



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

Issue 187  
February 2021

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Sunrise over Ackworth

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## What's Happening This Month

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## Ash's Letter

***This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people. – Revelation 13: 10***

One of my unfulfilled ambitions when I was younger was to try and run a marathon. I know a few of our church congregation have managed to do it but I never got round to it and now the thought of trying to train towards running 26 miles seems totally unrealistic.

Having observed the London marathon on TV many times there appears to be a point along the way for many of the runners, where they seem to hit what is described as the wall. This usually occurs soon after the 20 mile mark. It is a point where the body reacts against the physical exertion it is being asked to endure and almost says enough is enough. From what I have heard it takes a real effort of the will to press through this painful marker before the athlete can then go on to finish the race.

It has been nearly a year now that we have had to endure the restrictions placed on us by the government to keep us safe from the awful coronavirus. As we've said many times during these past months we have all felt the loss of not being able to do what we would normally do; meet with family and friends, meet as a church, go on holiday and many other things too along the way. It has been a marathon and at times it has seemed like a real slog.

As I write this letter today we have just entered a second national lock-down, which follows on from being in tier 3 for the past four or five months. It does feel like a blow and as with my analogy that I used above, it might for some seem like hitting a bit of a wall, in the long running endurance pandemic marathon.

However, in my daily Bible readings this morning I came across the following phrase from Revelation 13; 'This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people'; the context in Revelation 13 is one of God's people facing persecution, but as I read it I also thought that there is a need



today for patient endurance and faithfulness. So keep on going, hold on to the Lord and keep on going.

To return to my earlier analogy, having talked to folks who have run a marathon and hit the wall and endured through it, they have talked of a second wind and a renewed determination to finish the race. Keep going my friends, while these are dark days at the moment, there is also a sense of the end of the pandemic marathon being not too far ahead. Let's pray for the wind of the Spirit to lift us up on wings like eagles and let's look forward to the day when we can meet and worship together again.

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*

5<sup>th</sup> February - James

6<sup>th</sup> February - John

6<sup>th</sup> February - Neill G

11<sup>th</sup> February - Julian

25<sup>th</sup> February - Grace

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



## *If Only*

If we're to have a bright future,  
we must willingly follow God's plans  
if we're going to walk in faith  
we must put our trust in His hands.

If we're not to be weary,  
we must give God our distress  
if we're to find rest for our souls  
we must be willing to onward press.

If we're to have strength and power,  
we must first admit we are weak  
if we're to soar like eagles  
we must learn to be humble and meek.

If we're trying to find real peace,  
we mustn't give in to fear or doubt  
if we're wanting to see God's light  
we must shut all the darkness out.

If we're to have true victory,  
we must run the race so we can win  
if we're to receive our reward  
we must repent from our every sin!

Deborah Ann Belka



## Understand That God Is on Your Side

***“God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13 (NLT)***

No matter what you’re going to face this next week, you won’t face it alone. God is with you, he is in you, and he is for you.

Philippians 2:13 says, “God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him” (NLT).

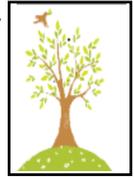
“God is working in you.” The word “working” in Greek is the word *energōs*, from which we get our word “energy.” God is the energy driver in your life. You’re not just going on willpower. You’re not just going on your own power. God says he will give you the power you need, no matter what you’re facing.

Not only is he in you, he also is with you. The Bible says, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you . . . On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you” (John 14:18, 20 NIV). That’s quite a promise! The Bible says Christ is in you, you’re sheltered with Christ, and you’re sealed with the Holy Spirit. That means for the Devil to get to you, he’s got to get through the Trinity! That’s pretty good protection and a great fear reliever.

Not only is God with you and in you, God is also for you. Romans 8:31 says, “If God is for us, no one can defeat us” (NCV).

When a shepherd leads the sheep, guard dogs stay at the back, nipping at the sheep to keep them moving in the right direction.

The Bible says the guard dogs in your life are God’s goodness and mercy. God gives you the things you don’t deserve—that’s his goodness. And he doesn’t give you the things you do deserve—that’s his mercy.



Get up every morning and say, “God, thank you that you’re going to be with me today, you’re going to be in me today, and you’re going to be for me today.”

Isn’t that great news? God is with you, God is in you, and God is for you.

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

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## Favourite Hymn

Do you have a favourite hymn that means a lot to you? A Lady was telling her friend about the one that is special to her family, going back to the time of her grandmother. Rather than use the first line of the hymn each time, her family knew the hymn number, 494, in the book “Sacred Songs and Hymns” by Moody and Sankey.

She continued the story that when her son was reported missing in the Falklands War he had eventually managed to send her a telegram. He ended his brief message with “494”.

Apparently, he had been asked about the significance of this number and had explained that it was the family hymn, always put on letters and said when parting.

You must now be wondering what the words of the hymn are. The first line is: “God be with you ‘till we meet again.”

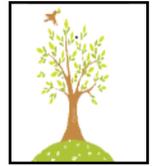
Submitted by Lilian Issitt from Aylestone Baptist Church.

# Book Review

www.eden.  
co.uk

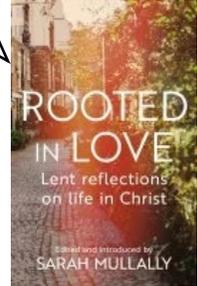
Tell us what your  
Favourite Book  
is?

