



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

Issue 246
January 2026



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it. John 1 v5

What's Happening This Month

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Neill's Letter

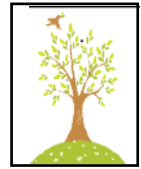
What does 2026 mean for you? Do you look forward to a New Year or do you dread it? For many people the start of a New Year is a time to make resolutions; the top 5 resolutions are:

- Exercise More.
- Lose Weight.
- Get organised.
- Learn a new skill or hobby.
- Save more money.

On average New Years resolutions last for 17 days, by this time most people give up because making lasting change is very hard. That initial wave of hope and enthusiasm is washed away when we are faced with the reality of a cold and dark January. The fact that so many resolutions don't stick can make us think that true and lasting change isn't actually possible, that we are stuck in our ways that how we are now is how we will always be.

The word that God spoke to this church in 1991 is still true in 2026:

**The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me,
for the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted
and to proclaim that captives will be released
and prisoners will be freed.
He has sent me to tell those who mourn
that the time of the LORD's favour has come,
and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.
To all who mourn in Israel,
he will give a crown of beauty for ashes,
a joyous blessing instead of mourning,
festive praise instead of despair.
In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks
that the LORD has planted for his own glory.**



These words tell us that transformation is possible, in our own strength, we cannot do it, but through the grace of God, the saving work of Jesus and the power of his spirit we can change. When asked about salvation Jesus said **'humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.'** As we enter 2026, we can have personal and corporate hope, because of Jesus. Do you believe this? Do you really believe this?

In 2026 we have an opportunity to leave the mistakes and regrets of 2025 behind us. God isn't held back by our past – He is ready to do something new in us. In 2026 we have the possibility of experiencing spiritual transformation, not an external change that requires willpower to sustain, but a spiritual change that starts with surrendering to the God who loves us. In 2026 we can know the reality of walking each and every day with Jesus Christ our Saviour and our friend.

As we say goodbye to 2025, let us look forward to 2026 with renewed hope in God. He is the God of new beginnings; he has the power to transform us, and we can trust in his promises. Whatever blessings and battles 2026 bring for us as individuals and as a church let us resolve to trust in God alone.

“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.

Every Blessing
Neill.

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

3rd January - Julissa

7th January - Carol

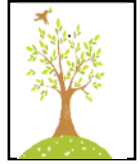
10th January - Judah

15th January - Linda

24th January - Ash

26th January - Carole G

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



Only a Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts
of heaven?

Who else could make every king
bow down?

Who else can whisper and dark-
ness trembles?

Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such
praises?

What other splendour outshines
the sun?

What other majesty rules with jus-
tice?

Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him

The One and the Only

Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like
fire?

What other power can raise the
dead?

What other name remains
undefeated?

Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him

The One and the Only

Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God.

Who else could rescue me from my
failing?

Who else would offer His only Son?

Who else invites me to call Him

Father?

Only a Holy God.

Only my Holy God

Come and behold Him

The One and the Only

Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God.

Come and behold Him

The One and the Only

Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God.



A Prayer for Newness in the New Year

“Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 1:6

How are we beginning the New Year? Are we starting off full of regret, feeling disappointed in how the last year unfolded? Do we feel like we didn’t accomplish all of it, or even anything we had hoped to achieve? Is our list still mostly unchecked?

If so, we don’t have to carry all that anxiety into a New Year; we can leave those feelings behind us and look forward to the coming year, confident that what God tells us in **Philippians 1:6** is true, and He will complete the good work He has begun in us.

We don’t have to worry or be afraid that the hopes, dreams, and desires God has put in our hearts will not be fulfilled.

God doesn’t want us to dwell on our failures, shortcomings, and disappointments. In fact, He’s adamant about it, as **Luke 9:62** explains, “Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.’”

Likewise, the Apostle Paul explains in **Philippians 3:13**, “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.”

God doesn’t want us to keep going over and over in our minds what we didn’t do last year, or what we failed to do, or what we didn’t even try to do; instead, he urges us in **Isaiah 43:18**, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.”

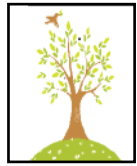
God Will Do New Things in Our Lives in the New Year

From the very start of our relationship with God, He makes everything new in us. As **Ezekiel 36:26** describes, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Whether it seems like it or not, or if we even believe He will, God is going to do new things in our lives in the New Year.

The book of Isaiah has a lot to say about God’s pleasure and purpose in doing new things in our lives. He tells us in **Isaiah 42:9**, “See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Again, in **Isaiah 43:19**, saying, “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.”



God Is Purposely Making Us New This Coming Year

As Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

God doesn't focus on our pasts, and He doesn't want us to focus on them either. Even if we try our hardest to stay in the past, He isn't going to let that happen in our lives because He purposely plans to make things new, and we can trust His newness in our lives is for our good.

Revelation 21:5 describes how, “He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

We can take God at His word and trust the newness He will bring to our lives this New Year.

Dear Father,

Thank you for giving us a new heart and new spirit, for removing the hardness hidden in our hearts, and for replacing it with a softness towards You.

We praise You for a new year, for giving us another year of life, for the newness You have planned for us in the coming year. Help us not to look back at our past, but to look forward with hope and anticipation.

