



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

Issue 247
February 2026



The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”
Isaiah 40:

What's Happening This Month

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With God All Things Are

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Ash's Letter

Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you: Joshua 3: 5

New Year's often are seen as a good place to make a new start. Numerous people around Britain have no doubt vowed to give up chocolate, or smoking, or swearing or a whole host of other things and as it's now February, by the time you receive this letter, numerous people have already no doubt already failed in their quests.

However, personally and as a church, there is a real sense of a New Year meaning a new start and it gives us the opportunity to set our course for the year ahead. During January, our intention for years has been to put ourselves in the right place and to follow the right direction in our church life. There are many big issues facing our church at this time and we will spend our Sunday evenings in worship, prayer and seeking God with the intention of aligning ourselves with his wonderful and perfect will. Praise God, he is always faithful and it has not only been beneficial in terms of hearing God's voice and finding some direction, but also it has been enjoyable and refreshing to spend time worshipping and waiting in his presence. In many senses, it is an act of consecration, of giving time to set ourselves apart, to listen and to give ourselves at the beginning of another year.

In Jewish history and tradition, "consecration" means the act of setting a person, place, or object apart for a sacred or holy purpose. The core Hebrew word often translated as "consecrate" is *qadash*, which carries the idea of making something holy or distinct for divine service. As always, a question we are faced with at the beginning of 2026 is 'are we ready to give ourselves to the work of the Lord again this year?'

When Tony and Jilly came in October they shared the above verse from the book of Joshua. In it Joshua encourages the people of Israel to set



themselves apart, to be ready because tomorrow God would do amazing things among them and indeed He did, have a read through Joshua to recount the incredible story of taking possession of the promised land. And excitingly, as Tony and Jilly shared the verses with us, we stand with the same promise in front of us as we enter 2026.

I have spent some time thinking and contemplating what amazing things God might do through and among us in this coming year. Can you imagine? Personally, I would love to see a stream of people finding Jesus and being baptised, others being added to the church. I would love to appoint a new leader whom God has sent and perhaps finally even get to set foot in the new Brackenhill Community Centre. But also, this is God we are talking about, who can do immeasurably more than we can ever think or imagine, so let's not limit Him or his work in any way.

My cry for 2026 is Come Lord God, Come Lord Jesus, Come Holy Spirit!
Visit us again

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

6th February - Neill G

11th February - Jonathan

11th February - Julian

25th February - Grace

26th February - Pauline

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



Bracken Hill Centre



Right turn into
Car park at the top
Of the hill

Left turn again
on Seals Drive.

Left turn along
Seals Drive.

Drive Along
Turnberry Avenue until
T-junction with Seals Drive.

Access off A638
Wakefield rd.

Born and Bread
Ackworth

Bracken Hill Fisheries

Ackworth Community Church.
Join us at Bracken Hill Centre.

10:30am

Sunday 15th February.



*If you require
further information contact
Ash, Neill or Denise.*



With God All Things Are Possible

Matthew 19:16–30

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

17 “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

18 “Which ones?” he inquired.

Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honour your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbour as yourself.’”

20 “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

27 Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

28 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who



has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

New Testament Commentary

What is impossible in human terms is possible with God

Do you sometimes find yourself facing a seemingly impossible situation? It might be a relationship that seems to have broken down irretrievably, or an issue to do with health, finances or something else where change seems impossible. With God there is always hope, no matter how bad things look. Nothing is impossible with God. His power makes all things possible.

The context of Jesus' words that 'with God all things are possible' (v.26) is the account of the rich young man to whom Jesus calls, 'Come, follow me' (v.21b). He tells him, 'Go, sell your possessions and give to the poor' (v.21a). But it is too much for him to give up and the young man goes away 'sad' (v.22). Jesus points out how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven (vv.23-24). Yet, with God 'all things are possible' (v.26).

Jesus says that, humanly speaking, it is impossible for anyone to enter the kingdom of God (v.26). Worldly riches are of no help. In fact, they are more of a hindrance. Jesus says, 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (v.24).

Some people have suggested that this is a reference to a gate in Jerusalem that was called 'the needle's eye'. A camel would need to unload all it was carrying on its back to go through it. Other people have pointed out that a word very similar to 'camel' means a sort of rope. Maybe he was talking of threading rope through the eye of a needle.

These attempts to rationalise the words of Jesus miss the point. The point is that it is totally unthinkable for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. But what is impossible in human terms is possible with God (v.26).

In answer to the disciples' question, "'Then who has any chance at all?' Jesus looked hard at them and said, "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it"' (vv.25-26, MSG).



In this world the rich, the powerful and the famous are the ones who people look up to as 'first'. The poor are looked down on, ignored and seen as 'last'. But in the kingdom of heaven the reverse is the case. Jesus says, 'But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first' (v.30).

This is God's powerful upside-down kingdom. Jesus asks the rich young man to give to the poor because he wants the man to place his trust in him and because the poor are such a high priority in the kingdom. They should be for us too: the thousands of children dying each day through desperate poverty and starvation, the oppressed people of so many countries, the homeless on our streets, the voiceless and the vulnerable.

