



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

March 2021

Contact:  
Church Leader

Ashley Guest  
01977 649320



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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.  
Isaiah 40:*

As always, during January, we spent our Sunday evenings in prayer and listening to God and as always it was a joy to spend time in God's presence and to listen for that still small voice of God.

Here is a brief feedback of some of the things people heard during our January prayer evenings.

On our first Sunday evening on the 3rd January we heard the story of Aidan and the monks looking to found the work on Lindisfarne. The question they were faced with was what should they do first. They had homes to build, an abbey to build, land to farm, people to reach out to, as well as numerous other pressing tasks. Aidan, the first bishop of Lindisfarne made a decision. The first thing, they would do was to spend 40 days in prayer, preparing themselves and the ground for the work that lay ahead. Our first Sunday evening had the same feel. We were preparing our hearts and laying good foundations for the rest of the year ahead. God re-assured us of his presence, his plans (Jeremiah 29:11) and his intention of leading and guide us. He asked us to lean on Him, to listen to him and to surrender to His love and His ways. He also said that none of our work had been wasted and that there would be no famine.

On January 10<sup>th</sup> we started with words from Isaiah 40: 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. We reflected on the difficulty of the past year but also reflected that these months had changed us and that change would be reflected in the church, in the way we ministered and in our compassion for others. God reminded us not to be afraid, instead to be courageous, to trust in Him and to take possession of what He was giving us and to trust in Him. He asked us to prepare for Spring, to sharpen our tools as it were and to prepare ground in prayer.



We reflected that although some things might be different, our staple diet of God's word, of fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42) would remain.

January 17<sup>th</sup> was a significant evening. We reflected on a picture of a tsunami that had washed everything away and that on the journey of rebuilding. We reflected on the importance of good foundations. God re-iterated again to not fear (Joshua 1:9 & Isaiah 41: 13 - 16) and to trust Him in the journey (Psalm 37: 3 - 5) as well as to find the joy, the adventure and the wildness of a life following Him.

We also thought about the rebuilding process, focusing thought on the stories of Ezra, Zerubbabel, Nehemiah and Haggai. We were reminded that God is doing a new thing (Isaiah 43) and not to be afraid of the new. We looked at Isaiah 41: 15 and thought of the sharp teeth breaking through mountains and things set up against God and were told to expect a different spiritual landscape on our return, as old barriers had been washed away, it is an opportune time.

Finally on January 24<sup>th</sup> we reflected on how we would rebuild and the thought came that it would be considered, incremental, steady and led by God. A picture of a jigsaw and a song were shared, demonstrating how each are built carefully and with everything in the right place. We were reminded to deliberately take time to stop and wait, not to be impatient, to get our foundations right. Once again we returned to Nehemiah and Haggai and thought about their organisation, planning and use of the team. Also we were reminded of Haggai 2: 9: which says 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty." We were also asked to think about our spiritual investment into our children and young people.

Please take time to prayerfully consider these thoughts and perhaps the



Lord might speak something more to you. If He does please contact Ash so he can add it into the mix.

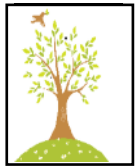
Ash.

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## *Birthday Celebrations*

6<sup>th</sup> March - Derek  
14<sup>th</sup> March - Cheryl  
15<sup>th</sup> March - Tony  
16<sup>th</sup> March - Moira  
21<sup>st</sup> March - Cerwys  
21<sup>st</sup> March - Joan A  
28<sup>th</sup> March - David F  
29<sup>th</sup> March - Alyn

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



## 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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### World Day of Prayer

The first Friday in March is known as World Day of Prayer, previously called Women's World Day of Prayer. The origins of this day began in 19th Century Canada when women were encouraged to engage in personal prayer to support those women involved in missions of service at home and abroad. The idea spread to other countries, reaching The British Isles in 1930 and today more than 170 countries and islands take part.

