Ackworth Community Church
News Letter
www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

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Contact:
Church Leader

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Ash's Letter

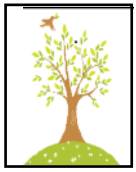
They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour – Isaiah 61: 3

I wonder if there's something that you always carry with you? For me, if I'm out and about I've usually just got my keys, I like to travel light, but I know others carry bags or combs or purses or some precious item that they want to keep close by. There are other things that I wish I could remember, like my reading glasses, or sometimes recently a face mask and there are other things and I have lots of other things that just sit in drawers or in the back of a cupboard somewhere, just in case.

As we have now just passed our thirtieth birthday as a church, there are lots of things we have carried with us through those years. Among the precious things that have remained with us, are a love for God and his word, a love for prayer and hearing God's voice, a love for each other, that has been demonstrated in lasting friendships, a love for Ackworth and its people, a culture of hard work, a willingness to get stuck in and have a go and a promise that God gave to us from Isaiah 61 just prior to us starting the church in Ackworth. You can read a phrase from it above, but why not read and enjoy the whole chapter.

As I said recently in our October Simply Jesus Service, these words have become a part of me and are words that I can't shake off; they are a promise and a call from God and remain as fresh and exciting as they always have been.

These words remind us of some important truths. Firstly that the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on us and He has anointed us for the task at hand. You'll probably know these words from Zechariah that point out that God's work is accomplished 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. Keep asking the Holy Spirit to be continuously filling you with his life, love and power.



Secondly, they give us a mission statement, this is what we're all about; to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. Incredible words I'm sure you agree and also a wonderful mission to be part of.

As Paul said to Timothy 'Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this' (2 Timothy 2: 7); Let the Lord reveal these words to you afresh, let the power of them become part of you and ask the Lord to give you insight and revelation as to the part you might play in fulfilling your part of this calling.

Ash.

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.

Healing Ministry Team

If you would like to receive ministry and prayer for healing, please contact Alyn or Carole who will arrange for members of the ministry team to come and wait on the Lord and pray with you. The healing ministry team are: Alyn and Carole, Brenda, Denise, Jacquie, Catherine, Dot & Ash.

Birthday Celebrations

11th November - Jacquie

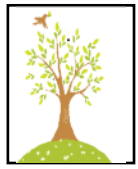
12th November - David R

17th November - Matt

22nd November - Hannah

28th November - Vickie

A Very Happy Birthday From Everyone At Ackworth Community Church



A God Of Hope

I just want to say thank you
For this life you've given me,
For all the wondrous blessings,
For setting my spirit free.

You are such an awesome God
Who only gives the best,
Giving us a life of hope
When we face all kinds of tests.

For often we face in life,
Struggles of every kind,
Little things can get us down
And peace is far from our minds.

But you give hope to carry on
No matter what we face,
When we feel like giving up,
Unable to finish the race.

You step in just in time
With angels heaven sent,
To encourage us to carry on
And to give us extra strength.

So I praise you, Lord, for whom you are
And for all that I can be,
For I'd never have a better life
Apart from your life in me.

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Life Changes, But God's Faithfulness Does Not

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:3-4 (NKJV)

Last year was a year full of change and transitions, none of which were easy.

I've always heard that the only thing guaranteed in life is change, and we all know that to be true. But that doesn't make dealing with unwanted or difficult changes or new seasons of life any less trying.

But instead of surrendering to pouting, I intentionally dedicated myself to praying and positive thinking, reminding myself daily that although life changes, God's faithfulness never does.

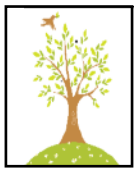
Psalm 37:3 reminds us of this when the writer says, "Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness."

When we dwell on God's faithfulness and let it nourish our hearts, our faith and trust in Him grows. When we focus on doing good things, our thoughts won't stay parked on the changes we don't like. Instead of allowing our minds to wish things were like they used to be or feeling discouraged or upset over a hard season of life, we can place our trust in Him and live with peace and joy, not stress and distress.

Psalm 37:4 then says, "Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Being delighted with God means our hearts find peace and fulfillment in Him, regardless of our season of life or the changes we're facing. When we look back to see how He has been faithful and trustworthy in the past, which delights us, we can better trust He will be faithful now and in the future, too.