Jesus rarely told people to give away everything but in this case, he did. For everyone, there is a 'cost' to following Jesus. There is the cost of being willing to fly his flag in a hostile world. There is what may seem to be a cost of giving up things that we know to be wrong.

Whatever 'the cost', it is nothing compared to what it cost Jesus to make 'eternal life' (v.29) possible for you and me. And it is nothing compared to the cost of not following Jesus. The rich young ruler missed out on so much.

Furthermore, it is nothing compared to what you receive: 'And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life' (v.29). Jesus promises that for everything you give up, you will receive far more – in this life and, even more significantly, into eternity with Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, help me to be willing to give everything I have for the sake of the kingdom of God. Thank you that the greatest and most enduring riches come from following Jesus.



Streams in the Desert

*God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early
(Psalms 46:5)*

"Shall not be moved"--what an inspiring declaration! Can it be possible that we, who are so easily moved by the things of earth, can arrive at a place where nothing can upset us or disturb our calm? Yes, it is possible; and the Apostle Paul knew it. When he was on his way to Jerusalem where he foresaw that "bonds and afflictions" awaited him, he could say triumphantly, "But none of these things move me."

Everything in Paul's life and experience that could be shaken had been shaken, and he no longer counted his life, or any of life's possessions, dear to him. And we, if we will but let God have His way with us, may come to the same place, so that neither the fret and tear of little things of life, nor the great and heavy trials, can have power to move us from the peace that passeth understanding, which is declared to be the portion of those who have learned to rest only on God.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God; and he shall go no more out." To be as immovable as a pillar in the house of our God, is an end for which one would gladly endure all the shakings that may be necessary to bring us there!

--Hannah Whitall Smith

When God is in the midst of a kingdom or city He makes it as firm as Mount Zion, that cannot be removed. When He is in the midst of a soul, though calamities throng about it on all hands, and roar like the billows of the sea, yet there is a constant calm within, such a peace as the world can neither give nor take away. What is it but want of lodging God in the soul, and that in His stead the world is in men's hearts, that makes them shake like leaves at every blast of danger?

--Archbishop Leighton

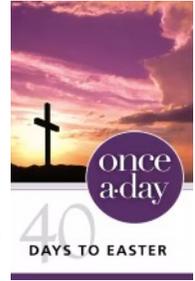
"They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever." There is a quaint old Scottish version that puts iron into our blood:

Who sticketh to God in stable trust
As Zion's mount he stands full just,
Which moveth no whit, nor yet doth reel,
But standeth forever as stiff as steel!



Book
Review
by:

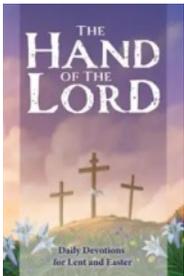
www.eden.
co.uk



Once-A-Day 40 Days to Easter Devotional £3.99

With 40 days of readings beginning on Ash Wednesday (18th February), this Easter time booklet gives you a devotional experience to lead you through the entire Lenten season.

This soft-cover booklet helps you to explore your own spiritual formation as you consider the person of Jesus: why he came to earth, what his grace-filled mission was, and how he lives and reigns today.



The Hand Of The Lord £2.65

Observe the final days of Jesus' life before His death and resurrection with this Lent and Easter devotional. Starting on Ash Wednesday (18th February) and going through Easter Sunday, read a devotion a day including a printed verse, a Bible passage for reflection, and a short prayer. Designed as a quick study for the whole family, the forty-seven devotions have real-life applications and relevant biblical connections.

The redemption of God's people in Exodus foreshadows the great redemption that Jesus accomplished for us by His hand, and it is still with us today. On His cross, Jesus rescued us from the bondage to sin, death, and the devil. Even though we still falter by the work of our hands, He does not leave us. For we are daily called to repentance, and we receive the forgiveness with which He fills our empty hands. Indeed, He still leads us by His hand into life everlasting.



Coming Events for February

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 8 th February | Sunday Service 10.30am followed by bring and share meal. |
| Sunday 15 th February | 10.30am. Sunday Service with Edward & Rachel Issitt leading at Brackenhill Community Centre. |
| Monday 16 th February | All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa. |
| Wednesday 18 th February | Half Term, so no toddler group. |

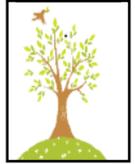


The Information Exchange

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 March

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 3rd February, Tuesday 10th February, Tuesday 17th February, & Tuesday 24th February. Venue to be announced .

Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise.

Meet on Thursday 5th February, Thursday 12th February, Thursday 19th February & Thursday 26th February. Venue to be announced.

Ackworth Harmony led by Sue & Cheryl

Meet on Thursday 5th February, Thursday 12th February, Thursday 19th February & Thursday 26th February. 7.15pm – 7.30pm Tea/Coffee, 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.

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