



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

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## What's Happening This 6 Month

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## Ash's Letter

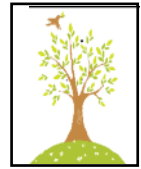
*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. – Proverbs 3: 5 - 6*

New Year's often are seen as a good place to make a new start. Numerous people around Britain have no doubt vowed to give up chocolate, or smoking, or swearing or a whole host of other things and as it's January 7<sup>th</sup> by the time you receive this letter, numerous people have already no doubt already failed in their quests.

However, personally and as a church, there is a real sense of a New Year meaning a new start. As you know, we as a church are in the process of advertising for a new Leading Elder; we recently placed an advert in Premiere Christian magazine and on their website but as yet that has proved unsuccessful and we haven't got any feasible candidates. However, we will continue with our search and hopefully at some stage in 2024 we will be able to appoint someone.

During our January seeking God sessions, that will be one of the areas we will be seeking God about, asking Him to direct us and specifically guide us as to what to do next and where to advertise.

If you have not been with us during January before, we like to take time to sit in God's presence with an intention to hear what He has to say to us, and often this sets the course of the year for us. Let me encourage you to join with us during those Sunday evenings; we often spend time worshipping God, looking at some carefully chosen Bible verses, looking for what they might be saying to us, as well as sitting quietly in God's presence to listen for His still, small voice of direction in our minds and hearts. Even if it's something new to you, I'm sure you would enjoy just sitting and soaking in God's presence and learning to tune your inner ear to hear what He might be saying to you and to us.



This year, I've included in this newsletter the verses we will be looking at on each of the Sunday evenings. It would be great if you could spend time reading them, meditating on them and asking God to speak through them as you take time to be with Him. I also know that some of us will be taking time to fast from food (whether that be for a meal or even for a full day) to give our full attention to listening to God. Again, if you'd like to join with us in that (unless of course you have a medical condition that would stop you from doing that) then please do.

Over the course of these previous couple of years, God has been speaking to us, telling us on more than one occasion, that He is about to do new things (Isaiah 43: 18 – 21 – we will be using these verses as a particular focus on January 14<sup>th</sup> ). Perhaps, as we seek Him this January, we will see the green shoots of the move of God emerging, or be led into new things by His Spirit.

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, Dot & Ash.

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### Birthday Celebrations

15<sup>th</sup> January - Linda

17<sup>th</sup> January - Andy

24<sup>th</sup> January - Ash

26<sup>th</sup> January - Carole

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



## January Prayer 2024

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January: Trust in the Lord: Proverbs 3: 5 - 6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January: A New Thing: Isaiah 43: 18 - 21**

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January: The Holy Spirit: Joel 2: 28 – 31**

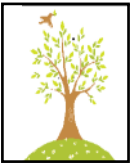
“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January: Jeremiah 29: 11 - 14**

For I know the plans I have for you declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and will bring you back from captivity.



## 5 Truths about God's Blessings Over You

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

The people of Israel had been camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai for almost a year after leaving Egypt. They had received God's 10 commandments and his full law and built the tabernacle according to God's precise instructions.

Now, on the cusp of moving toward the promised land and going into battle, God commanded the high priest Aaron to pronounce this blessing over the people. Because we hear these words recited so often, we can lose the awe that God would bless so extravagantly. Let's dig out 5 truths in God's blessing over you.

### **1. God is the source of all blessing.**

Although often referred to as the priestly or Aaronic blessing, these words weren't written by men. They are God's words spoken through his priests to his people. God is a God who blesses. In fact, when God created Adam and Eve, the first thing He did was to bless them. {Gen 1:28} And the last thing Jesus did? He blessed his apostles. As Jesus was taken into heaven, he was blessing his apostles. {Luke 24:50-51}

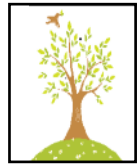
While these words are often spoken as a prayer or petition, there is no “will you” or “may you” found here. God has proclaimed this blessing and has commanded that it be spoken over His people.

### **2. God blesses us personally.**

Six times, these verses repeat “you” and each time it is in the singular form. Rather than blessing Israel corporately in these verses, God of the universe blesses each one personally. In a crowd of more than 2 million, God saw each one. God sees you. God knows you intimately, cares for you individually and blesses you personally.

### **3. God bends down to benefit us.**

The Hebrew word for bless means to kneel down. Used metaphorically here, it shows that God bends down to give us Himself and with that, all of His benefits – His faithfulness, mercy, forgiveness, grace, love, comfort, joy, hope, guidance, redemption, adoption, acceptance and more. Ephesians 1:3 tells us we have



every spiritual blessing through Jesus. Because God is infinite, we can never reach the end of His blessing.

#### **4. God blesses as a father to his child.**

How can God lift His countenance upon us if He is in heaven and we are on earth? Doesn't he look down upon us? These words are a picture of a father lifting his child in his arms above him. Just as that father lifts up his beaming face to that child, God shines His full pleasure, His full goodwill, and His full joy over you as His child.

#### **5. God's blessing brings peace.**

Who doesn't want peace? But God's peace is more than the absence of strife. The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, stems from the word which means restoration back to the original state. God's peace means not just harmony, but completeness and wholeness, rest and welfare, soundness and safety.

Take heart today. In a world that is often hard and chaotic, God has bent down to bless you personally. God of infinite benefits gives them to you. And though the world may frown, God's beaming countenance is upon you. Today, child, walk in the fullness of Your Father's extravagant blessing.



## His Promise to Provide

Do you really believe God is able and eager to meet all of your needs? Most people would say yes. But when difficulty comes, problems arise, and sorrow strikes, we often wonder where God is and how we can trust Him. But the Lord is not only capable of meeting all our needs, He also is able to satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts.

