



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

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Ash's Letter

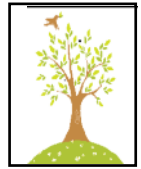
*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29: 11*

March always seems like a hope filled month to me. The days are a little longer, the spring is a little nearer and nature seems to be getting ready to burst into life again, with the buds appearing on the trees, the lambs appearing in the fields and the spring flowers coming up out of the earth. Once again we will observe God bringing life out of the death of the winter season and giving a renewed hope for the months ahead.

One of my highlights of the early part of the year is always to spend the January Sunday evenings in waiting on God; it feels like a time of preparation that sets the course for the coming year. This January, we have focused on a number of verses that resonated with us during 2023 and I wanted to provide a summary of those verses and what we have God say to us through them.

On our first Sunday evening we spent time with the verses from *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"*. As we reflected the Lord spoke to us about leaning on Him and trusting Him with all of our heart (be wholehearted) for the year ahead, knowing that we are not our own, but His to direct. We also reflected that our heart leads and our mind follows. We also thought about Him making our paths straight, literally making the road in front of us, giving direction and taking us on a direct path. The Living Bible also says in verse 4 that He will crown you with success.

As we sat and waited in God's presence, here's a summary of some of the thoughts that came to us: We thought about living each day as a new day, as a brand new day full of promise and challenge. Neill shared about climbing a new mountain that ran alongside a mountain he had scaled many times before, which involved taking a new path, which was both scary yet exciting. Similarly someone shared about a picture of a big new horizon



with mountains leading out of a desert. The thought was don't be afraid or return to the familiar desert ground. Someone also shared about being willing to be unknowing and be willing to leave home and leave things behind that have become familiar and comfortable which again is scary yet good. Another thought was that God trusts us as we trust Him and we were reminded of Isaiah 55: 8 – 9 : *"His thoughts are higher than our thoughts."* We also reflected that we need to ask God to teach us to dance, to love and to trust Him with the caveat that we need to be teachable and to learn.

In our second Sunday evening we returned to the familiar verses from 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 honour 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.*

As we waited on God with these words in our hearts we reflected that He provides water (drinking water) in the wasteland: This is God's promise to us, that He will make the way. We also thought that He has chosen us and formed us for Himself and that rivers will flow from within us. We also thought that He has His hand on people lives who are not yet Christians. I reflected about the daffodils that grow in our garden and how each year we have to clear the way for them to grow – and how sometimes we have to do the same for the new things of God. We also thought that this is a practical word – the New things are practical things (things to do) – we are to be actively waiting to discover what they are. We also need to grasp hold of who we are and move on to our new reality in Jesus

As we sat and waited we reflected that God is a Creator God and that He has made us creative too. We also reflected on Forest Church and determined to give it another go –maybe at another time.



The thought was also shared that those who are diligent continue to be diligent. As well as being diligent it was also shared that we should be intentional in our mixing and connecting with people with the thought that the new thing that God will do will be seen in people. We were also reminded to pray for the church and fast. Also we were asked to look out for a new move of God in our worship, in prayer, in new places and in new outreach methods. We also thought about reaching out using music.

On our third Sunday evening we reflected on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit spoken of in : 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.”*

As we reflected on those verses it was seen that this was talking of the last outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the great and dreadful day of the Lord (Last hoorah) going almost from feast to funeral. We thought about these verses being all inclusive for young and old – for men and women. A thought was also shared that whilst God doesn't exclude anyone, we also shouldn't exclude ourself. We also thought of the pouring out of gifts – dreams and visions and wonders – let's have some or all of them. It was suggested that often disaster and difficulty lead to restoration (Jesus death – Pentecost) and the way that these verses suggest a deluge, lavish and abundant – like a waterfall.

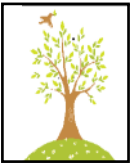
As we waited quietly again there was a picture of a beach which was contrasted with being up on the top of a mountain in the wild wind – the question which accompanied it was which do you choose? Comfort and ease or the wild wind of the Spirit? Alongside this another question was posed; Are you ready? The thought was shared that God is ready – we have been through the storm and a time of preparation- now is the time



of being carried on by the winds of the Spirit. We were reminded to be humble and to rely on the Lord; to stop looking at the wind and the waves. You don't need to be afraid as everything the Lord has for you is good. We were also reminded that in the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, the wardrobe was just a wardrobe (but when you look through the eyes of a child – you can see things differently). There was a sense of looking for what is beyond. We were also reminded that fasting is an attitude of heart – a hunger of heart. That it can be a fasting from all kind of things, such as a fast from carnal things, for example in our reactions (anger etc.) We also thought of turning away from the bad and turning towards what is good. We were reminded that the slightest move towards God and He is ready to respond immediately and abundantly.