With each new day I faced last year, I continually sought God to fill my life with His peace and joy. I asked Him for new opportunities and to help me fill up this season of an empty nest and an empty house. I prayed for Him to take away the loneliness and purposelessness and fill my life with people and purpose. To trust in His wise plans for my future, instead of doubting if He actually had any.



Over many months, I began to see His faithfulness and answered prayers.

Existing friendships blossomed, and new friends came into my life as well. Friends and family continually helped me feel loved, wanted, supported, included and less alone.

New doors opened for me to do ministry, which not only gave me new purpose, but also new direction and excitement about what lay ahead.
I watched God miraculously provide for and protect my children and me in this new season.

Over a period of many months, I felt my heart begin to heal and my faith strengthened. The more I saw His faithfulness shining through, the less I worried about the hard changes.

God has divinely allowed every season of our life with His sovereign wisdom, and those seasons may include some type of hard change. We can fight change, or we can trust God has a plan and purpose for it and allow our trust in His faithfulness to be the foundation for joyful living.

If you change the way you think about change, the way you're looking at that change just might change.

Lord, change is hard. I don't always ask for it, much less like it. Please help me focus on Your past faithfulness so I can strengthen my trust in You for future faithfulness and embrace whatever lies ahead — changes and all. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (NLT)

2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we live by faith, not by sight." (NIV)

Life's Lessons can Come from Unexpected Places…

I like charity shops. I normally go to look for books but once in a while something else will catch my eye. One day an old looking, tarnished, blackened silver teapot fell into my sights. After a little mental gymnastics I decided to lay out the cash, trusting it would polish up.

As I drove home, I glanced at my purchase. It didn't look good. I had second thoughts. Had I made a mistake? I wondered where it had originally come from and then what homes it had travelled through on its way to ending up in a charity shop.

At home, I pulled out the silver polish and started the task of getting rid of the black exterior. Anticipation grew with each rub and stroke of work. To my wonder, my hopes of revealing its true beauty were realized. From a tarnished, blackened mess emerged a beautiful treasure. I could see my reflection in it now, and the sun made it gleam as the light bounced off its shiny, clean face.

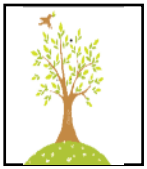
This old silver teapot made me reflect on how God views our lives.
He sees the mess, the tarnish and blackness, as well as each step in the journey. Every mark, each coat of disuse or neglect– He knows it all. He paid a great price for us, even when it was obvious that our outward beauty was marred. His son died on a cross to pay the purchase price for each one of us. He knows our value, with no second thoughts on whether he should have paid so much.

Unlike my silver teapot, we have to be willing to have our tarnish rubbed off. The price has been paid but the transaction is not complete until we are willing to submit to the gentle hands of the master to begin his work.

As impossible as it would be for my silver teapot to clean itself, so it is with our lives. The true beauty of God's creation can never be realized without His deliberate cleansing and gentle work in our lives.

When we become his possession he begins the process to bring out the beauty of His character in our lives. His work produces the unmistakable beauty of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Think for a moment, "What a difference would be made in your life and the lives of others around you if these characteristics were evident in your life?"

Years ago when I felt my life was in a bit of a mess I came across the poem,



Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin, but he held it up with a smile. "What am I bidden, good folk," he cried, "Who'll start the bidding for me? A pound, then, "Two! Only two? Two pounds and who'll make it three? Three pounds, once; three pounds, twice; going for three…" but no, from the room, far back, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow; then, wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening the loose strings, he played a melody pure and sweet as a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said; "What am I bid for the old violin?" and he held it up with the bow. "A thousand pounds, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who will make it three? Three thousand, once; three thousand twice, and going and going, and gone," said he. The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand what changed its worth." Swift came the reply; "The touch of the master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin, is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, much like the old violin. A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine; a game and he travels on. He is "going" once, and "going" twice, he's "going" and almost "gone." But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd never can quite understand the worth of a soul and the change that's wrought by the touch of the Master's hand.

I knew I needed the touch of God's hand, and I cried out to God. I asked Him to use his touch in my life.

In fact, now it is a daily request. I have realized, on my own, I will never be what I long to be. I was not made to go through life without God's touch. Just as a glove has no purpose without a hand, my life lacks its ultimate purpose without God.

You may be like me and have realized your need for the touch of the Master. If so, I suggest that you pray the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen.