Some question this reasoning. They say, “I know God is capable of meeting my needs, but will He? Doesn’t He know that I’m struggling?” The Lord knows the battle that is ensuing around your life.

And while questions like these are asked by each one of us at some point, we need to learn a deeper principle, and that is how to focus on our faith when we are under trial. God is committed to meeting our needs, but first He wants to know that we are committed to living our lives for Him.

Jesus told His disciples not to worry. He admonished them to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). This is a promise, a commitment, and a pledge of action that we can claim. God knows we have emotional and material needs—food, shelter, a sense of belonging, and clothing. But Jesus was telling His followers that the focus of their lives should not be set on material products or “feel good” experiences. Instead, they were to set their hearts on God and His kingdom, and then every need and desire they had would be met.

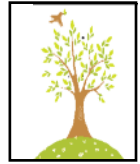
The value of any commitment is based upon two things:

1. The ability of the promise maker to fulfil the promise.
2. The integrity of the promise maker, whether he has the character to follow through on the promise.

God certainly qualifies on both accounts. He has all the wisdom, power, and ability necessary to fulfil His promises to us. He also has proven integrity—He always keeps His promises. He is utterly faithful to His Word. He is holy and immutable; He is unchanging. His commandments, statutes, and promises have not changed; they reflect our unchanging God. He is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

When you have an unmet need, you first need to pray and tell the Lord what you are facing. Prayer is an act of faith. It declares your trust in God and His ability. Many times, He allows a need to come so that He can teach you to trust Him in a greater way. No problem is too complicated or too difficult for Him to handle.





The real questions that we must answer are: “How are you responding in the midst of your circumstance or situation?” And, “Are you trusting Him or are you frantically looking for a way out of the difficulty without discovering what He wants you to learn?”

Jesus pledged that God would meet your needs when you “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.” This means that He is obligated to meet your needs when you faithfully obey and trust Him. When you are walking in step with Him, He assumes full responsibility for the answer to your needs, problems, challenges, and circumstances of life. But there is a catch: He does this according to His will, purpose, plan, and timing. And meeting needs does not necessarily mean meeting every desire that we have. He may choose to answer our prayers quickly, or He may wait for a season. Regardless, when the answer comes, it will be perfect, and it will encourage us.

[www.intouchuk.org](http://www.intouchuk.org)

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Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,  
the city of our God, the holy place,  
the joy of the whole Earth.

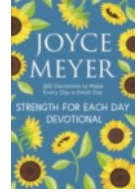
Great is the Lord in whom we have the victory,  
he aids us against the enemy,  
we bow down on our knees.

And Lord, we want to lift your name on high,  
and Lord, we want to thank you,  
for the works you've done in our lives;  
and Lord, we trust in your unfailing love,  
for you alone are God eternal,  
throughout Earth and Heaven above.

Steve McEwan



Book Review by:	www.eden. co.uk
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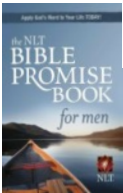
## Strength for Each Day

£14.60

Discover a powerful and positive mindset each day of the year with uplifting insights and motivational Bible verses provided by #1 New York Times bestselling author Joyce Meyer.

Find new mercies and blessings each day when you spend time with God: reading His Word, listening, and praying for His direction. When you do, God will strengthen and enable you to handle life peacefully and wisely instead of merely trying to get through the day. He will renew your strength and empower you to bear up under trials with patience, so you can experience them with a good attitude. Maintaining a positive view in the midst of something unpleasant is the key to victory, and it enables you to enjoy the journey!

With the constant demands and pressures of daily life, it can be hard to regularly pause to be with and listen to God's voice. Joyce's practical teaching format in this 365-day devotional will encourage you to take the time for yourself so that you can receive Strength for Each Day!



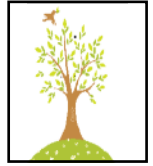
## NLT Bible Promise Book for Men

£2.42

Life doesn't always work according to plan. So how do we keep moving forward with a positive attitude, hope, and a spirit of joy in spite of the bumps along the way?

The NLT Bible Promise Book for Men can help you make sense of today's challenges because it is filled with God's promises. Knowing God's promises helps life make sense and gives you a confident peace and security in the midst of confusing and chaotic circumstances.

When you have questions, doubts, or fears, this book can be a wonderful resource to come back to again and again.



## Coming Events for January

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Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

10.30am Covenant Service.

Sunday Evening Pray

7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> January

6.00pm – 7.15pm Praying and

Listening to God for the coming year.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

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.

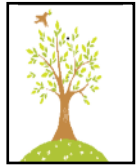
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### Remember to Recycle

Please remember to recycle your empty Ink Cartridges. (HP, Cannon, 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 February

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Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
February.

Half Term, so no toddler group.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

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 7pm**

New Post Alpha led by John Wattis

Meet on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January & Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Old Post Alpha led by Ash

Meet on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January & Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

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

Meet on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January & Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January at Dot's house - Midday.

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### **Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (Zoom 8pm)**

Meet on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January & Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

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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 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	2 Stan & Moira	3 Neil & Eileen	4 John & Lilian	5 Anne- Marie & Alison	6 Maryna Dot	7 Joel & Holly
8 Jeff & Kath	9 Julian & Caroline	10 Amanda	11 Brian & Shelia	12 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	13 Alyn & Carole	14 Denise Lisa
15 Joan A James	16 Tony, Jilly & Family's	17 May	18 Andy, Sue & Rachel	19 Adrian, Anne & Family	20 Brenda	21 Julian & Valerie
22 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	23 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna	24 Ann	25 John & Pat	26 Kevin & Jeanie	27 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	28 Jacquie
29 Brian & Linda	30 Doug & Lidia	31 Elders				