



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

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Contact:  
Church Leader

Ashley Guest  
01977 649320



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## What's Happening This Month

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## Ash's Letter

*Genesis 32 v 17: He instructed the one in the lead: "When my brother Esau meets you and asks, 'WHO DO YOU BELONG TO, and where are you going, and who owns all these animals in front of you?'*

You may remember in last month's bulletin letter I reflected on a question that Ken Clarke had posed to us as Elders. The question was found in the story of Adam and Eve, soon after the fall when God came to them and asked 'where are you?' You may recall that I suggested that this was a good question for each of us to ask individually and also for us as a church, to help us to honestly assess our current position.

Ken also gave us some other questions to think about, which are very helpful in both appraising for now but also in helping us to look forward. The next question I want to think about is mentioned in the verse above, when Jacob was about to be reunited with his brother Esau; the question that was posed then was 'who do you belong to?' In the story mentioned here, Jacob is seeking to be reconciled with his brother, who he had not seen for twenty years, having parted from him on bad terms.

But in our situation it is a great question to ask and reflect on **WHO DO YOU BELONG TO?** Hopefully, the answer is obvious and immediate, I belong to God, I belong to Jesus, I belong to the Holy Spirit; this is an incredibly important fact to grab hold of at this time as it affects how we live and how we move forward.

Firstly, when reflecting on the fact that we belong to God, that can bring us great stability. Romans 8 proclaims these wonderful words: 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?' Of course the passage goes on to answer 'For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord'. This is a great assurance that when we belong to God, we are safe and secure in him and while trials will come, we can be confident of his keeping power.



Secondly, when we belong to God we can be said to be 'in Christ'. Colossians 3: 3 says 'For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. So when we became Christians, our old lives died and a new existence came about, we are as Corinthians says new creations, now clothed with Christ and containing the Holy Spirit within. This is wonderful, as we can stand confidently before God and it opens up all kinds of new possibilities. If we were to live ourselves, we are very limited but being in Christ, with his indwelling by his Holy Spirit, the possibilities are endless. So take hold of your position of belonging to God and being in Christ.

Finally, I can say with Hudson Taylor "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds." When I look back over the years I have walked and worked with God, He has always supplied the energy, ideas, resources and people that have been needed and He will continue to do that. So reflect again on whom you belong to. It will do you good.

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, 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.

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### Birthday Celebrations

6<sup>th</sup> August - Stan

8<sup>th</sup> August - Georgina

12<sup>th</sup> August - Somesh

23<sup>rd</sup> August - Di

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



## I Believe in Jesus

I I believe in Jesus  
 I believe he is the son of God  
 I believe he died and rose again  
 I believe he paid for us all  
 I believe he is here now  
 Standing in our midst  
 Here with the power to heal  
 now  
 And the grace to forgive.

I I believe in you Lord  
 I believe you are the son of God...  
 I believe you died and rose  
 again...  
 I believe you paid for us all...

And I Believe You're Here Now  
 (I Believe That You're Here)  
 Standing In Our Midst  
 Here With The Power To Heal  
 Now  
 (With The Power To Heal)  
 And The Grace To Forgive.

I believe in you Lord  
 I believe you are the son of God...  
 I believe you died and rose again...  
 I believe you paid for us all...

And I Believe You're Here Now  
 (I Believe That You're Here)  
 Standing In Our Midst  
 Here With The Power To Heal  
 Now  
 (With The Power To Heal)  
 And The Grace To Forgive.

I believe you're here now  
 Standing in our midst  
 Here with the power to heal now  
 And the grace to forgive.



## Invisible but Invaluable

Every Monday morning, he phones our offices. He asks about the events and services taking place during the week, and the people involved in them. For decades, Charles and his prayer group have faithfully supported the church in prayer. They are examples of many in our church who intercede for us. Their prayers may be invisible but they are also invaluable.

The word 'intercession' generally means praying for someone else (although, it can also be used of praying for oneself). We are all called to intercession. The apostle Paul writes to Timothy, 'I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority' (1 Timothy 2:1–2).

Jesus is the great intercessor. He 'made intercession for the transgressors' (Isaiah 53:12). He 'is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us' (Romans 8:34; see also Hebrews 7:25). The Holy Spirit also intercedes for us and through us: 'The Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express... the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will' (Romans 8:26–27).

In the Old Testament passage for today, we see Isaiah's role as an intercessor. Interceding for others is part of the role of a prophet. Intercession was also made by kings, for example, David, Solomon, and Hezekiah. You, too, are called to this invisible but invaluable ministry.

### **Intercede for Seekers**

This psalm is a prayer of intercession – interceding for people to have knowledge of God's final vindication, and for this to result in conversion prior to that final day.



The surrounding nations want to destroy the people of God (v.4). Yet, the psalmist sees this more as an attack on God himself. He refers to them as 'your enemies' (v.2) who 'form an alliance against you' (v.5). This is a reminder that an attack on the people of God is ultimately an attack on God.

