



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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

Issue 245  
December 2025



Immanuel which means “God with us  
Matthew 1 v23

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## Ash's Letter

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified – Luke 2:9*

Well it's here again, with all the glitz, trees, presents, trimmings, food, parties and host of other things that are associated with Christmas. As you know, it's one of my favourite times of the year and as always the challenge for all of us, is to keep our focus on the reason for the season; to keep on encountering Jesus in the midst of everything else.

I remember many years ago now, doing a school assembly in which we brought out a huge sack, which contained all sorts of things associated with Christmas. It included presents, cards, trimmings, a tree, wrapping paper, a Christmas jumper and a Christmas songs DVD, some paxo, party games and a whole host of other things. One of us took out each of the presents and piled them up on some poor unsuspecting child and it became a game of see how much you can hold before you drop them all; a bit like the game they used to play on Crackerjack (remember that!) At the bottom of the sack we had a doll, when it was clear that the child could carry no more, we took the doll out and made the point that often at Christmas, there is simply no room left for the baby, just as it was at the first Christmas. Let's put Jesus in the centre of our Christmasses.

I am also reminded that Christmas is about encounter. For the past months we have been thinking about people who encountered Jesus and the way that he challenged, asked them to choose and then changed their lives. In the Christmas stories we read of Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, Elizabeth, a group of shepherds, a team of Magi, Simoen and Anna having heavenly truth revealed to them in such a way that they had no doubt that the son of God had come. We can only imagine the impact that revelation had on each of these lives, but I'm sure that they would have been changed as a result.

My own story is of encountering Jesus for the first time at Christmas. I have told you before of our family going to a Carol Service, at the now



demolished South Kirkby cinema and beginning our journeys toward meeting with and being changed by Jesus.

So my prayer this Christmas, is that it will continue to be a time of encountering Jesus. As we've been sharing over these past months, there is a stirring taking place in our nation. People, and particularly younger people are starting to turn to Jesus and are encountering Him in many places and in many ways. Let's pray that we will see some of this happening in our churches in Ackworth. Let this be the year more than any other when we see God at work, drawing hearts to himself and gaining glory!

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, Carole, Brenda, Denise, Jacquie, Dot & Ash.

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### Birthday Celebrations

5<sup>th</sup> December - Adrian

11<sup>th</sup> December - Brian

16<sup>th</sup> December - Brenda

20<sup>th</sup> December - Denise

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



# Adore

You stepped down from heaven  
 Humbly you came  
 God of all creation  
 Here with us  
 In a starlit manger  
 Emmanuel  
 Light of the world  
 Here to save.

Adore  
 Come let us adore  
 Oh come let us adore him  
 The Lord, worship Christ, the  
 Lord  
 Let all that is within us  
 Adore.

Wise men bring their treasures  
 Shepherds bow low  
 Angel voices sing of peace on  
 earth  
 What have I to offer  
 To heaven's King  
 I'll bring my life, my love, my  
 all.

Adore  
 Come let us adore  
 Oh come let us adore him  
 The Lord, worship Christ, the  
 Lord  
 Let all that is within us  
 Adore.

Angels sing, praises ring to the  
 newborn King  
 Peace on earth, here with us,  
 joy awakening  
 At your feet we fall.

Adore  
 Come let us adore  
 Oh come let us adore him  
 The Lord, worship Christ, the  
 Lord  
 Let all that is within us  
 Adore.



## Christmas: A Time for Giving

Jesus' birth was characterized by giving.

Everyone involved in the Christmas story gave something.

**Mary** gave her body and reputation. She willingly surrendered her body to bear the Son of God (Luke 1:38). Furthermore, because she was not married, she gave her reputation. Her engagement to Joseph was as binding as marriage, but to be found pregnant before the actual ceremony was proof of adultery in the eyes of people in her community and provided just cause for stoning.

**Caesar Augustus** gave a decree. He called for a census to register people for taxation (vv. 2:1-5). Although the Roman emperor thought it was his idea, God was at work to sovereignly orchestrate His divine purpose. According to prophecy, the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, but Mary and Joseph were in Nazareth. Caesar's proclamation simply brought them to Bethlehem at just the right time for Christ's birth.

**The Innkeeper** gave a stable. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, the city was so crowded that there was no place for them to stay (vv. 2:8-14). Although the inn was full, the innkeeper gave what he had—a stable, which became Jesus' birthplace.

