



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

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"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Matthew 6:26-27:

## What's Happening This Month

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## Michael's Letter

*'Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left.'*

*Isaiah 54:2-3*



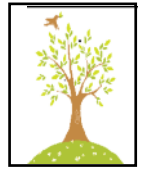
Helen asked me recently if she would be right in saying, 'that we limit God?' That's a good question, which I will try to answer. If God gave me a task that He will only assign to me and will not intervene or assign it to someone else if I fail to do it then you could say, if indeed I do fail to do it, that I am limiting God. However, in this example it is

God who decided the limit not me, which He could change at any time. And being omniscient (knowing everything) He knew I wouldn't do it and because He set the limit and knew the outcome then no, I am not limiting God... Isn't philosophy a wonderful thing?

Another (and probably more helpful) way to look at it is to ask, am I limiting myself, given that God is '...able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us (Eph 3:20)? Am I expecting little of God by virtue of the fact that I expect little of myself - somehow basing my expectation of God on how little I can expect to achieve in and of myself? If so I am looking at this the wrong way. My focus should be on what God can do and believe that He can and will exceed my expectations.

OK, now over to you... what does your faith look like? Jesus said that with a mustard seed sized portion of faith, nothing will be impossible for you (Matt 17:20). But Jesus also demonstrates that where there is a lack of faith little will be achieved (Matt 13:57-58).

From my perspective coming in relatively new to the church (well I still feel fairly new) I see a small friendly church family and I have faith in



what God can grow from small beginnings. But I know many of you carry the memory of a church before lockdown that was bursting at the seams. Many churches lost numbers during lockdown, but ACC seems to have suffered greatly and that is hard to come to terms with. There will likely be a number of factors and disadvantages the church experienced that led to this. I'm grateful that in spite of the knock it must have taken, you still hold onto your faith and trust that God is not in any way limited by a smaller number in achieving His purposes.

The last Sunday of June is going to be a Vision Sunday, where we will celebrate where we have been, look at our present and seeking the Lord look to the years ahead. More details of this to follow. But one thing that will be important on the day will be the question of what our faith looks like. What do we have faith for? Will we exceed our expectations of us, based on what God can do through us? Let's look to Him as we consider those questions in the lead up to our Vision Sunday.

Is it outrageous to think that those words of Isaiah 54:2-3 might be for us in these times? I don't think so.

Much love  
Michael

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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, Michael, Helen, 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: Michael, Helen, Alyn, Carole, Brenda, Denise, Jacquie, Dot & Ash.

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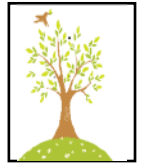
### Birthday Celebrations

12<sup>th</sup> June - Eileen

18<sup>th</sup> June - Kimberley

22<sup>nd</sup> June - Michael

A Very Happy Birthday From Everyone At  
Ackworth Community Church



## *These are the days of Elijah*

These are the days of Elijah,  
 Declaring the word of the Lord:  
 And these are the days of Your  
     servant Moses,  
     Righteousness being restored.  
 And though these are days of great  
     trial,  
 Of famine and darkness and sword,  
 Still, we are the voice in the desert  
     crying  
 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord!'

Chorus  
 Behold He comes, riding on the  
     clouds  
 Shining like the sun, at the trumpet  
     call!

Lift your voice, it's the year of  
     jubilee  
 And out of Zion's hill salvation  
     comes!

These are the days of Ezekiel,  
 The dry bones becoming as flesh.  
 And these are the days of Your  
     servant David,  
     Rebuilding a temple of praise.  
 These are the days of the harvest,  
 The fields are as white in Your  
     world!  
 And we are the labourers in Your  
     vineyard,  
 Declaring the word of the Lord!

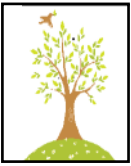
Chorus  
 Behold He comes, riding on the  
     clouds  
 Shining like the sun, at the trumpet  
     call!

Lift your voice, it's the year of  
     jubilee  
 And out of Zion's hill salvation  
     comes!

There is no God like Jehovah.  
 There is no God like Jehovah!  
 There is no God like Jehovah.  
 There is no God like Jehovah!  
 (Repeat)

Chorus  
 Behold He comes, riding on the  
     clouds  
 Shining like the sun, at the trumpet  
     call!

Lift your voice, it's the year of  
     jubilee  
 And out of Zion's hill salvation  
     comes!



