnificence—its root system. An oak's main root grows vertically, securing a reliable supply of nourishment. From that taproot, a mass of roots spreads horizontally to supply the tree with a lifetime of moisture and nutrients. This intricate root system often grows more massive than the tree it supports and serves as a lifeline and an anchor for stabilizing the trunk.

Like the mighty oak, most of our life-giving growth occurs beneath the surface. When Jesus explained the parable of the sower to His disciples, He emphasized the importance of being firmly planted in a personal relationship with the Father. As we grow in the knowledge of God as revealed through the Scriptures, our faith roots are sustained by His Spirit. God helps His followers thrive through ever-changing circumstances, trials, persecution, and worry (Matthew 13:18–23).

Our loving Father nourishes our hearts with His Word. As His Spirit transforms our character, He makes sure the fruit of our deep-rooted faith becomes evident to people around us.

[www.odb.org](http://www.odb.org)

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Answers from page 8 1. Canada 2. Colchester 3. Four – Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas 4. Ben Nevis 5. USA, Yellowstone 6. Swedish Krona 7. Wellington 8. Cape Horn 9. River Severn 10. El Salvador 11. Vatican City 12. Morocco 13. Six – New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia 14. Hawaii (August 1959) 15. The Seine

## 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 Kevin & Jeanie	2 Adrian,& Anne	3 David & Janet	4 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	5 Kate & Jean L
6 Stan & Moira	7 Owen & Vickie	8 Denise Joan B Lisa	9 Florence. Nick, Becky, Lycan & Archer	10 Ash, Di, Joel & Cerwys	11 Alyn & Carole	12 Dayo, Anu, Shalom & Shekinah
13 Joan A James Vera	14 Andy, Sue & Rachel	15 Ann-Marie & Alison	16 Jacquie May Julie	17 Neil & Eileen	18 Brian & Linda	19 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna
20 Derek Catherine & Family	21 Somesh & Jasmine	22 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	23 Tony & Evelyn	24 Dot Brenda Jean	25 Julian, & Caroline	26 David & Carol R
27 Julian & Valerie	28 John & Lilian	29 Steven & Christina	30 Elders	31 Parent & Toddler		