



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

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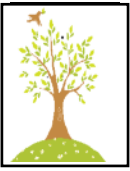


The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9

What's Happening This Month

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Neill's Letter

In our recent family service, we looked at the story of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Things hadn't worked out as they had hoped and they were filled with disappointment, as they trudged along the road. We all know what it feels like to experience disappointment. Sometimes our disappointments are minor, a rainy day when we expected sunshine, or someone has eaten the last chocolate biscuit when we were looking forward to it! Often in our lives our disappointment is not minor, and we feel it deeply. This type of disappointment lingers; it follows us around as we try to come to terms with it. It casts a shadow on everything. It can seem there is no light, no hope.

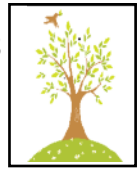
Sadly, disappointment is part of life, we all experience it, sometimes in small ways sometimes in more significant ways.

As the two disciples walked the road out of Jerusalem they were very, very disappointed. My commentators believe they were a married couple, walking in their shared pain, no words needed because they knew what each other was feeling.

Then the risen Lord Jesus walked met them, walked alongside them. And as much as they understood each other's pain, here was their Saviour who really knew, who really understood and who loved them. They didn't recognise him, but Jesus was there with them in their grief, listening to their story of pain and speaking with them.

This can bring us some comfort because the same is true for us. When we are disappointed, when we feel that all our hopes have been smashed to pieces, when we are sad, this is precisely when Jesus himself draws alongside, when he walks close to us. Like the disciples, we may not recognise that he is with us at first...but He is there.

While Jesus walked with his disciples, He talked with them and helped them see what had happened in Jerusalem, that his crucifixion was all part of God's plan to rescue humanity. He showed them it was a plan that was foretold in Scripture hundreds of years earlier.



Jesus showed them the bigger picture, and this gave the disciples back their hope. They understood why Jesus had to die; they could see the part it played in God's rescue mission.

When we are disappointed, it is so hard to see beyond our present experience, we can feel consumed by our pain. When you feel like this, when I feel like this, we can turn to Jesus who is right there with us and he can help us see the bigger picture, he can restore our hope.

Whatever you are going through at this moment, please be encouraged that Jesus himself is walking with you, he is near. You may not feel it but like those footprints on the sand sometimes there is only one set because he is carrying you.

Know the truth that God has your life in his hands, God has a plan for you as an individual and for us as a church.

Isaiah 49 verse 23 says that **'those who hope in God will not be disappointed'**.

God is with you right now as you read this. Stop for a moment, if you will. Close your eyes and take three deep breaths. As you breath in, breath in his love into every part of your being. He is with you no matter what you feel or think. As you breath out whisper his name, Jesus.

Yours in Christ
Neill



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

9th May - Danny

16th May - Andrew

27th May - Richard

28th May - Jenifer

A Very Happy Birthday From Everyone At
Ackworth Community Church



Tony's 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!

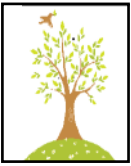
I will be holding a book launch on **Saturday 6th June 2-4pm**, at Brierley Methodist Chapel near Barnsley.

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



What to Do When You Can't See God Working Finding Hope in the Unseen

Are you going through a difficult time in your life? Maybe it's work or stress-related, or maybe you are struggling with relationships. Maybe it's something in your financial life. And no matter what you do in any of those areas, it feels like you're trapped in a pit you can't get out of.

But do you know that the problem you have right now is currently on its way out of your life? It will all come to an end eventually, even if it looks like it won't. Even if it looks like God has abandoned you, He hasn't. He's been with you the whole time!

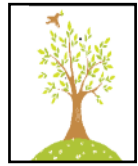
When hard times come, it can be so easy for Satan to distract us from what God is doing in our lives. And in the midst of it all, the devil wants you to focus on what you can see—all of your troubles and fears in the moment—more than what God is doing on your behalf through your struggle.

And if you want to have a steady flow of joy in your life, and peace “which transcends all understanding” (Philippians 4:7 NIV), then you have to learn how to believe what you can't see more than you believe what you can see.

Learning to See the Unseen

You know, Paul talked about seeing the unseen a lot. In his letter to the Church in Ephesus, he wrote: I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe...(Ephesians 1:18-19 NIV).

So you have physical eyes that you use to see the world around you, but you also have spiritual eyes, or the “eyes of your heart,” that give you an awareness of spiritual things that are invisible to the natural eye. Those spiritual things are our “glorious inheritance” that Paul is talking about in Ephesians.



Sadly, we are so accustomed to only believing what we see right in front of us with our natural sight. If we don't see God doing something, then we assume He's not doing anything. But the truth is, He's always working, and if we'll just believe that and keep our hope in Him, then we will see evidence of His work in His time and His way.

And that's when we realize that He was always with us, always doing what was best for us and everyone else in the situation all along.

I've discovered that when I start to get discouraged because of a problem I've been praying about for a long time, instead of getting down in the dumps, it helps to say out loud, "God is working." Because the Bible says if you will believe God is working, even when you don't see it or feel it, then God keeps working (Hebrews 11:1, 6).

A Spiritual Helper

It's difficult at times to trust God more than what we see right in front of us. You might be thinking, Joyce, it's just too much—I can't even begin to see Him in all this. And you're right! On our own, we'll never be able to discern how God is working in our lives.

That's why He's provided us with the Helper (John 14:26-27 ESV). You see, when we accept Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell inside us—God literally gives each one of us a little piece of Himself.

The Holy Spirit trains us to see with our spiritual eyes. He knows exactly what your situation is, and no matter where you are, He knows exactly what you need and can minister to you personally and individually. He will help counsel you, comfort you and protect you; He will not leave you nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6, John 14:26-27, and Hebrews 13:5).

