



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

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## Ash's Letter

*Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky –  
Philippians 2: 14 – 15*

For a few summers we travelled across to Normandy to visit some old family friends. The place where they live is deep in the countryside, not far from Mont St. Michel and one of the abiding memories for me was looking out at the sky on a clear night. I love the stars anyway, but because there were no street lights and no light pollution, they shone so brightly and the scene was spectacular, almost breathtaking. It reminds me of the verse above where the writer calls us to shine among people 'like stars in the sky'.

We are now entering November, which is the gateway to winter. It is always the month when the darkness of the nights (and sometimes the days) becomes really noticeable and I'm really thankful for the emergence of the twinkling Christmas lights that start to be switched on throughout the month. It seems this year with the continuance of the coronavirus pandemic that winter could be particularly tough and here's a good prayer for all of us: 'Lord give me your light, that I might be able to shine your light in this dark world'. Firstly, you'll notice there is a request that God might continue to give us His light, His help, His strength, we need to be sustained and enlightened through these difficult days. But also it goes on to ask that we might be purveyors of the light. We sometime sing the simple chorus 'This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine'; Let you little lights shine, the world is in need of some hope and life and let's pray that our lives might glow in such a way that some are drawn to the light of Jesus through them.

Recently on Sunday mornings we have looked at lots of lockdown stories, of which there are many, throughout the Bible. As you'll remember we have focused on the stories of Joseph, Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Peter and John and Paul and Silas, all who faced periods of being either physically or spiritually locked at some point in their lives. There are many others too



which we could have considered. It seems that being locked down or locked up is a very common experience for the people of God.

However, it has been interesting as we have gone through the stories to see a common thread running through them all. As we have reflected together, we have seen that in spite of the great difficulties that they were facing and the limitations that they were placed under, that God's people were able to shine among the people they were incarcerated by 'like stars in the universe'. It has been noteworthy to see the multitude of ways that they have demonstrated something of the glory of the Lord even in their struggles and it gives me hope that the same Holy Spirit, who helped them to do that, can do that through us in our present trials.

So God's people 'shine like stars in the universe' and 'let your light be seen before men'.

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**

11<sup>th</sup> November - Jacquie

12<sup>th</sup> November - David R

17<sup>th</sup> November - Matt

22<sup>nd</sup> November - Hannah

28<sup>th</sup> November - Vickie

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



## The Power of Kindness

Who are the kindest people you know? Isn't being in their presence like sitting in sunshine? Kind people make you glad to be alive; they help you see beyond the fog of worry or discontent. "Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up" (Proverbs 12:25).

Jesus' commandment to us to "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34) was an instruction to be kind, always and to everyone. Our Lord exemplified kindness—healing the sick, pouring Himself out for the crowds who gathered to touch Him or hear Him. He was human; it must have been exhausting.

Yet, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35). He replenished His strength with prayer and solitude. We can do the same.

What does living a life of kindness mean? It means curbing our impulse to speak sharply. It means praying every day: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). If a harsh word escapes us in a moment of stress, kindness motivates us to make a sincere apology.



True kindness means being gentle in our inner, private thoughts—catching ourselves forming critical, negative judgments and nipping them in the bud. A surefire way to do that is to turn a negative thought into a prayer for that person. The Apostle James encourages us, as Christian brothers and sisters, to "pray for one another" (James 5:16).

The best thing about kindness is that it comes with a double blessing. The person who offers a kindness gets as much or more out of the deed as the recipient. Proverbs tells us, "Those who are kind benefit themselves" (11:17).

So make a conscious effort today to be kind to everyone you meet. It will make them—and you—feel better!



## Standing Strong Through the Storm

***“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” John 12:46***

One of the strongest images of standing strong in a storm is the lighthouse. In the era before radar, satellite navigation and GPS systems, lighthouses were vital to protect ships from crashing onto rocks, shoals and shores. Building lighthouses can be considered one of man’s most noble endeavours. Since the beginning of seafaring, families and friends have lit bonfires at night to guide sailors home.

*George Bernard Shaw said, “I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve.”*

*And evangelist D.L. Moody commented, “Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining—they just shine.”*

Jesus used this imagery of light to describe our role in His kingdom. We are the light of the world, He said, after claiming Himself to be the true light. Therefore we function much like a lighthouse, both internally and externally.