**The Angel** of the Lord gave the proclamation of Jesus' birth. The first report of the Messiah's birth was delivered by a glorious angel to a group of lowly shepherds (Luke 2:8-14).

**The Shepherds** gave a testimony. Upon hearing the announcement and location of the birth, they quickly hurried off to find the baby, who was lying in a manger. They couldn't keep the news to themselves and told everyone what they had heard and seen (vv. 2:15-18).

**The Wise Men** gave gifts and worship. These men may have been astronomers or scholars influenced by the prophet Daniel's godly teachings. Upon seeing a brilliant star, they set off on a journey to find the newborn King of the Jews. When they found Him in Bethlehem, they worshipped Him and offered gifts fit for a king—gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:1-11).



**God gave His only begotten Son.** The greatest gift of all came from God the Father, who gave His Son to die as a sacrifice for our sins (John 3:16). Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are given forgiveness of sins, the right to become children of God, the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and the gift of eternal life.

Christ's life and ministry were characterized by giving. He gave Himself to:

**Learning.** Jesus began growing in knowledge and wisdom at the young age of 12. He sat in the temple with the Pharisees and elders, asking and answering questions.

**Baptism.** When John was baptizing people for repentance of sin, Jesus came to him for baptism. He Himself had no sin but was baptized to identify with those He came to save.

**Fasting and Prayer.** For 40 days He prepared Himself before beginning ministry.

**The call of the Father.** Jesus began His ministry by going from town to town, teaching in the synagogues.

**Criticism and Persecution.** At first, the people flocked to hear Jesus. But when the message was not what they wanted to hear, they persecuted Him.

**Prayer.** Jesus got up early to spend time alone with His heavenly Father.

**Public and Private Teaching.** He instructed large crowds but also had time for individuals like the woman at the well, the rich young ruler, and Nicodemus.

**Healing the Sick.** Everywhere He went, Jesus healed people. He took time to stop and meet their needs.

**Training His 12 Disciples.** Although Jesus taught and ministered to the crowds, He gave personal instruction and correction to the 12 men called to be His disciples.

**Others in Friendship.** Jesus was always pouring Himself into the lives of others. When He came to the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus for rest, He continued to give of Himself as Mary sat at His feet listening to His words.



**Being a Ransom for Many.** (Matthew 20:28). He was arrested, tried, and crucified even though He'd committed no sin. But on the cross, He bore in His body our sins and received the punishment we deserved (1 Peter 2:24).

**Christ's Entire Life was spent giving to those He came to save.** Even after the resurrection, He kept ministering to His disciples, strengthening their faith and giving them encouragement, instruction, and direction.

The One who has given us the most is our God and Saviour. We can never repay Him, but we can show our appreciation and love by giving back to Him. There's nothing He needs, but we can yield our entire lives and give Him the praise and worship He deserves.



## Salt Malawi News

Julian writes - As I sit at my desk and listen to the rain I think of the rainy season in Malawi. This year in the western region of the country people are beginning to plant their maize. Over the past several years the cost of fertilisers has greatly increased annually to the point that John can hardly imagine anyone being able to afford to buy it. It is now 7 times more expensive than 6 years ago. Without fertiliser no one can expect a good harvest, however hard they work. No harvest, no food. In the past months fuel prices have increased by a staggering 48% and this is having a knock-on effect on the prices of everyday items such as food and clothing, as well as fertiliser and seed. Fuel shortages remain as bad as ever, despite the price increase.

Life has become much harder for poor people living in rural villages. Recent reports show that hunger in the south remains really bad; many are just eating mangoes. A bag of maize is costing as much as 80,000 kwacha, which is way out of reach for them. Apparently there is none to be bought for much of the country. Poverty is such that men are leaving their families to go and do piece work wherever they can get it. The churches then struggle in their absence. Please pray for them at this difficult time.

In the midst of these physical problems the church continues to be hard at work. Some recent highlights are the following: A women's conference for the districts of the south was well attended towards the end of August. John Seda's wife, Betha, helped to lead, accompanied by a mission team from Dedza district.

You will remember John's adopted son, Paul. He is now assisting to lead in a branch of the church in Dedza. Paul has felt God laying this hand on his heart and he will continue to help during his college vacations until he finishes his current course. SaltMalawi is helping him with the cost of the examinations.