He Is Always Guiding You

You should have seen us in the early days of the ministry. We had a dream of reaching people around the world one day, but our beginning was very



small. We had a car and a little bubble trailer—and there was me and Dave and a worship leader, along with one of our daughters and son-in-law who drove the resources back and forth. There were a lot of tough times, and so many people sacrificed for us to be able to do what we're doing today. But God was there in all of it, moving us along inch by inch.

He guided us to where we are today, and He is doing the same for you!

I just want to encourage you to stop and think several times a day, God is working in my life, God is working on my problem, and God is working on my loved ones. Be full of hope. And no matter what you do—no matter what you see or don't see—always remember that God is present, even if you can't see Him.



Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world,
 You stepped down into darkness,
 Opened my eyes, let me see
 Beauty that made this heart adore
 You,
 Hope of a life spent with You.

So, here I am to worship,
 Here I am to bow down
 Here I am to say that You're my
 God!
 You're altogether lovely, altogether
 worthy,
 Altogether wonderful to me!

King of all days,
 Oh so highly exalted,
 Glorious in Heaven above,
 Humbly You came to the earth You
 created,
 All for love's sake became poor.

So, here I am to worship,
 Here I am to bow down
 Here I am to say that You're my
 God
 You're altogether lovely, altogether
 worthy
 Altogether wonderful to me!

I'll never know how much it cost
 To see my sin upon that cross!
 I'll never know how much it cost
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 Here I am to say that You're my
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 You're altogether lovely, altogether
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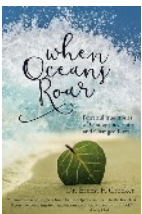
Girl from Montego Bay £15.16

'The late South African president Nelson Mandela once famously declared, "It always seems impossible until it is done." His words could easily have been applied to the life of Rose Hudson-Wilkin... there is a genuine exuberance in her narration that is both contagious and inspiring.'

The *Girl from Montego Bay* is the autobiography of trailblazer Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Britain's first black woman bishop, who has been right at the heart of a changing nation for over forty years.

As a student, Rose had a poster over her desk that read: 'Do not go where the path leads. Instead, go where there is no path and leave a trail.'

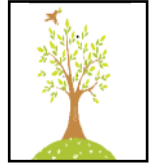
And she does! Offering eye-opening insights into her humble and challenging beginnings in Jamaica, Rose charts her call to train as an evangelist at the Church Army College in London, where she met her future husband, Ken. Captivatingly open to the nudging of the Spirit, Rose simply has a go at everything that comes her way. The discrimination she's faced, due to her gender and minority-ethnic background, is very real. Yet Rose's infectious energy and humour shine through stories of her beloved Hackney,



When Oceans Roar £9.99
Powerful True Stories of Courageous Faith and Changed Lives

When *Oceans Roar* tells the remarkable stories of people who heard the still small voice of God, and saw God do amazing things when they took God at his word and surrendered themselves to him. The stories told in this book represent roads that few people would have chosen.

Yet having said 'yes' to God, and taken the first step, each one was strengthened, empowered and equipped for the journey ahead. It includes the story of a couple who prayed over their child who had no heart beat for three days in the sure knowledge that God would meet them at their point of need, and of a Bangladeshi freedom fighter taken before a firing squad only to learn that God had a plan for his life. This is a book that will challenge you to find your true identity, and having done so to step out of complacency and take risks in the sure knowledge that God will never leave you or forsake you as you surrender yourself to him. Be inspired to listen out for the still small voice of God above the ocean's roar.



Coming Events for May

Monday 18th May

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

Sunday 24th May

10.30am Prayer and Listening to God at the Parish Rooms.

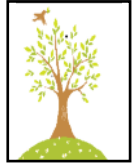


The Information Exchange

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 June

Monday 22nd June

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

Saturday 27th June

Ackworth Gala - Midday at Carr
Bridge Field.



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 5th May, Tuesday 12th May, Tuesday 19th May & Tuesday 26th May. Venue to be announced.

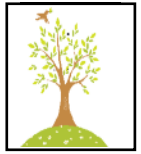
Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise.

Meet on Thursday 7th May, Thursday 14th May, Thursday 21st May & Thursday 28th May. Venue to be announced.

Ackworth Harmony led by Sue & Cheryl

Meet on Thursday 7th May, Thursday 14th May, Thursday 21st May & Thursday 28th May. 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
3-May	10.30am	Simply Jesus/ Communion	Anne	Denise	Joel	No Sunday School	No Creche
10-May	10.30am	Isaiah 54: 2 - 3	Sue	Ash	Lisa	Di	Holly
17-May	10.30am	Isaiah 54: 2 - 3	Sue	Ash	Joel	Sue	Jenny
24-May	10.30am	Prayer & Listening	Ash	Ash	Lisa	No Sunday School	No Creche
31-May	10.30am	1 Chronicles 4: 9 – 10 The Prayer of Jabez	Sue	Neill	Joel	Carole	Val

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 Brian & Linda	2 Joel & Holly	3 Neil & Eileen
4 John & Pat	5 Ann	6 Alyn & Carole	7 David & Carol	8 Lilian & Family	9 Stan & Moir	10 Dot
11 Julian & Caroline	12 Anne- Marie & Alison	13 Danny & Pauline	14 PonRaj, Jenifer, Peniel & Judah	15 Amanda Denise	16 Julian & Val	17 Maryna
18 Adrian & Anne	19 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	20 Jacquie	21 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	22 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	23 Richard & Ru	24 Kevin & Jeanie
25 Xochilt, Jonathan, Julissa & Alissia	26 Andrew, Kimberley, Hannah & Joanna	27 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	28 Brenda	29 Tony, Jilly & Family's	30 Lisa	31 Elders