Page 8



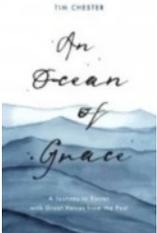
## Rooted in Love

£9.98



Who is the Christ we serve?  
What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ?  
How can we live more Christ-centred lives?

Introduced and edited by Bishop Sarah Mullally, here are forty reflections that lead us deeper into the meaning and practice of life in Christ today. Drawing on the collective wisdom of all the area bishops in the Diocese of London. Each reflection includes a Bible reading, a prayer and a suggestion for action based on the reading. The result is an exceptionally helpful Lent book, offering a rich array of biblical insight and spiritual guidance that Christians of all traditions will warmly welcome and appreciate.



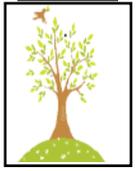
## An Ocean of Grace

£6.99

A collection of daily devotions and prayers by great Christian writers from throughout church history, including Augustine, Charles Spurgeon, John Bunyan, Catherine Parr and Martin Luther.

Their time-tested words continue to paint a compelling portrait of Christ's death and resurrection, and will encourage and inspire readers as much today as they did when they were first written.

Each daily reading has been selected, edited and introduced by Tim Chester to make these treasures accessible to every reader. They will help you reflect on Jesus in the run-up to Easter. Ideal to start at the beginning of Lent.



# Inspiring Bible Verses About God's Amazing Love for You

The God who created the universe, the most powerful being ever, loves you personally. Try to wrap your mind around that. He loves you — not just people in general, but you as a person. He cares about your life and wants to be part of it.

Even if you've spent your whole life running from God or done things you regret, He still loves you and wants to have a relationship with you.

God's love is unconditional and infinite — far far beyond what even the best of people are capable of. God commands those who follow Him to love one another. Among sincere believers whose hearts God has changed, you can see an imperfect picture of His love.

But even the best at loving others will fall short, and they'll tell you to go to the source.

The Bible is a compilation of the words God gave people so we could know more about Him. The Bible says God loves you whatever state your life is in. These verses from the Bible remind us of God's wonderful, extravagant, amazing, unstoppable and unconditional love.

If you are struggling to believe that God loves you as you are, take some time to think about these verses. You could pray after reading each scripture or journal about one verse each day.

## **1. God's love is perfect and is a model for how to love.**

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Can you imagine being loved like this? It would change your life. The truth is this is an accurate description of God's love for you.



Though this passage is often read at weddings, humans cannot love perfectly as God does because we are imperfect. But it makes sense that people strive to have their love for one another reflect these qualities.

Everyone needs this type of love, but if you expect it from another person, you will be let down. God is the only one who can love you perfectly. And when you have a relationship with God and experience His love, it empowers you to love others the way God loves you.

### **2. When you fully experience God's love, you have nothing to fear.**

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love. (1 John 4:18)

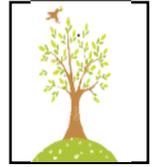
When you understand that God loves you no matter what, you no longer need to be afraid of your failings causing Him to love you less. If you could only truly know the depth of God's love, you would have nothing to fear.

God already knows about the wrong things you've done as well as any you will do. He still chose to love you.

### **3. Nothing can separate you from God's love.**

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow — not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below — indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35, 37-39)

God is more powerful than anything in heaven or on earth. When you accept Jesus' invitation to begin a relationship with God, you are secure in His love forever. There is nothing powerful enough to separate you from God's love. Even when things are difficult or you feel far from God, it's not because God stops loving you. The truth is that God will never stop loving you, no matter what you do.



#### **4. God's love is too great to fully understand.**

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:18-19)

God's love is so great that we, as mere humans, cannot fully understand it. Humans' love for one another often depends at least partly on the behaviour of the person being loved. God's love for us does not.

Do you long to be known and loved for who you are? God is the only one who can truly do that.

#### **5. God's love is a shield surrounding you and keeping you safe.**

But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread Your protection over them, that all who love Your name may be filled with joy. For You bless the godly, O LORD; You surround them with Your shield of love. (Psalm 5:11-12)

God's love is so much more than the warm fuzzy feeling we often associate with the word love. His love is a powerful force, protecting and comforting us. Being in God's love is a position of not just joy but also safety.

When you run to God for protection, He surrounds you with His shield of love. Think about that image for a while. Experience the security you have because God's love surrounds you. Let His love flood your mind with a sense of peace and comfort.

#### **6. God will not let you down because His love cannot fail.**

Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O LORD. How precious is Your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of Your wings. (Psalm 36:5-7)



You have probably been hurt or betrayed by someone you love at some point in your life. Maybe you have experienced this more than once. Loving and trusting other people is risky. Once one person hurts you, it becomes harder to open up to others.

In contrast, God's love is truly unconditional. He never fails you or betrays you. You do not need to hold back in your relationship with God, because He is totally trustworthy.

When you feel let down by people, read these verses and remember this: Though people may let you down, God never will.

### **7. God calls you His child.**

See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know Him. (1 John 3:1)

You are a child of God. You may have heard this phrase many times before, but take some time to let it sink in. God, your Father, calls you His child.

When you begin a relationship with God, you don't just become God's friend, you become His child. God delights in you and wants the best for you. He wants to fill your life with joy and blessings.

**The beauty of God's love is that He offers it freely. He wants to have a loving relationship with you forever.**

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

