



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

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Lisa's Garden - Clematis Still Waters

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Ash's Letter

*Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?"
"Yes, Lord," he answered, "You know I love You." Jesus told him,
"Shepherd My sheep." – John 21: 16*

Some years back now, we spent some Sunday evenings trying out a cafe style church format. As part of those evenings we usually had a coffee and a biscuit, then discussed a certain topic based around a short video presentation by a man called Rob Bell. One of the sessions was called Dust and the thoughts from it have stuck with me throughout the years. In it Rob Bell talked about the process of becoming a disciple in the first century and explained that the disciples aim was to become like the rabbi they were following, to literally walk in his footsteps so closely that the dust he was kicking up covered them. There was apparently an ancient Jewish blessing which said "May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi." It's a great aim, to walk in Jesus' footsteps, to be like Jesus.

Over these weeks of lockdown we have been looking at one of the most famous Psalms, Psalm 23, the Song of the Shepherd. In it we have read David's metaphor of a shepherd looking after his sheep and providing for them in many ways. We read of the shepherd leading the sheep to green pastures and still waters, of guiding the sheep in the right direction, of leading them through the darkest of valleys and protecting them from evil and harm. Of providing food and oil to anoint the head and also the eternal promise that I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. An incredible picture of a shepherd who carefully and thoughtfully provides all that His sheep needs and David reminds the people of Israel that this is how God cares for his people.

As I've been thinking about this psalm again in recent days and considered the wonderful ways in which God cares for his flock, I have been considering the ways that we too can walk in the footsteps of Jesus, as He is the perfect good shepherd, I think there are ways that we too can follow His example.

So here are three ways that we can do that. Firstly, it is our responsibility to care for our own soul. The shepherd will lead us in the right way, to green pastures etc. but we need to be willing to follow, to spend time learning to hear His voice, to feed on His word, to meet together (when we can) and to seek to look out for those around us.



We can choose each day to nurture our faith or to do our own thing.

Secondly, we need to be on the lookout for each other. I was watching a TV programme the other day about emperor penguins. They travel huge distances across frozen waste grounds to return to their nesting sites each year. They were quite comical as they waddled along in a long line, finding their way back home. However, at one point, one of their number got separated from the line and was soon in real trouble as a blizzard blew in. The group of penguins nestled together for warmth and thankfully the lost penguin found the group just in time before he succumbed to the cold. We need each other, to help each other along, to pray for us, to care for each other and to shepherd each other.

Thirdly, we need to be salt and light in our community. We have a responsibility as God's people to proclaim and bring in the kingdom of God into our streets and villages. These days have presented us with opportunities where we can care, pray and proclaim something of Jesus into Ackworth.

Ash.

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

Birthday Celebrations

6th June - Jean A

8th June - Kate

10th June - Jasmine

12th June - Eileen

18th June - Kimberley

29th June - Catherine

29th June - Evelyn

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



He Is!

When you are the neediest, He is the most sufficient.

When you are completely helpless, He is most able.

When you feel totally dependent, He is absolutely dependable.

When you are the weakest, He is the most able

When you are the most alone, He is intimately present.

When you feel you are the least, He is the greatest!

When you feel the most useless, He is preparing you.

When it is darkest, He is the only Light you need.

When you feel the least secure, He is your Rock and Fortress.

When you are the most humble, He is most gracious.

When you say that you cannot, remember that He can!

author unknown

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.



The Pause We All Need

,"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge." Psalm 19:1-2 (NIV)

I was already feeling behind in my day when I noticed my untied shoelaces. I needed to stop. Ugh! Breathlessly annoyed and sweaty, I dropped to my knees to tend to my laces. I double knotted those suckers for good measure and was about to take one last resting gulp of air when my eyes finally took notice of the landscape before me.

The sun's first rays illuminated the mountain peaks and set the slopes afire with colours beyond the expertise of any painter's palette. Hills below boasted of summer's first greens, and on the air was the aroma of promised blooms to come. I was completely mesmerized and marvelled in the moment for one breath more as the praises in Psalm 19 leapt to the forefront of my mind:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2).

Not only was creation ever praising the glory of God, but day and night, creation was on display reminding me to look up and do the same. But was I doing the same? The honest answer was I didn't know, and the truth of the words struck my heart with conviction.

When was the last time I paused to notice creation, let alone praise the One who created it all?

For weeks, my efforts had been consumed by activities and schedules within my calendar. There was no looking up. There was no pausing or praising. And my perspective over it all had become a bit nearsighted.

On my way back home, I continued to ponder my perspective, the act of praise and the importance of pausing. I went back to the Psalms to dig deeper, and there in the chapters I found David, the shepherd boy chosen to become king. Now David was a man who truly experienced the highs and lows of life. He knew seasons of great



busyness, blessing and victory, and he also knew seasons of despair, grief and guilt. Yet through it all, David's heart was sustained by a right perspective in the Lord.