The Information Exchange

This is a place where you can request prayer for yourself or others, share your need /request for help, exchange surplus goods, or if you have some spare time, help someone with gardening, housework, shopping etc. You can use this section also if you want to say anything to the Church. Just ask Lisa to place your request.

Remember to Recycle

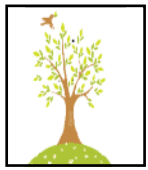
Please remember to recycle your empty Ink Cartridges? (HP, Cannon, Lexmark, Dell) CD's, DVD's, Mobile Phones and Stamps. Lisa is collecting them, each item donated will raise money for a Charity.

New Church Contact List

A new Church contact list is now ready.

Christmas Meal at The White Horse, Sharlston

We have booked for our Christmas Meal at The White Horse on Friday 10th December 6.30pm, if you would like to go then please see Lisa.

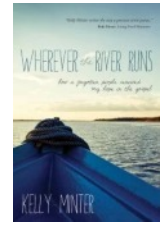


Coming Events for November

Monday 22nd November	All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.
Friday 26th November	6pm Christmas Lights Switch On Ackworth Churches Together at All Saints, Ackworth.

Book Review by:

www.eden.co.uk



Wherever the River Runs £11.17

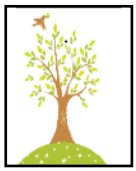
This beautiful journey through the Amazon invites readers to search their souls and follow Jesus wherever the river runs-experiencing the adventure of knowing the poor and forgotten people He loves. In Wherever the River Runs, Kelly Minter invites us on a jungle adventure down a river teeming with piranhas, cayman's, a beautiful people, and, especially, God's presence. Her honest and engaging narrative pulls back the curtain on one of the most captivating places on earth as well as on parts of the gospel we may be able to recite but have never fully believed.

Life Change £8.27

Testimonies of how God has radically changed the lives of sixteen men from all walks of life.

Is it possible for a life to change?

In their own compelling words, fifteen men from all walks of life tell the stories of their lives and how they have been transformed, often in dramatic circumstances, by an encounter with God. Some have overcome years of crime and extreme violence, others have seen their addictions disappear. Every story is gripping and inspirational.



Coming Events for December

Sunday 5th December	4.00pm – 6.00pm Christingle The Car Park - The Parish Rooms. ***Please note there will be no morning service.**
Friday 10th December	Christmas Meal at the White Horse Sharlston, 6.30pm £19.95 adult, OAPs / unwaged £10, Children £8, Families £40
Saturday 11th December	Midday - Churches Together Carol Singing in the Co-op Car Park.
Sunday 12th December	Village Carol Service, St Cuthbert's, Time TBA.
Monday 13th December	All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.
Sunday 19th December	4.00pm - Carols by Candlelight, Parish Rooms Car Park ***Please note there will be no morning service.**
Saturday 25th December	10am Online - Christmas Day Service.
Sunday 26th December	There will be no service

Small Group Meetings

Do get involved in a mid-week group and let us know which one you're hoping to be part of.

Alpha Groups

Old Post Alpha on Zoom - 7.30pm
Meet on Tuesday 2nd November, 16th November & 30th November.

New Post Alpha on Zoom - 7.30pm
Meet on Tuesday 9th November & 23rd November

Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise
Meet at John & Lillian's on Thursday 4th November, 11th November, 18th November & 25th November.

Thursday Evening Group led by Tony on Zoom - 8.00pm
Meet on Thursday 4th November, 11th November, 18th November & 25th November.

Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting at 6pm, venue to be announced.

Worship, Preaching, Projection, Music and Children's Rota

Date	Time	Theme	Worship	Preaching	Projection	Music	Sunday School	Creche
07-Nov	10.30am	Simply Jesus / Communion	Ash	Ash	Lisa	Worship Group	No Sunday School	No Creche
14-Nov	10.30am	Freedom for the Captives	Ash	Denise	Lisa	Worship Group	Sunday School Kate	Creche Youth
21-Nov	10.30am	A Crown of Beauty	Sue	Ash	Lisa	Worship Group	Sunday School Di / Holly	Creche Sue G
28-Nov	10.30am	Comfort for those who Mourn	Ash	Tony	Lisa	Worship Group	Sunday School Carol / Val	Creche Ash

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