



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

Issue 242
September 2025



*"Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits
of the crops you sow in your field. Exodus 23:16*

What's Happening This Month

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Ash's Letter

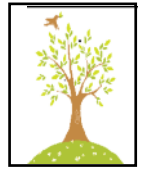
I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back.

As I sit here writing this letter, I'm looking forward to Autumn. As I've said before I'm one of those weird folks who like Autumn the best. I'm thinking of the smell of woodsmoke, the gathering of sweet chestnuts and picturing a scene where a woodland is carpeted in orange and yellow leaves. The psalmist reflects that 'The voice of the Lord strips the forests bare; and in his temple everyone says "Glory!" – Psalm 29:9. I'm reminded in that picture and those words of the Lord's keeping and involvement in the processes of the earth and his powerful word, which both creates and can lay bare. He truly is the Glorious God of not only of the earth but also of the entire universe and his words are powerful and can bring change not only to the forests but to people's lives.

In a recent Simply Jesus, I was reflecting about Jesus and his encounters with people and I thought about four words that happened in many of the encounters we read of in the New Testament. Firstly, I thought about the way that Jesus followed his Father's instructions and the way that the encounters weren't **chance** encounters. I reflected that Jesus intentionally sought out people and that he still does the same today.

The second word that I thought about was **challenge** and the way that Jesus almost always challenged those he met. Whether, it be the Pharisees, a small rich man up a tree, a young rich man on the ground or a woman who went to draw water from a well or many, many more, Jesus often highlighted some area of their life which needed to change. He still does the same today.

Having been offered a challenge, there was always a **choice** to make. Should I respond to the challenge and seek to follow Jesus, or should I just carry on as I am? The thing about challenges is that they are challenging but a challenge from Jesus was meant to bring a **change** for the good.



If you've ever tried to make a new year's resolution, or even give something up you will know that **change** isn't easy too. Thankfully as we choose to follow Jesus we are equipped for the task via the help and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He literally helps us to live out the Christian life and bit by bit, we are changed and transformed.

Over these coming months, through the Autumn and in the run up to Christmas we will continue to look at stories of people who encountered Jesus, as well as thinking about the choices we face with as we encounter Him in his words. So as we are challenged by Jesus, keep on choosing to follow Him and change will surely follow.

God bless
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, Neill, Alyn or Denise and they will arrange some appropriate help where possible.



Healing Ministry Team

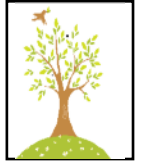
If you would like to receive ministry and prayer for healing, please contact Alyn or Carole who will arrange for members of the ministry team to come and wait on the Lord and pray with you. The healing ministry team are: Alyn, Carole, Brenda, Denise, Jacquie, Dot & Ash.

Birthday Celebrations

7th September - Holly

13th September - Kevin

A Very Happy Birthday From Everyone At
Ackworth Community Church



Change my Heart Oh God

*Change my heart Oh God,
make it ever true.*

*Change my heart Oh God,
may I be like You.*

*You are the potter,
I am the clay,*

*Mould me and make me,
this is what I pray.*

*Change my heart Oh God,
make it ever true.*

*Change my heart Oh God,
may I be like You.*

Eddie Espinosa



Sanctification: God's Grand Plan

The moment we trust Jesus as Saviour, we are adopted into God's family and set apart with a sacred purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

The heavenly Father has a plan for the life of every person, and it can be summed up with the word sanctification.

In its verb form—sanctify—the term means “to make holy” or “to separate.” So when something is sanctified, it is separated from its former existence and dedicated for sacred purposes. The Old Testament mentions a number of things that the Lord sanctified: He made the seventh day holy, set aside the Levite tribe as priests, and even consecrated places like the Holy of Holies inside the tabernacle (Genesis 2:3; Numbers 3:1-51; Exodus 40:9-11).

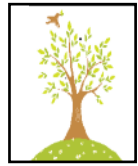
Our Father sanctifies people today as well. Before a person trusts in Christ, he or she is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-3). But the moment the choice is made to place faith in Jesus, sins are wiped away and the individual is adopted into God's family—set apart as a child of God with a sacred purpose. This means believers aren't here to chase after personal gain but are to serve the Lord and bring Him glory.

As members of God's family who are called upon to reflect Him to the world, believers are referred to as “saints.” We're given this title—which shares its root with sanctification—not because we have attained sinless perfection but because we live a life consistent with the One we represent.

Ephesians 4:17-24

By placing faith in Jesus, a person becomes a believer and is sanctified—that is, set apart for God's purposes. Unlike salvation, which takes place in a single moment, sanctification is a lifelong process. We who are followers of the Saviour should be letting the Spirit lead us. If that's already the case, we are now being sanctified. In other words, we're progressively maturing in our faith.

