



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

April 2021

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Church Leader

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## What's Happening This Month

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## Ash's Letter

***The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you (Romans 8: 11)***

As we enter April this year, we have gone through a year since we last gathered together as Ackworth Community Church. March 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 does seem like a long time ago now, when we gathered with Dave Bilborough and also spent time after the service celebrating Tony's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I'm sure like me; you are feeling the loss of worshipping, learning and fellowshiping together.

However, as we celebrate Easter again together over the first weekend of April, we are reminded of a few wonderful facts. Firstly, the Easter story reminds us that God is in control and that God intervenes. It is wonderful to trace the story of God's plan to send His son, the messiah, through the pages of the Old Testament and to see the story unfold as Jesus came to earth to live, to teach, to heal, to bring life and to die on behalf of all people and be resurrected. It is not hard to see that our world is broken and that people are broken, yet God intervened sending his son to heal the broken, sending Jesus to bring hope and life to those who were lost. As we think about our church life, it is fair to say that the pandemic has had a devastating effect, closing down our meeting together, our outreach meetings and halting a sense of momentum that had built in the church over the previous couple of years. Still though, we remind ourselves that God is in control, He has good plans for Ackworth Community Church, that He intervenes, so expect to see God's hand at work amongst us over these coming months.

Easter and the spring time also remind us that God can bring resurrection. As I sit here to write this letter, it is a very dull, cold winter like day with very few indicators of what is to come; the trees are bare and save from the odd daffodil and crocus starting to appear, spring seems a long way off.



However, by the time you receive this letter I am confident that the trees will be studded with green, flowers will be blooming and spring will be springing. It never ceases to amaze me how nature seems to resurrect each year from the deadness of winter.

Then we reflect on the incredible conclusion of the story of Jesus. When all seems lost after the horrific and barbaric crucifixion, Jesus bursts back to life on Easter morning, defeating death, Hades and sin in a momentous and earth changing act of resurrection. Life out of death, victory out of defeat, the impossible suddenly possible and this resurrection power is at work in our lives too. The Bible talks of us once being dead in our transgressions and sins (Ephesians 2: 1) so in order for us to come to know Jesus and to walk with Him, a resurrection has taken place. Equally, the Bible talks of the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you (Romans 8: 11). So the Holy Spirit works his resurrection life within us. We are resurrection people.

So let's be on the lookout in the near future for the resumption of Ackworth Community Church, another small demonstration of the resurrection power of God. It will be lovely to to resume our ministry to the village and the surrounding areas.

Ash.



## 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*

2<sup>nd</sup> April - Sue L  
10<sup>th</sup> April - Anne  
10<sup>th</sup> April - Neil R  
11<sup>th</sup> April - Sue G  
11<sup>th</sup> April Anu  
12<sup>th</sup> April - Oscar  
19<sup>th</sup> April - Joanna  
22<sup>nd</sup> April - Lisa  
22<sup>nd</sup> April - Julie  
23<sup>rd</sup> April - Becky  
28<sup>th</sup> April - Jeanie

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



## Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!



## The Weekend That Changed The World

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:33-34a

The weekend of March 14-16, 1986 will always be special to my wife and me. It was on that weekend we were married. Friday night was the wedding rehearsal, Saturday night was the main event, and Sunday kicked off our first day as husband and wife. The course of our lives was changed as God brought us together to be one until death.

That weekend in March is special to us... but there was a weekend in early April, nearly 2000 years ago, that is special to all of humanity.

It was the weekend of brutality and bloodshed as the righteous died for the unrighteous.

It was the weekend that began with tremendous agony, but ended with tremendous victory.

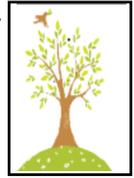
It was the weekend when Jesus Christ gave Himself up for sinful man.

It was the weekend when Jesus Christ conquered sin, death, hell, and the grave.

It was the weekend that changed the world for all history and eternity.

### **Personally Encountering That Weekend**

From the time I was little, my parents taught me about that weekend when Jesus died and rose again. I believed the report. I believed He died on the cross and rose from the grave. The only problem I had was that I believed it as facts on a printed page. I believed in Jesus in the same way I believed in George Washington. I had a mental assent to the truths of history. But those truths



didn't make one bit of difference in my daily life. In short, I was like the vast majority of those who call themselves Christians—I had head knowledge of Jesus, but no heart knowledge of Him. I believed on paper, but not in practice. I didn't really know Him, I just simply knew about Him.

I was 17 years-old when the good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection made a connection from my head to my heart. The Lord revealed to me that I was a sinner, totally deserving of death and hell—with no way out, in and of myself. It was at that moment that the cross and the empty tomb took on real meaning as I cried out to Jesus for salvation. Alone in my bedroom on a Monday night in early 1980, I got down on my knees, and with all my heart prayed this simple prayer, "Save me, Jesus."