Each year, as well as personal prayer, a different country prepares a Worship Service that brings everyone together. The first Service is held at dawn in Queen Salote's Girls School in Tonga. Then as the earth rotates a great Mexican Wave of prayer rises in The Pacific, through Asia, onto Africa, The Middle East, Europe, The Caribbean, Latin, Central and North America and onto The Pacific again till the last service of the day is held on the island of Samoa

This year the service has been prepared by the women of The Republic of Vanuatu and the theme is ' Build on a Strong Foundation. '

Because of the pandemic the Ackworth Committee have decided to postpone The Service until it is safe for us to all come together but on Friday March 5th we would like to encourage you to join with us in;

1 Personal Prayer for those in need whether it be physical, emotional, mental, or economic and those who are serving those in need.

2 Meditation on the theme ' Build on a Strong Foundation'

Thank You, Ackworth Committee for World Day of Prayer.

Lilian Issitt



## Life-Changing Words

My father wanted to go to Russia before he died. We went there on holiday as a family. At that time Bibles were strictly illegal in the Soviet Union. I took with me some Russian Bibles. While I was there I went to churches and looked for people who seemed to be genuine Christians. (Church meetings were often infiltrated by the KGB.)

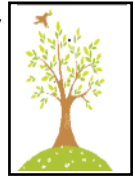
On one occasion, I followed a man down the street after a service. I went up to him and tapped him on the shoulder. There was nobody about. I took out one of my Bibles and handed it to him. For a moment, he had an expression of utmost disbelief. Then he took from his pocket a New Testament, which was probably 100 years old. The pages were so threadbare they were virtually transparent. When he realised that he had received a whole Bible, he was elated. He didn't speak any English and I didn't speak any Russian. But we hugged each other and he started to run up and down the street jumping for joy.

The words of God are 'more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb' (Psalm 19:10).

Why are the words of God so precious? Jesus said: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4). The original expression means 'is continually coming out of the mouth of God'; it is like a stream pouring forth and, like the stream of a fountain, it is never static. God is continually communicating with us. He does so, primarily, through the life-changing words of the Bible.

We all need the transforming power of God's word in so many ways. Whether you are seeking wisdom in stressful and complex situations, encouragement when you are downhearted, or guidance on the way forward, you can find help in the pages of the Bible.

David did not have nearly as much of the Bible as you have. But he did have 'the law', 'the statutes', 'the precepts' and 'the ordinances' of the Lord (vv.7a-9b).



He describes these words as being ‘perfect’ (v.7a), ‘pure’ (v.9a) and ‘precious’ (v.10a).

In this psalm, we see some of the life-changing effects of reading the Bible. It:

Revives your soul (v.7a)

Brings you wisdom (v.7b)

Gives joy to your heart (v.8a)

Gives light to your eyes (v.8b)

Warns you of danger (v.11a)

Brings you great reward (v.11b).

Reading the Bible and praying are very closely associated. Don’t simply read the Bible for information, but to hear God speaking to you. The natural response to that is prayer. It is a two-way process. That is why we finish each section of this Bible in One Year commentary with a prayer, responding to what God has shown us through his word. David goes straight from extolling the virtues of the word of God into a wonderful prayer. David’s prayer is my prayer (vv.12–14):

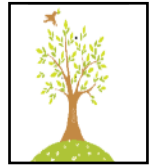
Lord, ‘forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from wilful sins; may they not rule over me... May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer’.

Book  
Review

www.eden.  
co.uk

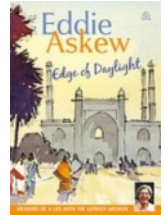
Tell us what your  
Favourite Book  
is?

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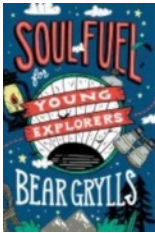


Edge of Daylight

£4.87



A brand new updated edition of Eddie's memoirs, with a new chapter from his daughter, Jenny Hawke, bringing the story up-to-date. Share his adventures, enjoy his humorous anecdotes and discover more about the work of TLM. From school teaching to hospital management, through travels in Bhutan and later across the developing countries of the world, Eddie's fascinating story will touch your heart and frequently raise a smile.