Logic dictates that for us to be progressing, we must be working our way toward something. Paul explained the Christian's mission: “For those whom [God] foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29). A believer's character, conduct, and conversation should be



Reflections of Jesus. God has given each believer His Holy Spirit as a teacher and guide. The Spirit works to transform the mind and heart so that we reflect the Lord to those around us. When we allow the Spirit to direct us, we speak and act in accordance with our true identity as a child of God.

Our Father wants His children to be living examples of Him. However, He doesn't expect perfection—He knows we can't be totally sinless. But His Spirit will give guidance about how to think and act so we may “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which [we] have been called”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Sanctification is the process God uses to conform believers to His image. The writers of Scripture used imagery to depict this shaping work. Isaiah, for example, compared the Lord to an artist making pottery: “We are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand” (Isaiah 64:8). These are some of the tools He utilizes to mold and perfect His creations:

The Bible. God's Word is described as “a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path” (Psalm 119:105). The Holy Spirit illuminates our hearts through Scripture so we can come under conviction and grow in our faith.

The Church. As part of Christ's body, we learn of God's ways from those who have been called to minister. The Father also calls His children to enjoy fellowship together (Hebrews 10:25).

Challenges. God offers us solace and help during hard times, but He also uses trials to shape us. When we submit to Him, we emerge from struggles more Christlike than we were before.

From the moment a person places trust in Christ, God's transforming work will be ongoing throughout his or her life. As children of the King, we should glorify our Father by faithfully reflecting Him. To do that, we must yield to His tools of sanctification.



A Prayer Update from SaltMalawi

Thank you for your prayers regarding the 30-day fast that John and Josiah entered into at the beginning of July. There have been a number of developments during the past month:

Josiah has received an invitation from the church at Tengani in Nsanje district to minister there on a permanent basis. The appropriate approval has been given by the local Chiefs. The church is willing to provide the necessary funds for Josiah to rent a house.

Josiah's current work at Matchakaza could be handed over to his right-hand man, Luke, and his wife. There is also another young man on the team who could support Luke in his leadership.

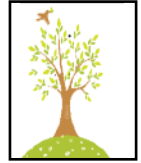
A Women's Conference for the districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje has been planned for 21st - 23rd August. Betha and Josiah's wife will travel down there to support and teach. Please join us in praying for safety as they travel as well as for the ministry.

Josiah and John are considering how to develop Josiah's ministry if he moves to Tengani. They are thinking of purchasing a piece of land on which to build a house for Josiah and a separate training centre for conferences when John or Julian visit. Please pray that God will make his will clear to them.

In a separate development, the CDJ trustees met on 11th July and agreed that each of them would take on specific roles in the national organisation. Bileat will be responsible for evangelism and Joseph will co-ordinate youth ministry. Charles and John will focus on training and encouraging key leaders. Please pray that these four trustees would take up their roles with enthusiasm and diligence as well as for God's protection over them.

Finally, John has invited his adopted son, Paul, to assist him in leading the Church of the Disciples of Jesus (CDJ). Paul has felt God laying this on his heart and he will join John during his college vacations until he finishes his current course. Please pray for him as he steps onto this new role.

Thank you again for your prayers for the work of SaltMalawi and CDJ.
Yours in God's vineyard, Peter Taylor.



3 Simple Ways to Return to Quiet Time as a New Season Begins

There's something about the start of September that makes us reflect. Maybe it's the sound of children going back to school, the cooler mornings, or just the feeling that something new is beginning. This time of year offers a fresh start—a chance to reset our routines and return to what matters most. If summer pulled you away from your regular time with God, you're not alone. But you don't need a perfect plan or a full hour carved out each day. Here are three gentle ways to rebuild a devotional rhythm, just make space for grace.

1. Begin your morning with God's Word

Before the day unfolds—before the emails, phone calls, and to-do lists—give those first quiet moments to the Lord. Even a short passage of Scripture can settle your spirit and shift your focus. Try reading a psalm aloud or journaling one verse that stands out. When we start with God, everything else finds its rightful place.

One simple practice that has helped me is writing down just one verse, just one, and sitting with it. What does it say about God? What does it say about me? Sometimes that one verse becomes the whisper that follows me all day long, gently nudging me back to peace or wisdom when the hours get hectic.

2. Prepare a space for stillness

You don't need a prayer room perfectly setup to meet with God. What matters most is that your heart knows, this is time set apart. I've found that when I lay out my Bible and journal the night before, I'm far more likely to follow through in the morning. It's a simple step, but it helps remove the excuses.