## Verse of the Month..

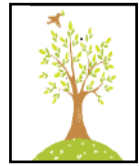
*You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12*

I was toying with using Isaiah 54:2-3 (as used in my letter, this issue) but I think this verse complements it and I hope you will find time to reflect on both over the month and thereafter.

In its immediate context, Isa 55:12 represents the joy and celebration of the people of Israel when they leave exile and captivity in Babylon. It was a word given to me recently, which I will be considering prayerfully. But I also felt it was of relevance and value to the church in this season. Without making any suggestions that come to mind, let me encourage you to meditate on this scripture (and if you are in the practice of memorising, please do), then let it settle in your heart and see what fruit it bears.

Every blessing  
Michael.

By the way, do you have to check each time you write 'compliment' or 'complement', to make sure you are using the right one for your particular context? I can't be the only one!



# Words, the Word of God and 'words'

Actor David Suchet, well known for his title role in Poirot, tells how a few years ago he was lying in his bath in a hotel in America, when he had a sudden and impulsive desire to read the Bible. He managed to find a Gideon Bible and started to read the New Testament. As he read, he encountered Jesus Christ. He said:

'From somewhere I got this desire to read the Bible again. That's the most important part of my conversion. I started with the Acts of the Apostles and then moved to Paul's Letters – Romans and Corinthians. And it was only after that I came to the Gospels. In the New Testament I suddenly discovered the way that life should be followed.'

The most powerful words ever written are in the Bible. Words are an important theme in it, and the use of the word 'word' is used in different senses in today's passages.

First, it is used in the sense of our words. The things we say can be good or bad (Proverbs 25:11–20).

Second, it is also used in the sense of the Word of God. This is supremely Jesus Christ (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:2), but also refers to the Word of God in the Scriptures and in preaching and teaching (1 Timothy 4:1–16).

Third, the Bible also uses the phrase 'the word of the LORD' in the sense of prophecy (Jeremiah 42:7). God continues to speak to the church through prophetic messages (1 Timothy 4:14). Of course, we need to distinguish the Old Testament prophets, whose 'words' were definitely 'the word of the Lord' and are now part of Scripture, from prophetic 'words' today, which need to be tested against Scripture.

Use your words to good effect

## Good words

The words we speak really matter. Sometimes, they have a very good effect. When someone finds the right words for the right occasion there is something very beautiful about it: 'The right word at the right time is like a custom-made piece of jewelry' (v.11, MSG).

Something less easy to hear, but equally valuable is 'a wise rebuke to a listening ear' (v.12b). Receiving criticism is always hard but, as the writer of Proverbs says, 'a wise friend's timely reprimand is like a gold ring slipped on your finger' (v.12, MSG). Friends who love us enough to challenge us are highly valuable. Likewise, trustworthy friends or messengers who keep to their word 'are like cool drinks in sweltering heat – refreshing!' (v.13, MSG).



The tongue is so powerful: 'Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone' (v.15). Or as The Message puts it, 'gentle speech breaks down rigid defences'.

### **Bad words**

There are some uses of words that the writer of Proverbs warns us against. Empty promises lead to disappointment: 'Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given' (v.14).

On the whole, it is not good to spend too much time talking to any one person or group of people: 'When you find a friend, don't outwear your welcome; show up at all hours and he'll soon get fed up' (v.17, MSG). We need a balance in our relationships. Words need to be spread wisely.

Another bad use of words is 'false testimony' (v.18) – saying what is untrue. This could be in court or simply in our conversation or online: 'Anyone who tells lies against their neighbours in court or on the street is a loose cannon' (v.18, MSG). It is very painful to read or hear things that are simply untrue.

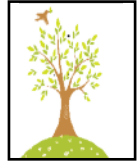
### **1 Timothy 4:1-16**

4 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

6 If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. 10 That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching





and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Timothy is called to 'Get the word out. Teach all these things' (v.11, MSG). He is to be an example to the believers in speech (as well as in life, in love, in faith and in purity). Paul urges him to devote himself to the public reading of Scripture, of preaching and teaching (v.13). This must always be a high priority for Christian leaders (see 5:17).

All this is part of training 'yourself to be godly' (4:7). It is good to exercise and keep fit: 'Physical training is of some value' (v.8a), but training in 'godliness' is far more important than physical training. 'Exercise daily in God – no spiritual flabbiness... making you fit both today and forever' (v.8b, MSG).

In the Christian life, your age does not define your maturity. Paul writes, 'Don't let anyone put you down because you're young' (v.12, MSG). Whatever your age, you can set an example by your life. Furthermore, age is no bar to teaching the word of God.

