



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

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## What's Happening This Month

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## Ash's Letter

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. –  
Isaiah 40: 29 – 31*

As we step out of 2020 I'm sure there are many people around the world who will be glad to see the back of it. I remember the Queen saying that 1992 was her *anus horribilis*, following the Windsor Castle fire and a difficult year for her family. It seems that the world has had a communal *anus horribilis* due to the corona virus and all the restrictions that has brought. I'm sure like many you'll be praying for a better 2021 and a return to something like the normality we knew previously.

However, as I reflect on the past year, I can't help but think that God has been faithful and remained constant through all the changes of the past year. He has been present and has remained our constant companion through the dark valley of 2020. And he has remained good, demonstrating again and again his kindness, love and care for us in many tangible ways. I also think that there are many valuable lessons to learn from 2020. It has made us appreciate what is truly valuable, our family, our friendships, our gathering together for worship and perhaps it has helped us to see that we can survive without some of trimmings of our previous way of life.

So what of 2021? I am hopeful as we enter this New Year, with news of multiple vaccines entering the final testing and regulatory checking stage that some time in the not too distant future, life might return to something like we knew before. It will be great to be able to discard our masks, leave behind the 2 metre rule, give friends a hug and resume worshipping together again. It sounds fantastic and I'd love it if we could be together on Easter Sunday, celebrating the resurrection of our Lord together and in person. It's certainly worth praying about eh?



In the meantime, we continue to trust in the God who has brought us this far. As I've started to think into 2021 the above verses from Isaiah have come to mind. We are reminded that sometimes we grow weary, even young people, but that the Lord can come and strengthen us. Perhaps this year has made you weary and dragged you down. Here's a promise to hold on to, ask the Lord to strengthen and re-invigorate you as we enter 2021.

Then we get this lovely picture of soaring on wings like eagles. I have noticed over these past few years a great increase in the number of buzzards that are flying around. These big majestic birds seem to hang in the air, barely flapping their wings, just catching the currents of the breeze and circling over their territory. Let's pray that in 2021 we might catch the breeze of the Holy Spirit and rise up on wings like eagles. Let's pray this will be a year when Ackworth Community Church will fly again.

Have a great and blessed new year!

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.



## Church Website

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*

7<sup>th</sup> January - Carol R

15<sup>th</sup> January - Linda

17<sup>th</sup> January - Andy

24<sup>th</sup> January - Ash

25<sup>th</sup> January - Kath H

26<sup>th</sup> January - Carole G

26<sup>th</sup> January - Owen

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



Jean Aaron sends love to you all from her new home in Sheffield.





# 10 New Year's Resolutions for Christian's in 2021

## **1. Be a peacemaker**

Matthew 5:9 It is so easy to get worked up about things; people who wrong us, family drama, church drama, etc. But resolve to be the one who brings peace. Don't spread the rumours, don't listen to the stories, don't join the clique. Be the one who initiates peace and unity.

## **2. Only do things that are pleasing to God.**

John 8:30 Jesus made the statement that he only does those things that please the Father. He is our Older Brother and our perfect example – so we too, should only do the things that please our Father. We are not saved and justified just so we can do whatever we like – our salvation comes at a great price! Therefore, Paul tells us, you are not your own. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

## **3. Always do the work of the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 This old broken world makes it seem pointless to do good works. But it is not pointless. We need to keep on working, keep standing steady on God's Word. Nothing done for Christ is lost.

## **4. Triumph in Christ.**

2 Corinthians 2:13 This is only possible by the power of God's Spirit within you. To triumph over depression, bad moods, grumpy attitudes, jealousy, selfishness – this is a bigger miracle than healing from sickness! Ask God to fill you with His Spirit, and walk in obedience and humility, and you will begin to triumph in Christ!

## **5. Die to self every day.**

2 Corinthians 4:9-11 This is the secret to victory over sin. To die to self; all MY desires, MY will, MY plans – and offer myself as a sacrifice to God, daily. Dying to my need to be right, dying to my need to be respected, dying to my need for comfort... dying to ME daily. This is what 'taking up my cross' means. It's not some woo-woo theory – it is painful, daily, death to self and all my flesh desires. Wanting to get back at someone who has hurt me, wanting to profit at someone else's expense, thinking only of my own interests – these selfish desires and habits need to die, so I can be transformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

## **6. Walk by faith.**

2 Corinthians 5:5-7 Faith that God's Word is true. Faith that He will fulfil His Word. Faith that God will take care of me, also faith that He will punish sinners – like He said. Faith that He will guide me every day. Faith that if I live a life fully given to God, and



walk by the power of the Spirit – everything I do will be rewarded by God. Maybe not in this life – maybe not physically – but rewards of an eternal nature.

### **7. Always be rejoicing in the Lord.**

2 Corinthians 6:9-11 Life is often hard. Painful. Unexpected trials. But when we have the assurance of God’s love, we can rejoice in the midst of our trials, because we know that God uses everything in our lives to draw us closer to Him, and form us into the image of Christ. If we have this faith in our hearts, we can be like the apostles who sang hymns at midnight when they were in jail. Acts 16:25

### **8. Give thanks for everything.**

Ephesians 5:19-21 Again – we don’t feel like giving thanks in every circumstance! But here we can go back to giving our bodies as a living sacrifice; giving thanks whether we feel thankful or not! It doesn’t say: “give thanks if you feel thankful”, no, we need to give thanks – period. End of story. It is a command, and this is where we need to obey in faith. If you start giving thanks regularly, I bet you will start to have more peace in tough circumstances. It just works that way!