For me, it's not just about comfort, it's about intention. When I enter that space, I'm reminding my soul: this is where we meet with the Lord. This is where the striving stops, and the listening begins.

3. Let consistency matter more than perfection

Devotion doesn't have to happen the same way every day. Some mornings, I open my Bible with a cup of coffee before anyone else is awake. Other days, I listen to a short devotional in the car. Sometimes it's not until evening, when the house is still again, that I finally sit down with God's Word.

Whatever your rhythm looks like, the key is just to keep showing up. A few minutes in Scripture, a quiet prayer whispered while folding laundry, a verse you write down and carry with you—all of it counts.



Book
Review
by:

www.eden.
co.uk



The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill

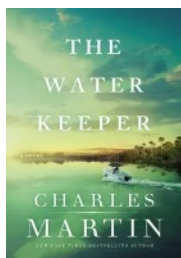
£11.33

Welcome to the English village of Ivy Hill, where friendships thrive, romance blossoms, and mysteries await. . . .

The lifeblood of the village of Ivy Hill is its coaching inn, The Bell. When the innkeeper dies suddenly, his genteel wife, Jane Bell, becomes the reluctant landlady. Jane has no idea how to manage a business, but with the town's livelihood at stake and a large loan due, she must quickly find a way to save the inn.

Despite their strained relationship, Jane turns to her resentful mother-in-law, Thora, for help. Formerly mistress of The Bell, Thora is struggling to overcome her losses and find purpose for the future. As she works with Jane, two men from her past vie for her attention, but Thora has promised herself never to marry again. Will one of them convince her to embrace a second chance at love?

As pressure mounts from the bank, Jane employs new methods, and puzzles over the intentions of several men who seem to have a vested interest in the place, including a mysterious newcomer with secret plans of his own. With the help of friends old and new, can Jane restore life to the inn, and to her empty heart as well?

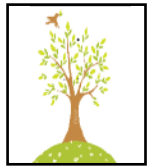


The Water Keeper

£8.31

Murphy Shepherd is a man with many secrets. He lives alone on an island, tending the grounds of a church with no parishioners, and he's dedicated his life to rescuing those in peril. But as he mourns the loss of his mentor and friend, Murph himself may be more lost than he realizes.

When he pulls a beautiful woman named Summer out of Florida's Intracoastal Waterway, Murph's mission to lay his mentor to rest at the end of the world takes a dangerous turn. Drawn to Summer, and desperate to find her missing daughter, Murph is pulled deeper and deeper into the dark and dangerous world of modern-day slavery.



Coming Events for September

Wednesday 10th September

Toddler group re-starts.

Monday 22nd September

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

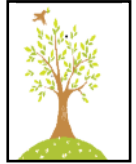


The Information Exchange

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.

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.



Coming Events for October

Sunday 19th October

Members meeting 10.30am followed by bring & share lunch and prayer.

Monday 27th October

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

Wednesday 29th October

Toddler half term week.



Small Group Meetings

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

Power Prayer (Revival Prayer Meeting) Tuesdays 10.30am
To be arranged.

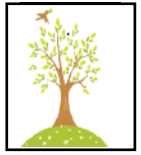
Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise .
To be arranged.

Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (Zoom 8pm)
No meetings in September.

Ackworth Harmony led by Sue & Cheryl

Meet on Thursday 4th September, Thursday 11th September, Thursday 18th September & Thursday 25th September 7.15pm – 7.30pm
Coffee/Tea, then 7.30 - 8.30pm singing at The Community Centre.

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
07-Sept	10.30am	Simply Jesus / Communion	Sue	Sue	Joel	No Sunday School	No Creche
14-Sept	10.30am	Encountering Jesus: Mary Magdalene	Sue	Neill	Lisa	Sue	Cheryl
21-Sept	10.30am	Worship & Testimony	Sue	Sue	Lisa	Carole	Val
28-Sept	10.30am	Encountering Jesus: The Young Ruler	Sue	Neill	Lisa	Di	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 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	2 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna	3 Brenda	4 Brian & Linda	5 Denise	6 Danny & Pauline	7 Kevin & Jeanie
8 Anne- Marie & Alison	9 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	10 Maryna	11 Stan & Moiria	12 Tony, Jilly & Family's	13 Amanda	14 Lilian & Family
15 May	16 Adrian & Anne	17 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	18 Lisa	19 Alyn & Carole	20 Ann	21 Xochilt, Jonathan, Julissa & Alissia.
22 Neil & Eileen	23 John & Pat	24 Jacquie	25 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	26 Joel & Holly	27 Dot	28 Julian & Caroline
29 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	30 Elders					