



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

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April 2026



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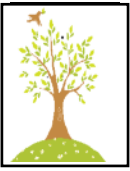
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## Ash's Letter

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.-*

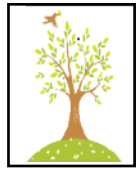
*1 Corinthians 1:18*

Can you imagine someone who died 100 years ago stepping in to the modern world today? I think it would be partly awe inspiring and partly terrifying for them as they saw a world with such incredible advancements in technology in most areas of life. There is a saying that familiarity breeds contempt, so to us many of things that would be seen as almost miraculous to our visitor from another time, are just everyday and underwhelming to us now. There is a danger, as we approach this Easter season again, that familiarity breeds contempt and this most inspirational time and story can be so familiar that we lose the power and extraordinary world changing nature of the events that took place.

As we approach another Easter season, we are again confronted by the greatest of all stories. It is incredible that the invisible God should make himself known in the person of his son Jesus Christ. As we've reflected before, we cannot conceive of what it must have been like for the Father to send the Son (would you send your children to a hostile place, knowing that they would meet a grizzly end?) or the Son to leave the Father's house, the perfect, holy sanctuary to enter into this sin spoiled world.

What is more awe inspiring still is that Jesus should not only humble himself to come, but that he should be open to such utter humiliation as he was murdered in the most barbaric and excruciatingly painful way to get us off the hook.

For many of us, we have been Christians for a lot of years and as we approach Easter there are probably many previous Easters as believers. But let our cry be this 'Lord Jesus, take me to your cross again'. The danger is that we might become blasé about this most awesome of stories. We can know intellectually that Jesus died for the sins



of the world; we can know the fact that Jesus died for us and it is important to believe this foundational truth, but let's pray during this Easter season for a fresh revelation of the cross and the resurrection.

We have been thinking much about a visitation from God in the early part of 2026. Let's pray that he would come powerfully again this Easter time. Oh that the Spirit would take us individually and as a church to the foot of the cross again, Oh that he would lead many Ackworth families to that same place to kneel in repentance at the feet of the dying saviour and oh that we would stand again at the mouth of the empty tomb and know that all is different because Jesus lives!!

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

10<sup>th</sup> April - Anne H

10<sup>th</sup> April - Neil R

11<sup>th</sup> April - Sue

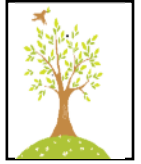
12<sup>th</sup> April - Oscar

19<sup>th</sup> April - Joanna

22<sup>nd</sup> April - Lisa

28<sup>th</sup> April - Jeanie

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



## Invitation

Here is an open invitation to any friends from Ackworth Community Church, my spiritual home for so many years!

You may (or may not) be aware that I have been working for some time now on a brief autobiography, called *Footsteps of Faith*. It charts my own journey with God and attempts to show how God typically works in us over the course of a lifetime. It is not a full autobiography as such, more an edited version, using the story to illustrate some of the ways in which God shapes us as we go through life.

Of course, Ackworth Church is a major part of my story!

I will be holding a book launch on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026**, in the afternoon, at Brierley Methodist Chapel near Barnsley. Brierley is the village where I grew up and lived for many years, and the chapel is where I was converted as a young teenager. It seems a fitting place to hold this event, and I would like to invite you to join us for the afternoon. You are welcome to join us. More specific details will follow, but for now I wanted to give you the date so that if possible, you can keep it free. Jilly and I would love you to be there. Please let Lisa know if you are able to come. Thanks for being part of my journey,

Tony



## The Most Unappreciated Virtue

If you could pick one commendable quality or trait you'd like to be known for, what would it be? As Christians, we desire to be characterized by virtues like honesty, integrity, moral excellence, loyalty, or compassion, but how many of us aspire to be humble? In a society that promotes power and ambition, humility is not highly valued. In fact, it is often thought of as being equivalent to weakness and cowardice.

None of us would describe Jesus as weak, yet He says of Himself, "I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29). Humility is the opposite of pride and could be defined as lowliness of mind, based on a proper and godly perspective of oneself. The goal is to see ourselves as God does and accept whatever place He has for us.