In October there was a Lilongwe District joint service at Kanjanja when the church was encouraged to remain faithful in the Lord. After preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, needy folk were given blankets, soap, salt, etc as part of the church's mercy work programme.

They ask that God will bless SM for supporting the mercy work in Malawi and Mozambique. We are sorry to report that Biliat has stepped down from all of his roles within CDJ, leaving John Seda, Charles Nelson and Joseph Chisungeni to carry the work forward as church trustees and leaders over the entire group of churches. Please pray for these men as they ask God to identify others to head up the work in Lilongwe district replacing Biliat, and over the country as a whole

*Julian Lott*

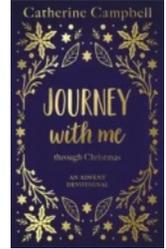


Book  
Review  
by:

www.eden.  
co.uk

## Journey With Me Through Christmas      £11.06

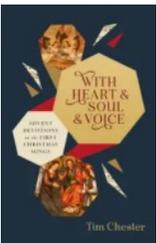
An Advent Devotional



The Christmas story is one of journeys. Joseph and a heavily pregnant Mary wearily return to their ancestral home, while wise men eagerly follow a new sign in the night sky. Most wonderful of all, though, is the good news that God in heaven has arrived to become God With Us.

In this 25-day advent devotional, Catherine Campbell invites you to journey with her through the Christmas season.

Featuring her usual blend of biblical retelling, thought-provoking insights and godly encouragement, *Journey With Me Through Christmas* accompanies you through the anticipation of the coming of Jesus Christ, leading you to a place of worship and hope.



## With Heart and Soul and Voice      £7.91

Advent Devotions on the First Christmas Songs

Witness the worship of Mary, Zechariah, the angels and Simeon as you dwell daily on their songs of wonder at the Saviour's birth this Advent. Designed to bring joy during the Christmas season, this 24-day Advent devotional will help you pause and ponder the marvel of Jesus' birth. The short daily reflections will guide you through each song of praise that was poured out around the time of the incarnation.

Written by Tim Chester, these devotions are clear and compelling, inviting your heart and soul and voice to sing in response. Through extracts at the end of each devotion, Chester's voice is joined by Christians from the past, like William Young Fullerton, Phillips Brooks and Charles Wesley, whose Christmas hymns we still sing.

You'll be stirred to join in the praise as you reflect on the extraordinary truth of Christ's birth.



## Coming Events for December

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Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	12noon Churches Together Carol Singing in the Co-op Car Park.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm – 6.00pm Christingle Service at The Parish Rooms. <b>*Please note there will be no morning service.</b>
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am Christmas Family Service at The Parish Rooms.
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Meal at the White Horse Charlston, 1.30pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	10.30am Christmas Reflection.
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	No Christmas Service.
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am Christmas Reflection.



## 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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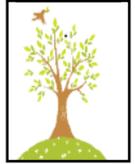
### Remember to Recycle

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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### Christmas Meal at The White Horse Charlston

The Christmas Meal at The White Horse will be on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm** for **1.30pm** a buffet lunch. The price is £18.00 per adult £12.00 unwages/ retired.



## Coming Events for January

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|---|--|
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January  | 10.30am Covenant Service   |
| Sunday Evenings in January<br>4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> January) | 6.00pm – 7.15pm Praying and<br>Listening to God for the coming year. |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January   | All articles for the News Letter must<br>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) 10.30am**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December & Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Venue to be announced.

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

Meet on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Venue to be announced.

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

Meet on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December & Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 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.



## 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 Brian & Linda	3 Julian & Val	4 Xochilt, Jonathan, Julissa & Alissia	5 David & Carol	6 Danny & Pauline	7 Neil & Eileen
8 Tony, Jilly & Family's	9 Lisa	10 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	11 Julian & Caroline	12 Jacquie	13 PonRaj, Jenifer, Piniel & Judah	14 Stan & Moira
15 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna	16 John & Pat	17 Amanda	18 Lilian & Family	19 Dot	20 Adrian & Anne	21 Brenda
22 Maryna	23 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	24 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	25 Ann	26 Kevin & Jeanie	27 Denise	28 Alyn & Carole
29 Anne- Marie & Alison	30 Joel & Holly	31 Elders				