How did he do it? Well, I believe it's because David knew how to pause and praise well. Time and time again, David paused to take notice of the Lord's creation, and he praised the mighty work of the Lord's hands. This practice not only reminded David of his humble place within creation, but also God's authorship and authority over creation, his life and his circumstances.

Perspective matters.

The same Lord is over our lives and our circumstances. He's over my season of busyness. He's over your seasons of blessing, ongoing struggle, heartbreaking sorrow, financial strain, exciting unknowns or even the monotony of the mundane. He's over it all, and it is He, the Creator of heaven and earth, who holds us today. This, my friends, is a truth worth pausing to remember. This is a truth worthy of our praise. And this is a truth worth looking up for.

Dear Lord, You are our Lord, sovereign over all. I desire to praise You as creation does. Forgive me for the times I have become nearsighted in my own endeavours, and remind my heart to look upon You first today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

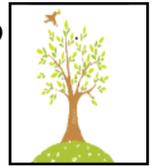
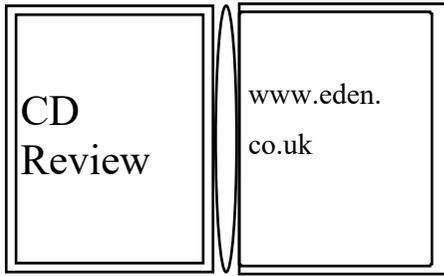
Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (NIV)

Psalm 145:5-6, "They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty — and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works — and I will proclaim your great deeds." (NIV)



Nature Quiz

1. In nature, Buttress, Tap and Strangler are all types of what?
2. How many rows of whiskers, on each side, does a cat usually have?
3. Arboreal animals live in or among which habitat?
4. What is the head of a jellyfish called?
5. Azaleas are flowering shrubs in which genus?
6. What sea creature is a blue whale's favourite meal?
7. Which animals are considered to be the 'Big Five' in Africa?
8. What nickname do adult male gorillas have due to their hair?
9. Old Man's Beard and Traveller's Joy are names for a variety of which flower?
10. Name two of the three snakes native to the UK?
11. When guinea pigs are happy they 'Popcorn'. What does that mean?
A) They curl up in a ball B) They grind their teeth,
C) They jump up high in the air
12. What is the best wood for making pencils?
13. Which mammal are the only one that can not jump?
14. Where is the London venue for the largest flower show in the world (it's held in early July by the Royal Horticultural Society)?
15. Which flower inspired the William Wordsworth poem 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud'?



The World's Favourite New Worship Songs £11.99



The World's Favourite New Worship Songs has scoured the Christian music charts to find the best, most uplifting, reflective, moving and shaking worship songs to come out over the past few years. All new, all great. Over three praise-packed CDs you'll find fresh music from big names like Martin Smith, Rend Collective, Housefire, Soul Survivor and dozens more. Actual dozens. There are fifty songs to experience across this whole set. Each chosen by people who know worship music inside and out.



Only A Holy God

£2.95

Here Be Lions is a ministry collective focused on discipleship music and community. The worship team led by Dustin Smith ("God Who Moves The Mountains " "Miracles") aims to create music that welcomes the power and presence of God in expectation of a supernatural move of the Father to bring salvation healing and restoration.

For their 11-track label debut Only A Holy God Here Be Lions delivers songs of reverence and praise written around the character of God and the forgiveness and wholeness found in Jesus.

The collective takes its name from the old mapping tradition in which explorers marked unknown dangerous territory with a symbol and the phrase "Here Be Lions." Originally meant as a warning the phrase has become a call for the Here Be Lions collective to advance God's kingdom authority and order.

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- Answers from page 8** 1. Root 2, Four 3. Trees 4, The Bell 5, Rhododendron 6, Krill 7, Lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and the cape buffalo. 8, Silverback 9, Clematis 10, Adder, grass snake and smooth snake. 11, C They jump high 12, Incense Cedar 13, Elephant 14, Hampton Court Palace 15, Daffodils



Coming Events for June - (if possible)

Saturday 6th June

A weekend with Bishop Ken Clarke.
(there will be no Messy Church in June).

Sunday 7th June

Bishop Ken Clarke.

Saturday 13th June

6pm Church Youth – Hemsworth Christian Fellowship.

Monday 22nd June

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

Wednesday 27th June

Fasting and Prayer Walk for breakthrough meet at 11.30am at Brackenhill.

Saturday 27th June

Ackworth Gala has been cancelled this year.

Prayer Diary

Please pray for each other.

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

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