



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

July 2021

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## What's Happening This Month

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## Ash's Letter

***Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them. –***

***Psalm 126: 4 - 6***

In last month's letter, I was reflecting on the first couple of verses from this Psalm which says:

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

It was a song about the return of the exiles back to Jerusalem and expressed something of their joy at being back home and together again. Hopefully, it won't be too long now before we're able to meet together again on a Sunday morning and have the chance to share some of the same emotion at being able to gather together again and worship.

However, as we read on in the Psalm we start to catch a glimpse of the situation that the exiles faced and some of the harsh realities of their new life back in their own land. I'm sure they'd all heard stories of the glories of Jerusalem and of its temple, where God was said to dwell. Their reality was of a ransacked city and a temple in ruins. It wasn't like it was before and the thing that faced them, was a lot of work and rebuilding. No wonder the cry is 'Restore our fortunes Lord'.

As we gather together again, whilst we aren't quite facing the difficulties that the returning exiles were, it is still true there is much rebuilding to do, that things aren't what they were before yet and we still live with the reality that the coronavirus is still around.

Therefore, whilst looking to take things steady and initially to keep things as simple as possible, as a first step along the way we will look to re-gather and to rejoice together.



I'm so grateful to God that technology has moved on to such an extent, that we have been able to join together on facebook live, zoom and what's app to keep our connection during the lockdowns. I would think that even two or three years ago, this wouldn't have been possible. But the reality is that there's nothing quite like being together, to worship, to fellowship, to learn and to just enjoy being church. So let's enjoy being together again.

Things might not look quite the same as before for a while. By necessity we're having to think about safety measures to keep us all safe, so getting into the building will be a little more structured, including temperature checks, hand sanitisers and signing in registers for track and trace. Then our meetings will be kept really simple and short, again as a safety measure, so our full musical capacity, our children's work and our after service drinks won't be included initially (although we'll be re-viewing regularly to see when things can be re-introduced). Let's be using this cry from Psalm 126, restore our fortunes Lord.

Once again, let's enjoy re-gathering, let's be quite relaxed in this season of transition and let's be praying that we will see unexpected blessings along the way.

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*

3<sup>rd</sup> July - Steven

17<sup>th</sup> July- Nick

19<sup>th</sup> July - Taylor

23<sup>rd</sup> July - Hope

23<sup>rd</sup> July - Lilian

24<sup>th</sup> July - Dot

24<sup>th</sup> July - Jeff

26<sup>th</sup> July - Joan B

27<sup>th</sup> July - Anne-Marie

31<sup>st</sup> July - Archer

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



## *Healing Rain*

*Healing rain is coming down  
It's coming nearer to this old town  
Rich and poor, weak and strong  
It's bringing mercy; it won't be long .*

*Healing rain is coming down  
It's coming closer to the lost and found  
Tears of joy and tears of shame  
Are washed forever in Jesus' name .*

### *Chorus 1*

*Healing rain, it comes with fire  
So let it fall and take us higher  
The healing rain I'm not afraid  
To be washed in heaven's rain .*

*Lift your heads, let us return  
To the mercy seat where time began  
And in your eyes I see the pain  
Come soak this dry heart with healing rain .*

### *Chorus 2*

*And only You, the Son of Man  
Can take a leper and let him stand  
So lift your hands, they can be held  
By someone greater, the great I AM .*

### *Refrain*

*Healing rain is falling down  
Healing rain is falling down  
I'm not afraid, I'm not afraid .*

*Michael W. Smith*



## Life-Saving Truth

*“If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.”  
Psalm 119:92-93 (NIV)*

I stood on the edge of the pool. I looked over at my sister who was maybe 4 or 5 years old at the time. She was splashing on the steps of the shallow end.

I’m done with the shallow end, I thought. I’m 9 years old. I’m very grown and old enough to jump into the deep end.

I jumped. The cold water enveloped me. I let my body fall all the way until my toes touched the bottom, and I pushed myself back above water. It was exhilarating.

One day it occurred to me I could take my sister out into the deep end with me. I could let her get on my back and half-walk, half-bounce down that slope between the shallow and the deep.

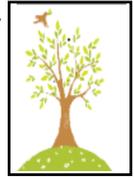
Surprisingly, she was hesitant when I unveiled my plan to her. It took great convincing on my part and lots of promises not to go any farther than where she felt safe.

Finally, she got on my back and wrapped her arms around my shoulders. I walked slowly to the slope. One baby step down. Two steps. Three.

At the third step, I slipped.

We both went under very suddenly. My sister’s hands slipped from my shoulders to my throat. It felt as if she believed the only way she could be saved was to hold my throat with an increasingly intense amount of strength. Her grip tightened. My mind got foggy. And I couldn’t figure out which way to go to find safety. The only thing I absolutely felt sure of was that I was drowning.

As crazy as it may sound, I can’t remember how we were saved. Maybe it’s because we made it to safety, and it wasn’t as dramatic to everyone else as I remember it. But that moment of panic is one I think about often. And every time I think about this feeling of panic or feel it rising up in me over something I’m facing, I try to remember that panic usually doesn’t save anyone. Signaling we need help can be lifesaving. But most of the time, panic hinders rather than helps.