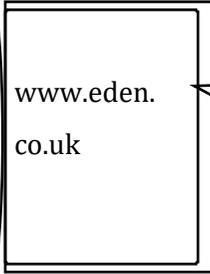
### **9. Let Christ be exalted in my body.**

Philippines 1:19-21 We like to sing about giving it all for Jesus’, but when it comes to our body and what we do with it – there we take a step backwards. We want to do things we want to do. We have freedom, right? But here’s the thing – when Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of death, he paid an immense price! So we should not take that lightly. Our eating habits, manner of dress, how we care for our bodies – these things all need to be surrendered to Jesus and His Lordship. I want my body to glorify Him this year.

### **10. Be humble.**

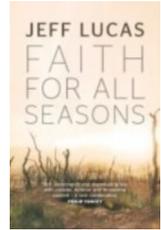
1 Peter 5:5 Humility is such a tricky thing, isn’t it? The thing I like to remind myself of, is that other people’s opinion is worthless to me. Only what God thinks of me, matters! Whether others think we are good, or whether they think we are bad – throw it into the trash! I only consider whether God is pleased with me.

(By a Ranch Mum) from Aylestone Baptist Church  
Submitted by Lillian Issitt



## Faith For All Seasons

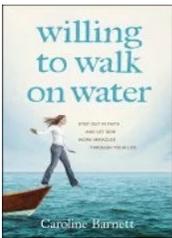
£9.87



From Jeff Lucas, the man behind the hugely popular 'T here are No Strong People', comes a new book on God's power to equip us through every season of life, and on how God works with the broken people, the weak and flawed, everyday people. People like you and me.

Taking the life of Elijah, Jeff Lucas explores how God's Spirit helped him to overcome the challenges of a life in service, challenges both practical and spiritual that we all face today. Faith for all Seasons provides the path to a lasting faith. The same faith of Elijah's that defied nations, survived the desert and starvation, and overcame fear.

A faith that is shaped by God's spirit and which costs greatly and is worth infinitely more. So discover how to live like Elijah and not let feelings of failure stop you from having a faith that can withstand anything.



## Willing To Walk On Water £11.26

If you have ever heard yourself say, Surely there is more to life than this, rest assured, you are not alone. Getting caught up in the day-to-day routine, it can be easy to feel as though you have nothing more to give, and yet there is so much you want to do to impact the world. Good news! For those who are willing to get out of the proverbial boat and trust in Gods ability to do miracles, there is more, so much more!

In Willing to Walk on Water, Caroline Barnett helps you identify what you were created to do unveiling your passions, gifts, and callings and provides practical ways of integrating that purpose into your daily life. Drawing on real life experiences, Caroline points out two things that will be required: willingness and availability. Are you willing to trust God to do the impossible through you? Will you make yourself available to His leading? If so, get ready you are about to walk on water!



## Praise God for His Intimate Friendship

Do you know that you can be an ‘intimate friend’ of God? This is what it means to be part of ‘his very own people’ who ‘love God’ (v.14, MSG). This is what God’s covenant of love is all about.

As a result of God’s love for him, the psalmist’s heart is bursting with praise. He calls the whole created world to praise God, as well as the whole of humankind (v.7–12): ‘Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted’ (v.13).

The psalm reaches its climax: ‘He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart’ – ‘intimate friends of God’ (v.14, MSG).

A ‘horn’ symbolises the strength of the Lord, and found fulfilment in Jesus: ‘He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David’ (Luke 1:69). He did this out of his great love for us; he made a covenant of love because he wants a people close to his heart. No wonder the psalmist finishes with a shout of ‘Praise the Lord!’ (Psalm 148:14).

Lord, thank you that you make a covenant with me, that you draw me close to your heart and call me your intimate friend.

God’s covenant comes at a price. But the price is paid, not by us but by God himself in the person of Jesus, whose blood was shed for you. John sees Jesus riding a white horse. He describes him with four names:

### **Faithful and True**

‘With justice he judges’ (v.11). He pierces the secrets of our hearts (‘his eyes are like blazing fire’, v.12a). He has universal authority (‘on his head are many crowns’, v.12b). Yet in spite of our unfaithfulness, he is ‘Faithful and True’ (v.11).

Throughout the Bible we read of the faithfulness of God to his covenant and promises. Supremely the faithfulness of God is seen in Jesus – the one who is ‘faithful and true’.

### **The name only Jesus knows**

‘... he has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself’ (v.12c). God’s revelation of himself in Jesus will not be completed until we see him face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12).



## **The Word of God**

‘... his name is the Word of God’ (Revelation 19:13). The Word of God is how God communicates with us. The supreme revelation of God is in the person of Jesus – the Word of God (John 1:1).

‘He is dressed in a robe soaked with blood’ (Revelation 19:13a, MSG). This is the evidence of his abounding love for you. This is ‘the blood of the covenant’ (Matthew 26:28). The blood of Jesus was shed for you.

## **King of kings and Lord of lords**

He is ‘King of kings and Lord of lords’ (Revelation 19:16). This is the name written on his robe and on his thigh. He leads the church ‘dressed in fine linen, white and clean’ (v.14). This is the one before whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:9–11).

No evil can stand before Jesus. Ultimately, all evil will be destroyed. The final battle (Revelation 19:17–21) will not be a battle at all. The demonic powers will be thrown into ‘the fiery lake of burning sulphur’ (v.20), and God’s enemies that opposed Christ will be stripped of their power once and for all (v.21). The dramatic imagery is there to show us how total the victory of Jesus will be.

The great victory has already been won by him who is faithful and true. Through the cross and resurrection, he has already defeated all the powers of evil (Colossians 2:15). The victory we read of here is a forgone conclusion when Jesus arrives on the scene.

**Lord, thank you for your sacrificial covenant of love and that you are faithful and true – abounding in love – and that one day we will see you face to face.**

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