Strengthen us to trust You in the coming year and to believe Your newness is for our good; to follow Your will over our own will for our lives.

Create a newness in our hearts this coming year that leads us to seek after You and glorify Your Holy name in all that we do.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Salt Malawi News

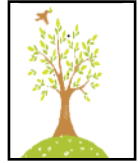
Dear SaltMalawi Prayer Network,

Thank you for your prayers for the work of SaltMalawi and CDJ over the past year. I would especially like to thank those of you who have joined Julian, Caroline and myself for one or more of our online prayer meetings during the year. It has been a real joy to pray with you.

For the past few years, SaltMalawi has provided the funds for CDJ to purchase several hundred 50kg bags of maize during the months of April and May when it is plentiful. The maize has been stored in the Village of Light over the summer and autumn months and then distributed to needy families within the CDJ network of churches in December.



In May this year, SaltMalawi provided the funds for CDJ to purchase 400 bags of maize which was dried, treated with 'Actelic' and then stored in the Village of Light (see the photographs below). The maize will be distributed to the churches in the districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje and Dedza from tomorrow onwards. It will then be distributed to the churches in the districts of Lilongwe and Ntchisi after Christmas.



Please will you join us in praying for the maize distribution - it is a major operation which needs to be completed efficiently and fairly. We are also praying that God will supernaturally multiply the food in the hands of the recipients.



On behalf of the SaltMalawi Trustees, I would like to wish you a joyful Christmas and God's richest blessing in the New Year.

Yours in God's vineyard, Peter Taylor.



Book
Review
by:

www.eden.
co.uk

Ruth: 30 Day Devotional

£5.65



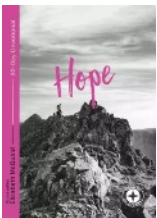
In the midst of bad news, can there be any hope?

The story of Ruth takes place when the Israelites are living in the Promised Land. But instead of obeying God, they are rebelling against his rule. When they cry for deliverance, God sends them a judge. The judge dies, and the people become even more corrupt than their ancestors. Brutality and immorality abound.

We focus on an ordinary woman called Naomi and her family. We witness her joys and her sorrows, but more importantly, God's amazing providence in her situation.

The book of Ruth is written into a whirl of social, religious, and moral chaos. It is a reminder that there is hope, that a remnant of true faith remains and the God continues to work in the lives of ordinary people.

The book points forward to King David who would lead the people wisely. But ultimately it points to Jesus, the great Son of David - the hope of the nations, the light of the world and the prince of peace.

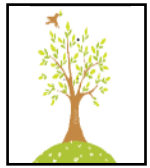


Hope: Food for the Journey £4.45

This 30-day devotional in the Food for the Journey series shows us that Christian hope, by contrast, is guaranteed and eternal, dealing with certainties: Christ's death for us, his forgiveness of sin and our hope of heaven when we die.

Covering passages from Matthew, 1 Peter, Romans, 2 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians and Revelation, in this devotional some of the Keswick Convention's most beloved preachers – including Don Carson, Ray Ortlund and Jonathan Lamb – unpack the Bible's teaching on hope. In self-contained daily devotions they show us how we can enjoy the pleasures of earth knowing that they point to the far greater delights we'll experience one day in God's presence.

Whether you are looking to renew your own sense of hope and wonder at God's goodness, or want to dig more deeply into what the Bible teaches us about hope, this little devotional is packed full of wisdom that will help strengthen your faith in your walk with Christ.



Coming Events for January

- | | |
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| Sunday 4 th January | 10.30am Covenant Service |
| Sunday Evenings in January
(4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th January) | 6.00pm – 7.15pm Praying and
Listening to God for the coming year. |
| Monday 26 th January | All articles for the News Letter must
be received by Lisa. |

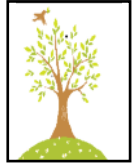


The Information Exchange

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.

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 February

Wednesday 18th February

Half Term so no Toddler Group.

Monday 23rd 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.

Power Prayer (Revival Prayer Meeting) 10.30am

Tuesday Tuesday 6th January, Tuesday 13th January, Tuesday 20th January & Tuesday 27th January. Venue to be announced .

Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise.

Meet on Thursday 8th January, Thursday 15th January, Thursday 22nd January & Thursday 29th January. Venue to be announced.

Ackworth Harmony led by Sue & Cheryl

Meet on Thursday 8th January, Thursday 15th January, Thursday 22nd January & Thursday 29th January, 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.

Prayer Diary

Please pray for each other.

If you would like to be on the prayer list please let Lisa know.

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1 Adrian & Anne	2 PonRaj, Jenifer, Peniel & Judah	3 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna	4 Brenda
5 Kevin & Jeanie	6 Lilian & Family	7 Alyn & Carole	8 Dot	9 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	10 Denise	11 Joel & Holly
12 Lisa	13 Stan & Moira	14 Ann	15 Julian & Val	16 John & Pat	17 Xochilt, Jonathan, Julissa & Alissia	18 Brian & Linda
19 Jacquie	20 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	21 Julian & Caroline	22 Danny & Pauline	23 Amanda	24 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	25 Neil & Eileen
26 Anne- Marie & Alison	27 David & Carol	28 Tony, Jilly & Family's	29 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	30 Maryna	31 Elders	