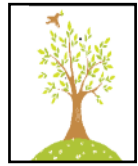
We must also remember that a person's position in life is not a measurement of how humble he or she is. An influential job or great wealth doesn't automatically mean someone lacks humility any more than poverty or a lack of prominence guarantees a person is modest. A humble spirit is an internal quality of the soul that God produces in His children by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, humility is essential for salvation. No one comes to God and says, "Lord, this is Your lucky day; I'm coming to be saved." That kind of proud attitude will never work. Everyone who's truly been saved has come to God with a contrite spirit, confessing that he or she is a sinner in need of forgiveness. A humbled person has nothing to offer the Lord except repentance and faith in Christ.

***Our earthly limitations make it difficult to comprehend what Jesus left behind when He came to earth.***

By examining Christ's attitude, we learn what true humility looks like and how we, too, can learn to walk humbly with God:

**Jesus let go of what was rightfully His**—He "emptied Himself" (Philippians 2:7). Our earthly limitations make it difficult to comprehend what Jesus left behind when He came to earth. As a member of the Trinity, the Son has the same nature,



attributes, and power as the Father and the Holy Spirit. Yet He didn't cling to His equality with them or to His rights of godhood. Rather, He left the blissful perfection of heaven to come as the Saviour of humankind.

But Jesus never surrendered His divinity. Rather, He accepted the limitations of humanity, veiled His majesty and glory, and voluntarily limited the use of His divine privileges and prerogatives (Philippians 2:6). Our Saviour chose to live in obedience to the Father's will with complete reliance on the Spirit's power.

**Jesus was "made in the likeness of men"** (Philippians 2:7). The sovereign Ruler of the universe came to earth as a baby, totally dependent upon others to care for Him. The Creator of all things took on a human body and nature yet was without sin. No one could tell by looking at His external appearance that God had come to live among humankind.

**He took the "form of a bond-servant"** (Philippians 2:7). Stepping down from heaven to become a man was a tremendous condescension, but the Son of God kept lowering Himself. He didn't come as a king or ruler, but as a commoner. The lowest slave in a household was the bond-servant, and he did the most menial tasks. Jesus told His disciples that He did not come to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45), and He even demonstrated this by washing their feet, a task they felt was beneath them (John 13:3-5).

**Jesus "humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death"** (Philippians 2:8). Christ always carried out the Father's will, and His ultimate act of obedience required dying for the sins of the world (1 Peter 3:18). No one was going to take His life; He was going to lay it down on His own initiative, in compliance with the Father's command (John 10:17-18).

**Jesus' death on the cross was supreme humiliation.** Crucifixion was a slow, agonizing way to die and was reserved for the most despicable criminals. Jesus hung there disrobed between two lawbreakers and was mocked and reviled by a crowd as He bore the consequences of sin on behalf of humankind.

***The One who reveals our sin to us has the power to transform us.***



**Humility is what God desires for us.** The Lord has shown us the attitude we need to have if we're to follow Him faithfully. Too often, we focus on our wants—protection, provision, guidance, love, assurance, and blessings—which are all good, but He wants to develop Christlike humility in us. This means we have to do an honest self-evaluation and ask Him to show us where we are prideful. We'll probably discover things about ourselves that we don't like, but the One who reveals them to us has the power to transform us. As we look at the example Christ set for us, we should consider how we measure up to His attitude of humility, by asking:

Do my goals in life focus on self-advancement?

Do I hold tightly to my own rights, privileges, desires, or ways?

Am I willing to empty myself of these rights and preferences and lay them down in obedience to God?

How often do I lower myself to do things that seem beneath me?

Do I consider what I can do to serve someone else, or am I simply looking out for myself?

Greatness begins with humility. No one has ever humbled himself more than Jesus, and for this reason “God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow” (Philippians 2:9-10). Self-promotion may seem like the path to importance, but it leads only to ultimate humbling by God.

When the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest, Jesus told them, “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 20:26). God is far more interested in a spirit of humility than in the great works we can do for Him. Our goal should be to place ourselves under His mighty hand and trust Him to “exalt [us] at the proper time” (1 Peter 5:6). Like Christ, we may not see the exaltation until heaven, but when we finally stand before our heavenly Father, what a joy it will be to hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23 NKJV).



# What a Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding / Brooke Ligertwood

You were the Word at the beginning  
 One with God the Lord Most High  
 Your hidden glory in creation  
 Now revealed in You our Christ.