On our final January Sunday evening we looked at the verses from Sunday 28th 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.”*

As we thought about these verses we thought of a renewal of hope. We reflected that God has plans for us individually and corporately and He wants us to fly like an eagle on the currents of the winds of the Spirit as well as be captured by the Holy calling of the Lord and moulded by the potter. We also thought of our need to seek Him with all of our heart. It was also suggested that every day that I show up is a vote for the person I want to be and that it's not a feeling it's a choice and that we should seek by leaning into Him. It was also seen that God shows up when we show up and God **knows** the plans He has for us – plans to prosper and not to harm. We also saw that He is not going to let us down but give us abundant life so don't stress as He is the same yesterday, today and forever. We also reflected that He will plant us as seeds in our communities and as He does flowerbeds will grow. Our response should be to say a big YES



to tune in to God's station, get on God's wavelength and acknowledge Him in all of your ways /and with all of your heart. It was seen that this is an opportune time and an opportunity to let go and let God. Finally , it was seen that a river that has run through January – connecting the evenings together and we have an open door of opportunity, so use the things that God has given you and grasp hold of the renewal and hope that lays ahead.

Ash.

Birthday Celebrations

14th March - Cheryl

15th March - Tony

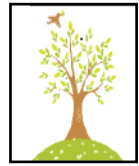
16th March - Moira

21st March - Cerwys

21st March - Joan

29th March - Alyn

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



Sovereign Over Us

There is strength within the sorrow
 There is beauty in our tears
 And you meet us in our mourning
 With a love that cast out fear
 You are working in our waiting
 You're sanctifying us
 When beyond our understanding
 You're teaching us to trust.

Your plans are still to prosper
 You have not forgotten us
 You're with us in the fire and the flood
 You're faithful forever
 Perfect in love
 You are sovereign over us.

You are wisdom unimagined
 Who could understand your ways
 Reigning high above the heavens
 Reaching down in endless grace
 You're the lifter of the lowly
 Compassionate and kind
 You surround and you uphold me
 And your promises are my delight.

Your plans are still to prosper
 You have not forgotten us
 You're with us in the fire and the flood
 You're faithful forever
 Perfect in love
 You are sovereign over us.
 (Repeat)

Even what the enemy means for
 evil
 You turn it for our good
 You turn it for our good and for
 your glory
 Even in the valley, you are faithful
 You're working for our good
 You're working for our good and
 for your glory.

Even what the enemy means for
 evil
 You turn it for our good
 You turn it for our good and for
 your glory
 Even in the valley, you are faithful
 You're working for our good
 You're working for our good and
 for your glory.

Your plans are still to prosper
 You have not forgotten us
 You're with us in the fire and the
 flood
 Oh, you're faithful forever
 Perfect in love
 You are sovereign over us.

You're faithful forever
 Perfect in love
 You are sovereign over us.



Yes, God Will See You Through

The sun is barely up, but my husband has already grabbed his phone and turned on a song about trusting God in hard times. “Though the storms keep on raging in my life,” sings the late gospel baritone Douglas Miller, “and sometimes it’s hard to tell the night from day...” The song—“My Soul Has Been Anchored in the Lord”—rings out often in my house because, like many families, we’re in the middle of a trying season.

But God? Is He near? Will He help?

These are questions I’ve been struggling to answer, stressed recently to grasp clear ways and means of trusting the Lord in challenges. Through reflection and prayer, I’ve discovered several ways to help calm my heart and mind and to maintain focus on the One who has seen me through every time.

Give the Problem-Solver the Problem.

It may seem obvious, but the most vital way to trust God when we’re overwhelmed is to turn from that challenge and back to Him. Doing so could seem ill-advised since trouble can be so loud—demanding that we give it our attention, as if it needs the most and best of us.

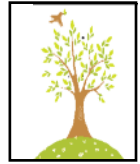
But trusting God with a trial means taking it first to Him. The psalmist explains why: “God is our refuge and strength.” (Psalm 46:1). And then there’s the critical truth of Psalm 28:7: “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart triumphs and with my song I shall thank Him.”

Let others help.

When hard times come, don’t isolate yourself. Draw close to believing friends. Reconnect with trusted family members and allow them to “hold up your arms” during the rough battle. During a lengthy battle, Moses was helped this way by his older brother Aaron and their companion Hur (Ex. 17:10–13). Strong help connects others’ steady faith to our own, like an anchor’s chain, so we can renew our trust in God.

Fear not.

Danger is real. Jesus affirmed this when He invited His disciples to cross the Sea of Galilee with Him. You know the story well. A storm arose, and the terrified disciples woke Jesus crying, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38).



After calming the wind and waves, the Lord posed a question of His own to the disciples: “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (Mark 4:40). Despite living daily with Jesus, they’d underestimated Him and His power. We can learn from their lesson—as well as our own experiences—that Jesus can calm any and all raging winds, including ours.

Tell God about your current squall.