And you know what? He did!

That night, I put my faith and trust in Jesus and Jesus alone for my salvation. In that split second of time, I passed from death to life (John 5:24). I went from being a child of wrath to a child of God (Ephesians 2:3, John 1:12). I was spiritually transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His Son (Colossians 1:13). I was born again and changed forever. The Lord had come into my life to live in me and through me. I certainly didn't understand it all at the time, but I knew within a couple of weeks that my life could never be the same.

### **It Must Be Personal To Be Effectual**

Has the message of Jesus death, burial, and resurrection made it from your head to your heart? Jesus didn't die for a faceless humanity, He died for you (Galatians 2:20). He rose again for you. He wants you to know Him, not just know about Him. You see, it must be personal in order for His death and resurrection to be effectual in your life.

Let me encourage you this Easter weekend to make sure you don't just simply go through the motions. The worst thing that could ever happen



to anyone is to know the plan of salvation and not the Man of salvation...  
to know the way to heaven and yet fail to go that way.

Jesus is indeed the One and only Savior. He will save anyone who will cry out to Him in repentance and faith. His cross and empty tomb changed the world as they made it possible for sinful man to have a personal relationship with Holy God. Receive Christ into your heart. Don't just tip your hat to Him, bow your knee. The surrender of your heart makes it personal, and that makes all the difference in the world.

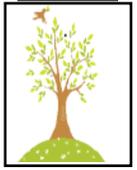
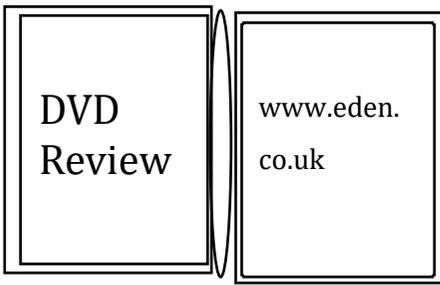
[www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)

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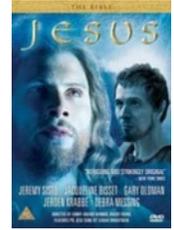
## Prayer and Pastoral Support

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.



## The Bible Series - Jesus DVD £9.96

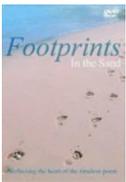


Epic in scale and production, featuring a strong international cast, the critically acclaimed film Jesus includes Jeremy Sisto as Jesus, Jacqueline Bisset (Mary), Debra Messing (Mary Magdalene), Gary Oldman (Pontius Pilate) and Jeroen Krabbe (Satan).

This compelling drama vividly explores the life and mission of Jesus tracing His journey from simple carpenter through to His death and resurrection.

Filmed with the highest attention to detail to reflect as accurately as possible the atmosphere of the key events in Jesus' life, this film will give you moving new insights into the life of our Saviour who left the glory of heaven to rescue mankind.

Powerful and thought-provoking, ideal for everyone who wants a deeper understanding of the life of Christ and communicating that with others, Jesus is the first of one of the most ambitious productions of the Bible ever made.



## Footprints In The Sand DVD £7.96

Inspired by the Footprints Poem here is a DVD of relaxing film and music created especially to refresh and encourage you or someone you love.

Special features include songs written especially for this DVD, onscreen scriptures and a presentation of the much-loved Footprints Poem along with beautiful instrumental arrangements of timeless songs and hymns including You Carried Me; I Need Thee Every Hour; When I Survey The Wondrous Cross; Carry Me; Ocean Dreams; O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go; Amazing Grace.



## Wisely Weeding

Search me, God, and know my heart.  
Psalm 139:23

My grandchildren are running around my backyard. Playing games? No, pulling weeds. “Pulling them up by the roots!” the youngest says, showing me a hefty prize. Her delight as we tackled weeds that day was how much we enjoyed plucking the weedy roots—clearing away each pesky menace. Before the joy, however, came the choice to go after them.

Intentional weeding is also the first step in removing personal sin. Thus, David prayed: “Search me, God, and know my heart. . . . See if there is any offensive way in me” (Psalm 139:23–24).

What a wise approach, to go after our sin by asking God to show it to us. He above all knows everything about us. “You have searched me, Lord, and you know me,” wrote the psalmist. “You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar” (vv. 1–2).

“Such knowledge,” David added, “is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain” (v. 6). Even before a sin takes root, therefore, God can alert us to the danger. He knows our “landscape.” So when a sneaky sinful attitude tries to take root, He’s first to know and point it out.

“Where can I go from your Spirit,” wrote David. “Where can I flee from your presence?” (v. 7). May we closely follow our Savior to higher ground!

By: Patricia Raybon  
[www.obg.org](http://www.obg.org)

# Prayer Diary

Please pray for each other.

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

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