What a beautiful name it is  
 What a beautiful name it is  
 The name of Jesus Christ my King  
 What a beautiful name it is  
 Nothing compares to this  
 What a beautiful name it is  
 The name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us  
 So Jesus, You brought heaven down  
 My sin was great, Your love was  
 greater  
 What could separate us now.

What a wonderful name it is  
 What a wonderful name it is  
 The name of Jesus Christ my King  
 What a wonderful name it is  
 Nothing compares to this  
 What a wonderful name it is  
 The name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You  
 The veil tore before You  
 You silenced the boast, of sin and  
 grave  
 The heavens are roaring the praise  
 of Your glory  
 For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival  
 You have no equal  
 Now and forever, God You reign  
 Yours is the Kingdom  
 Yours is the Glory  
 Yours is the name, above all names.

What a powerful name it is  
 What a powerful name it is  
 The name of Jesus Christ my King  
 What a powerful name it is  
 Nothing can stand against  
 What a powerful name it is  
 The name of Jesus.

What a powerful name it is  
 The name of Jesus  
 What a powerful name it is  
 The name of Jesus.



Book  
Review  
by:

www.eden.  
co.uk



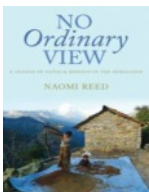
## Picked for a Purpose

£8.79

Born with an undiagnosed bowel disease which was too shameful to speak about, Mel Menzies grew up with a painful life. She felt she 'failed as a daughter' to fit in with her family of sporty extroverts; 'failed as a new convert' when she married with a baby on the way; 'failed as a wife' throughout fifteen years of her husband's affairs; 'failed as a mother' when one daughter became a heroin addict for thirteen years; and 'failed again as a daughter and sister' throughout the twenty years of a family rift.

In fact, seeds sown by the Father when she was only four years of age, put down roots and grew into a faith which led to her becoming a born-again believer and follower. 'Picked' for a writing career which eventually blossomed into her having a Sunday Times Bestseller, Mel soon learned why. Her purpose? To bear fruit for the nourishment of those in need i.e. to comfort others with the comfort she had received from God.

As Mel shares her story so she helps you, her readers, to see the way in which God has picked you, the truth of God's promise that all things work together for good for those who love God, and the life and light you might bring to the world when you blossom, bear fruit, and learn your purpose.



## No Ordinary View

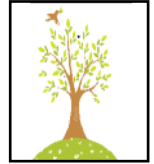
£10.62

'The Himalayan view from our back porch was normally breathtaking but that day I sat there and wondered.

Ten years of civil war, a deteriorating health system, an economic crisis and a political stalemate.

It was a background of hopelessness for the lives of our Nepali friends and the community that we lived in. In such a setting of pain and darkness, how could God reveal his nature? And how could he call me by name? I wasn't sure. I didn't think it was possible.'

From within the uncertainty of Nepal's civil war, Naomi Reed continues the story of her family's desire to train Nepali physiotherapists and share God's love in word and action. Her honesty and genuine longing to see God's purposes and sovereignty make this unforgettable reading.



## Coming Events for April

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- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April                      Outreach on Co-op Car Park:  
11.45am Walk of witness from All  
Saints Church. On to the Co-op Car  
Park 12.00 Midday.
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April                      10.30am Easter Sunday Service.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April                      10.30am Family Service followed  
by bring and share meal together  
afterward.
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April                      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.

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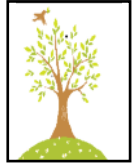
### Remember to Recycle

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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### New Church Contact List

The new Church contact list is now available.



## Coming Events for May

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Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May

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) 10.30am**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Venue to be announced .

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

Meet on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April & Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Venue to be announced.

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

Meet on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April & Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April. 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 Richard & Ru	2 Kevin & Jeanie	3 Brenda	4 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna	5 PonRaj, Jenifer, Peniel & Judah
6 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	7 Tony, Jilly & Family's	8 Ann  Denise	9 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	10 Adrian & Anne	11 Jacquie  Lisa	12 Xochilt, Jonathan, Julissa & Alissia
13 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	14 Maryna	15 Neil & Eileen	16 John & Pat	17 Julian & Caroline	18 Anne- Marie & Alison	19 Brian & Linda
20 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	21 Alyn & Carole	22 Dot	23 David & Carol	24 Joel & Holly	25 Stan & Moirra	26 Lilian & Family
27 Julian & Val	28 Amanda	29 Danny & Pauline	30 Elders			