Paul urges Timothy to watch his life and doctrine closely (v.16). Watch your life and your lips. 'Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching' (v.16, MSG).

He also refers to a gift that was given to Timothy through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid hands on him. This is a New Testament example of a 'word' from the Lord given through the gift of prophecy.

### ***Prayer***

***Lord, help me to train myself in godliness (v.7b), to devote myself to the Scriptures and to set an example in every area of my life (vv.12-13).***



Book  
Review  
by:

www.eden.  
co.uk

Summer Reading



## The Indigo Heiress £10.94

In 1774, Juliet Catesby lives with her father and sister at Royal Vale, the James River plantation founded by her Virginia family over a century before. Indigo cultivation is her foremost concern, though its export tethers her family to the powerful Buchanan clan of Glasgow, Scotland.

When the heir of the Buchanan firm arrives on their shores, Juliet discovers that her father has arranged for one of his daughters to marry the Scot as a means of canceling the family's crippling debt. Confident it will be her younger, lovelier sister, Juliet is appalled when Leith Buchanan selects her instead.

Despite her initial refusal, Juliet realizes that fleeing Virginia is her only choice after finding herself in the midst of a scandal. The ship just leaving the harbor for Glasgow is her only hope. But she will soon realize that being part of the complex and calculating Buchanan clan is not the sanctuary she imagined--and the man who saved her from ruin is the very one she must now save in return.



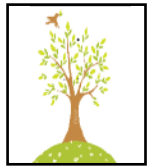
## Broken Light £14.45

An ancient stained-glass window . . . A medieval manuscript rediscovered after centuries hidden away . . .

It is November 1996. Adam stands bathed in the window's fractured radiance where Alwin, a novice monk, had stood 1,400 years before him.

As his own world unravels, Adam finds himself inexplicably but irresistibly drawn to the enigmatic Lucy. Does she hold the key to the mystery—and the courage to embrace where it will lead? Alwin must also test the affections of his heart as he accompanies his Abbot, Benedict Biscop, on the perilous journey from seventh-century Jarrow to Rome.

Though separated by over a millennium, their stories become strangely intertwined through the words they share. From the broken but beautiful fragments of art and life, can they begin to piece together the truth that will set them free?



## Coming Events for June

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Sunday 1st June	Family Fun Day for Low Ackworth Community Centre 11am-3pm. Not a church organised event but Something you might pop along to after church.
Sunday 1st June	2.30pm Service & Singalong at Eden Place Residential Home.
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Toddler Group start back from Summer Half Term.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	New Teaching Series: Encountering Jesus.
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Vision Sunday.



## 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.

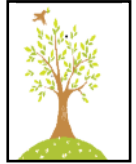
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## Family Fun Day

*Something I hadn't heard of until last week, the Family Fun day to raise funds for the Low Ackworth Community Centre. The event is organised by Low Ackworth Association and Lydia, one of our Toddler group members is on the committee.*

*Not an alternative to attending church on Sunday but might be good to pop along to after the service, to meet with members of the community and support the cause.*





## Coming Events for July

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Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Toddler Group break up for the Summer Holiday.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Church Meal.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July

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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### **Power Prayer (Revival Prayer Meeting) Tuesdays 10.30am**

3<sup>rd</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> June at Pauline and Danny's

10<sup>th</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> June at Lillian's.

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

Meet on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, & Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June at Lilian's Midday. Series on Gospel of John.

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

No meetings during June/ July.

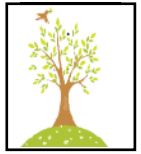
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### **Ackworth Harmony led by Sue & Cheryl**

Meet on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, & Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 7.15pm – 7.30pm Coffee/Tea, then 7.30-8.30pm singing at The Community Centre.

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**Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting** at 6pm, at The Community Centre.



# Worship, Preaching, Projection and Children's Rota.

Date	Time	Theme	Worship	Preaching	Projection	Sunday School	Creche
1-June	10.30am	Simply Jesus / Communion	Sue	Sue	Lisa	No Sunday School	No Creche
8-June	10.30am	People of Peace Jesus Sends the 72 Luke 10	Michael	Michael	Joel	Ash (Lord teach us to pray)	Gerwys
15-June	10.30am	Keep Motivated 1 Cor 5:14-18	Sue	Denise	Lisa	Carole	Val
22-June	10.30am	Encountering Jesus John 3:1-21 Jesus & Nicodemus	Ash	Neill	Lisa	Sue	Cheryl
29-June	10.30am	Vision Sunday	Michael	Michael	Joel	Ash	Holly

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