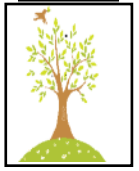
Soul Fuel for Young Explorers £10.94

TV star, former SAS soldier, Guinness World Record holder, author and the first ever Chief Ambassador to World Scouting, Bear Grylls is an inspiration for youngsters who want to make the most of life's adventures. In his recent best-seller Soul Fuel Bear revealed for the first time the inspiration that helps him to stand strong and find peace each day. Now Soul Fuel for Young Explorers takes his message and inspires children and young people to find courage and confidence in this source too.

Bear offers seventy reflections along with stories from his own life -- brilliantly illustrated by Patrick Laurent -- making it a vibrant and engaging devotional for young readers.

' Faith doesn't mean you have to be especially "religious." But, in a nutshell, my faith tells me that I am known, that I am secure and that I am loved - regardless of the storms I may find myself in from time to time, regardless of how often I fall and fail.' - Bear Grylls





## *Song Of March*

*With winter's footprints in the past,  
and snows begin to melt at last.*

*With longer days and shorter nights,  
the wayward winds of March take flight.*

*Four winds she holds within her grip,  
then hurls them from her fingertip.*

*Her woolly, fleecy clouds of white,  
she sets in skies of blue delight.*

*Her wild bouts of gusty breezes  
roar through valleys, hills, and trees.*

*That high pitch whistling song she sings  
awakens earth and flowering things.*

*She tears a hole in heaven's sky  
so sun can shine and rain can cry.*

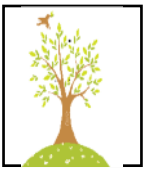
*She gently calms as spring draws near,  
as blooming daffodils appear.*

*She welcomes April showers in,  
then gathers up her dwindling winds.  
Now her long journey home begins,*

*knowing she'll be back this way,  
upon a cold, late winter's day,  
when nights grow short  
and days grow long.*

*Listen for her whistling song!*

*Patricia L. Cisco*



## Members Meeting Recap – Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup>

We recently held our annual members meeting. Here's a recap of what was shared:

**Finances:** Alyn gave a summary of the church finances, below is a summary of the 20 / 21 figures:

April 2020 to January 2021

### **2020/21**

Total Income £24,630

Total Expenditure £23,805

Difference £825

Current a/c balance £6,530

Deposit a/c balance £14,167

Need a/c £1,505

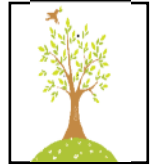
We thanked Alyn for all of his hard work in looking after the church finances and also preparing the accounts. If you want to know more about giving to the church please contact Alyn who will talk you through the different options.

### Looking Back: 2020

We reflected that while 2020 was a difficult year, with many hurdles to overcome that God was present, faithful and good throughout it.

We also thought that the separation from each other had been very hard and that it had been a year of deepening our roots and foundations in God. We also thought about the way that many had drawn alongside us in the online Sunday services and to continue to pray for them. We also saw that many had developed their computer skills through 2020.

We remembered the big preaching themes of 2020, the Lord is my shepherd, the Lord who speaks and living in lock down.



## Looking Forward: 2021

Whilst we thought that it would be difficult to plan anything with any surety, we were able to think ahead to when we are able to gather again together.

We concluded that when we got together again our vision as a church to be a community of disciples who made other disciples (summarised in the phrase ( 'go and grow') would still be the same. As would the staple diet of fellowship, the apostles teaching (learning from God's word), the breaking of bread, prayer (Acts 2: 42), worship and hospitality.

We also thought that 2021 would give us the opportunity to re-convene, to re-look at our programmes and to rebuild. We also realised that 2021 is the church's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so hopefully we'll be able to celebrate that together as well as connecting with Bishop Ken Clarke 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.

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