You've probably felt the choking effects of insecurity even if you don't call it that. False ideas like these creep into our thoughts ...You're not as talented or smart or experienced as she is.

Protect yourself and your dignity. Don't dare try this new venture.

If only you were as organized or intentional or creative as they are, then maybe you could accomplish this. But the reality is, you're not.

You know this is never going to work, right?

Just like in that pool all those years ago, I can go from standing securely with my head above water to slipping down a slope with seemingly nothing to grab hold of. Then the insecurity, always kind of present on my shoulder, slips into a death grip around my throat.

My insecurities grip to the point where nothing life-giving can get in. I forget truth. I start pulling back from everyone. My mind gets foggy very quickly, and suddenly I can't figure out which way to go to find safety.

I'm drowning.

That's the thing about insecurity. When it grips us, the very thing we need most — truth — is the very thing we have a hard time grasping. I can be close to truth but still drowning in my insecurities. I can have truth sitting on my nightstand. I can have it preached to me on Sundays. But grasping it, standing on it and letting it shift my thinking away from panic — that's something that requires truth to be more than just close.

That requires truth to be inside me, guiding me, rewiring my thinking, and whispering, "Safety is right here. Insecurity will stop choking you when you remove its grip. Insecurity only has power over you when you allow it control over your thoughts."

And as we delight in and live out the truth of God's Word, it truly becomes a lifeline to our souls. Something we see beautifully spelled out in our key verse: "If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life" (Psalm 119:92-93).



I want to weave myself into your story. I'm standing in the shallow end. I'm holding on tightly to an immovable bar of truth with one hand — and with the other, I'm reaching toward you.

Grab hold. Come back from the sinking place. And from the deepest place of your soul, catch your breath.

*Dear Lord, my insecurities are small things compared to Your truth. But they feel so big and powerful when they have a grip on me! Please help me grasp Your truth and let it change me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Proverbs 31 Ministries



## The Life of Peace

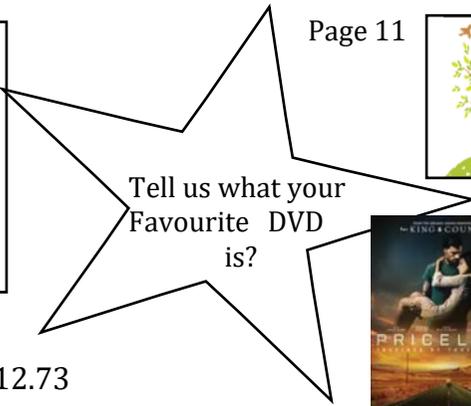
In Perth, Australia, there is a place called Shalom House where men struggling with addictions go to find help. At Shalom House, they'll meet caring staff members who introduce them to God's shalom (Hebrew for peace). Lives crushed under the weight of addictions to drugs, alcohol, gambling, and other destructive behaviours are being transformed by the love of God.

Central to this transformation is the message of the cross. The broken people of Shalom discover that through the resurrection of Jesus, they can find their own lives resurrected. In Christ, we gain true peace and healing.

Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the presence of God's wholeness. All of us need this shalom, and it is only found in Christ and His Spirit. This is why Paul pointed the Galatians to the Spirit's transformational work. As the Holy Spirit operates in our lives, He generates His fruit that includes love, joy, patience, and more (Galatians 5:22-23). He gives us that vital element of true, enduring peace.

As the Spirit enables us to live in God's shalom, we learn to bring our needs and concerns to our heavenly Father. This in turn brings us "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,"—the peace that "will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

In Christ's Spirit, our hearts experience true shalom.



### Priceless DVD

£12.73

James Stevens (Joel Smallbone) watched, powerless, as everything he loves disappeared before him. After a tragic accident takes his wife, and custody of his daughter is also taken away from him, James is left broken and bitter at the world. Shuffling from one dead-end job to another, his life is just a mess of anger and desperation. When he is offered a shady, no-questions-asked job, he sees no reason not to take it.

Given the keys to a padlocked truck, and told not to open it no matter what, he begins a cross-country delivery journey that changes everything.

Despite being threatened not to do so, a near-collision forces him to do just that. Huddled in the bare walls of the truck are two women, the victims of human trafficking, whose presence forces James to confront what he should do. Driven to right a wrong, James is determined to free the two women. But to do so he will have to risk everything



### Ruth: The Musical DVD

£14.96

When tragedy strikes their family, Ruth, her mother-in-law, and sister-in-law are left poor and struggling. Despite the danger, Ruth decides to accompany her mother-in-law, Naomi, back to her husband's homeland.

They arrive at the time of the harvest and as a foreigner, the only work Ruth can find is as a gleaner in the harvest, picking up what the harvesters leave behind. Boaz notices Ruth and takes her under his protection during the harvest, leading to a series of events that results in changing both women's lives and the course of history forever.

The film tells the biblical story of Ruth in a timeless setting through drama and compelling original songs.

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