The prayer of the psalm is that God's enemies will be routed (vv.9–15). However, it is also intercession for conversion: 'Cover their faces with shame so that they will seek your name, O Lord' (v.16). There is an inherent desire that others would seek the one true God: 'Let them know that you, whose name is the Lord – that you alone are the Most High over all the earth' (v.18).

*Lord, I pray for all those currently on Alpha, that they will seek your name. I pray that you will act; that you will not keep silent; that people know that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.*



## The Key

In his classic book *The Human Condition*, Thomas Keating shares this memorable tale. A teacher, having lost the key to his home, is on his hands and knees searching through the grass. When his disciples see him searching, they join the hunt, but with no success. Finally, “one of the more intelligent disciples” asks, “Master, have you any idea where you might have lost the key?” Their teacher replies, “Of course. I lost it in the house.” When they exclaim, “Then why are we looking for it out here?” he answers, “Isn’t it obvious? There is more light here.”

We have lost the key to “intimacy with God, the experience of God’s loving presence,” Keating concludes. “Without that experience, nothing else quite works; with it, almost anything works.”

How easy it is to forget that even in life’s ups and downs, God remains the key to our deepest longings. But when we’re ready to stop looking in all the wrong places, God is there, ready to show us true rest. In Matthew 11, Jesus praises the Father for revealing His ways, not to the “wise and learned,” but “to little children” (v. 25). Then He invites “all you who are weary and burdened” (v. 28) to come to Him for rest.

Like little children, we can find true rest as we learn the ways of our Teacher, who’s “gentle and humble in heart” (v. 29). God is there, eager to welcome us home.



## When the Whole World Sings

A commercial jingle of the 1970's inspired a generation. Created as part of Coca Cola's "The Real Thing" ad campaign, a British group called The New Seekers eventually sang it as a full-length song that climbed to the top of music charts around the world. But many will never forget the original television version sung by young people on a hilltop outside of Rome. Whimsical as it was, with visions of honeybees and fruit trees, we resonated with a songwriter's desire to teach the world to sing with the heart and harmony of love.

The apostle John describes something like that idealized dream, only vastly greater. He envisioned a song sung by "every creature in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all that is in them" (Revelation 5:13). There's nothing whimsical about this anthem. Nothing could be more realistic than the price paid by the One to whom this song is sung. Neither could there be anything more foreboding than the visions of war, death, and consequence that His sacrifice of love would have to overcome.

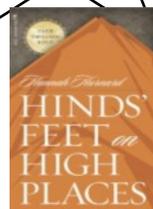
Yet this is what it took for the Lamb of God to bear our sin, overcome our fear of death, and teach all heaven and earth to sing—in perfect harmony.

By Mart DeHaan

[www.ourdailybread.ca/devotional](http://www.ourdailybread.ca/devotional)



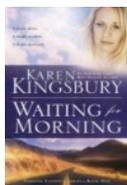
Book Review by:	www.eden. co.uk
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## Hinds Feet On High Places

£7.46

The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me walk upon mine high places. - Habakkuk 3:19 Hind's Feet on High Places is one of Hannah Hurnard's best known and best loved books: a beautiful allegory dramatizing the yearning of God's children to be led to new heights of love, joy, and victory. Follow Much-Afraid on her spiritual journey through difficult places with her two companions, Sorrow and Suffering. Learn how Much Afraid overcomes her tormenting fears as she passes through many dangers and mounts at last to the High Places. There she gains a new name and returns to her valley of service, transformed by her union with the loving Shepherd. Included in this new edition of Hinds' Feet on High Places are two special sections: Hannah Hurnard's own, never-before-published account of the circumstances that led her to write Hinds' Feet, and a brief autobiography of the author's like as told in the book Hearing Heart.



## Waiting for Morning

£7.74

As Hannah Ryan waits for her family to return home from a camping trip, she realizes she has everything going for her a husband other women admire, two charming teenage daughters, and a loving Christian home. As the sunny afternoon turns into twilight, her uneasiness grows along with the shadows. Then a car pulls into Hannah s driveway, bringing two police officers...and devastating news that shatters her life forever.

In the days that follow, Hannah struggles with unspeakable feelings of sorrow and rage feelings that fuse into one chilling purpose for living: revenge against Brian Wesley, the drunk driver who has caused all her pain.In her fury, Hannah shuts the Lord out of her life. She's determined not to forgive Wesley or the God who allowed this tragedy to happen. Can two caring people help Hannah rediscover her faith...before bitterness destroys her?



## Coming Events for August

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Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.



## 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.

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### Remember to Recycle

Please remember to recycle your empty Ink Cartridges? (HP, Canon, Lexmark, Dell) and Stamps. Lisa is collecting them, each item donated will raise money for a Charity.

I am not collecting CD's or DVD's anymore.  
If you would like to take these items to a Charity shop they would gratefully receive them.



## Coming Events for September

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Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September

All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.



## Small Group Meetings

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

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### **Alpha Groups led by Ash (on Zoom)**

New Post Alpha

There will be no post alpha group during August.

Old Post Alpha

There will be no post alpha group during August.

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### **Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise**

Dates to be arranged during August.

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### **Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (on Zoom)**

There will be no meetings during August.

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



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