The psalmist says the Lord keeps track of all our stormy sorrows, putting our “tears in [His] bottle” (Psalm 56:8), never forgetting any of our hard trials. He cares about us. Relying on Him, therefore, means taking time to tell Him our struggles and, by faith, asking Him to intervene. Certainly, the Lord already knows, but pausing to tell Him in prayer is a concrete way to show we trust Him to be the answer.

Commit to know God.

People and other things in our life may dodge and dart around, but God is unmovable. We can trust in Him even if our faith feels weak and we don’t see how He is going to answer our cries for help. Instead, if we depend on Him, we’re believing in His ability to be our God. Taking time to understand His constant strength means that when we need Him, we’ll know Him to be reliable to deliver and answer.

Look for sunshine.

Even during stormy times, the sun can break through. And so can the Son. Look daily for those moments that make you laugh, give you joy, and ignite your hope—and make note of them in a journal or the margins of your Bible. They are gifts from our merciful God, proof of His love that’s well worth remembering (and passing down to your loved ones).

Trust is an anchor that holds us fast in the storm, and as Christians, we are able to access the best “holding ground” of all—God Himself. Life’s storms will come, but by trusting God through them, we are held steady and safe in the knowledge that, whatever happens, we are close to the One who will see us through.



Book Review by:	www.eden. co.uk
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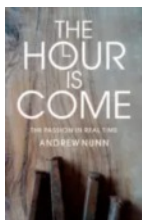
It Is Finished

£14.99

Through forty slices of the story of Calvary, master storyteller and vivid Bible teacher Charles Martin, will walk you back to the cross to look up at it from a different angle each day and ask the Father to reveal to you:

Whether it is your first, tenth, or ten thousandth time looking up at the cross of Christ, you can trust New York Times bestselling author Charles Martin, to wrap an arm around your shoulder, come alongside and walk with you as a fellow pilgrim headed in the same direction and answering the same question: "What will I do with this man, Jesus?"

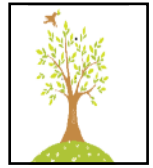
Because before we can celebrate the resurrection, we need to backtrack to where Jesus has been, how He got there, and what His presence there accomplished. And while Satan can't change what happened on that Friday, he has been working ever since to hide what happened there. To obscure the work of the Cross. To avert our eyes. But on this 40-day pilgrimage your eyes will open wide and your heart will race as you discover the answer to the question that can change your life, Lord, why me? Why would you endure the cross and despise the shame, for me?



The Hour is Come £11.24

The gospel accounts change when we come to the final days of Jesus' life and for the first time we are given precise timings when things happen, 'It was night', 'the next morning', 'it was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him', 'it was noon', 'it was three o'clock in the afternoon'.

The Hour is Come enables readers to enter into the experience of Jesus, his disciples and all the other players in the Passion narrative by using 'real time' to immerse us in the story. Ideal for daily reading during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, it offers scripture reflections and prayers that trace the journey to and beyond the cross.



Coming Events for March

Monday 18th March

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

Friday 29th March

Outreach on Co-op Car Park:
11.45am. Walk of witness from All Saints Church 12.00 Midday.
On Co-op Car Park.

Friday 29th March

5.00pm Good Friday Communion at the Parish Rooms. We'll meet to celebrate Jesus victory on the cross!



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) and Stamps. Lisa is collecting them, each item donated will raise money for a Charity.

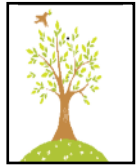
I am not collecting CD's or DVD's anymore.

If you would like to take these items to a Charity shop they would gratefully receive them.

New Church Contact List

Lisa is preparing a new Church Contact List, if you are already on the list could you please check your details are correct.

If you have not been on the Church Contact List before and would like to be, please print clearly your name, address, telephone number, mobile number and email address.



Coming Events for April

Monday 22nd April

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.

Alpha Groups 7pm

New Post Alpha led by John Wattis
Meet on Tuesday 12th March .

Old Post Alpha led by Ash
Meet on Tuesday 5th March & Tuesday 19th March .

Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise

Meet on Thursday 7th March, Thursday 14th March , Thursday 21st March, & Thursday 28th March, at Dot's house - Midday.

Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (Zoom 8pm)

Meet on Thursday 7th March, Thursday 14th March, Thursday 21st March, & Thursday 28th March,

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
03-Mar	10.30am	Simply Jesus / Communion	Sue	Sue	Lisa	Worship Group	No Sunday School	No Creche
10-March	10.30am	Intercession	Ash	Ash	Lisa	Worship Group	Sunday School Carole	Creche Val
17-Mar	10.30am	The road to the cross	Sue	Ash	Lisa	Worship Group	Sunday School Dj	Creche Holly
24-March	10.30am	Free Topic	Sue	Josh	Lisa	Worship Group	Sunday School Ash	Creche Jacquie
31-March	10.30am	Easter Sunday	Ash	Ash	Lisa	Worship Group	No Sunday School	No Creche

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