The first aspect of a lighthouse is the internal function of generating light. Early lighthouses used a literal fire that had to be constantly fed and watched. Later electric lights were utilized and ultimately laser lights. But this light still has to be internally projected. So we too as followers of Jesus project internal light, the outer expression of the inner life under the control of the Holy Spirit.

The other aspect of a modern lighthouse is that it also is an external reflector. Over the years of improvements, revolving lenses have been developed to reflect that internally generated light further into the darkness. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so we reflect the light of the Son in a world of darkness.



And finally, lighthouses remind us of God's love. Like the bright shining beam of a lighthouse, His love reaches out...piercing through the darkness of any storm.

Response: Today I will be a lighthouse for Jesus, projecting His inner light and reflecting His light externally.

Prayer: Lord, may Your love and Your light pierce the darkness of the world around me as I stand strong and faithful for You today like a lighthouse.

[www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)

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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.

# Book Review

www.eden.co.uk

Tell us what your Favourite Book is?

Page 8



A Voice In The Wind

£1328



This classic series has already inspired nearly 2 million readers, but both loyal fans and new readers will want this 20th anniversary edition of a Christian classic,

The first book in the best selling Mark of the Lion series, A Voice in the Wind brings readers back to the first century and introduces them to a character they will never forget--Hadassah. Torn by her love for a handsome aristocrat, this young slave girl clings to her faith in the living God for deliverance from the forces of decadent Rome.

Believed dead, Hadassah finds employment helping a doctor in the poor section of first-century Rome and discovers an ability to heal others through the power of her faith. When Julia falls ill, Hadassah is forced to confront a difficult decision: should she return to the Valerian household, risking exposure and death, to help her former tormentor in the Christian tradition?



The Lost Garden

£7.93

Lonely and stagnating in a soulless job, thirty-seven-year-old Marin Ellis is in need of a new start - but she is not prepared for the one she is given, when, after her estranged father and his second wife die in a car accident, she is made guardian of her fifteen-year-old half-sister Rebecca.

The half-sisters are practically strangers, and their life in Hampshire is stilted and strange. At Rebecca's pleading they move to the picturesque village of Goswell on the Cumbrian coast, settling into the charming Bower House on the edge of church property.

When a door to a walled garden captures Rebecca's interest, Marin becomes determined to open it and discover what is hidden beneath the brambles. She enlists the help of local gardener Joss Fowler, and together they begin to uncover the garden's surprising secrets.

In 1919, nineteen-year-old Eleanor Sanderson, daughter of Goswell's vicar, is grieving the loss of her beloved brother Walter, killed just days before the Armistice was signed. As winter passes into spring, her mood remains bleak despite her attempts to alleviate the emptiness she feels. When her father decides to hire someone to help Eleanor restore the once beloved, but now neglected, vicarage gardens, she is enchanted by the possibility of a new garden--and the gardener her father hires, Yorkshireman Jack Taylor.



## I Belong to a Privileged Family.

I belong to a privileged family, so much is expected of me.

I'm part of a royal heritage, I'm actually royalty!

Oh, you can't tell by my appearance, I carry no crown on my head;

No royal robes on my person for functions which I would dread.

In truth, I'm really a servant, a person of lowly esteem.

But through my Mediator, I'm more than what I might seem.

You see, I serve a great Master, the King, Creator of all;

He is the One who has blessed me, He hears me whenever I call.

His love has made me His servant, a title - the child of a King;

Through Jesus I'm heir to salvation, through Christ I can do anything.

Because I work in His power, He guides me each step of the way.

He gives me a longing to serve Him, He walks by my side every day.

One day I'll be walking in glory with saints who have gone on before.

Till then I'll go where He sends me, at home or some foreign shore.

By Greta Zwaan

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Ackworth Oaktree School are collecting Big Jigsaws, Action Figures, Lego / Duplo, Board Games, Wooden Trains to be used in school. If you have any of these and would like to donate or buy them, please pass them onto Anne Marie.



## Coming Events for December



Christmas Preparation: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am  
(Online)

Christmas Messy Church / Christingle – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>  
December – 5pm (online)

Reflections on ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing’: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>  
December: 10.30am (online)

Christmas Quiz: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December: 7pm (online)

Carols by Candlelight: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December: 5pm (online)  
**Note There will be no Morning Service.**

Christmas Day: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December: 10am (online)

**There will be no online Sunday Service on the 27<sup>th</sup> De-  
cember.**



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