



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

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Welcome Michael, Helen & Ryan to
Ackworth Community Church

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Michael's Letter



Well, here we are in our first month at Ackworth Community Church. Helen and I are blessed to be involved and look forward to what God has in store for the church's future.

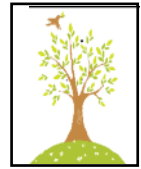
Below are this month's musings... enjoy!

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe'. Prov 18:10

Where is your safe place?

In the past year and a bit before coming to Ackworth, Helen and I attended the local Anglican church. It was a 'safe' place just to be. No demands or expectations and most people we encountered there were friendly. It is a modern, but nonetheless beautiful building and the architect was a genius because the acoustics are like nothing else I have experienced. We got involved in leading worship and once a month I was asked to lead intercessory prayer. It was a safe place to be and a place of rest for me in a way.

The problem was that I wasn't engaging with God in the way I had in the past. This wasn't the church's fault but mine. It seemed a bit like I was 'hiding in plain sight'. How many times had I gone through the motions of a Sunday service, without eagerly seeking God's presence? The main problem was that being part of the worship group had become a distraction. For some reason, I felt a great pressure to be perfect musically and this would often fuel the adrenalin and me to me regularly make mistakes! So, my focus in church services was more on getting from one song to the next than getting closer to God.



One of the blessings was the encouragement and affirmation I received from some of the church members and the lovely prayerful send off we received when it was time to move on. There are things I will miss about St Peters, but it was for a season, a transition and I can see where God's grace was present.

Coming to Ackworth Community Church, my experiences of the presence of God in worship has been incredible. It has also been wonderful in my first few weeks to get to visit church members and get to know them better, as well as meeting members of the community as Helen and I have prayer walked around the village. This left me thinking, where is my safe place now? Places out in the Peak District, church, my chair in a quiet place of prayer. A safe place is a place where God is – His presence brings us the security we need. As David sang, *'my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation (2 Sam 22:3)'*. The name of the Lord (Prov 18:10) is an expression of His character – His awesome power and might, His faithfulness and His love. As we think of the many great aspects of God's character, it leaves us assured that we can find our refuge in Him. So where is your safe place today?

With every blessing
Michael

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

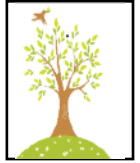
If you would like to receive ministry and prayer for healing, please contact Alyn or Carole who will arrange for members of the ministry team to come and wait on the Lord and pray with you. The healing ministry team are: Alyn and Carole, Brenda, Denise, Jacquie, Dot & Ash.

Birthday Celebrations

7th September - Holly

13th September - Kevin

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

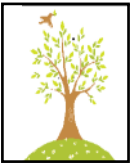


Malawi Prayer Update

Please pray for the churches in Malawi. In addition to the shortage of food, many are experiencing difficulty in finding adequate drinking water, due to the heat of the sun. There is also a mysterious sickness, similar to malaria moving across Malawi, which has led to an increased number of people dying; the sickness has been compared to a wind that is blowing across the whole country. It is partly due to the shortage of food.

Please also pray for another leader to work alongside John Seda and help him carry the burden of leadership.

Many thanks
Alyn.



Wholehearted Living

I remember it as if it were yesterday. I got up out of my seat and went forward. I had only been a Christian for a few months. The message I responded to was to be fully, wholeheartedly committed to the Lord and to follow him with all my heart – wherever that might take me.

Of course, I have had my ups and downs since then, and my fair share of failures. All of us are far from perfect. I still do things that I wish I did not do. But I have been determined to try and follow the Lord with all my heart and be fully committed to him.

To be ‘fully committed’ with ‘all your heart’ means 100% commitment. It means seeking to do what the Lord calls you to do. It means rooting out anything that is bad – ruthlessly tearing down the high places and getting rid of the other gods in the midst of life.

The Lord is looking for those whose ‘hearts are fully committed’ to him (2 Chronicles 16:9). The psalmist prayed, ‘Give me an undivided heart’ (Psalm 86:11). The expression ‘all your heart’ appears many times throughout the Bible. For example, you are to do the following things ‘with all your heart’:

Love the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Matthew 22:36–38)

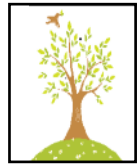
Trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5)

Obey the Lord (Psalm 119:34,69; 1 Chronicles 29:19)

Praise the Lord (Psalm 111:1; 138:1)

Work for the Lord (Nehemiah 4:6; Colossians 3:23).

This is how to enjoy life and life in all its fullness (John 10:10). It’s a life of love, trust, gratitude, joy and meaningful work. In these passages for today we see why and how we should live wholeheartedly.



Give thanks to the Lord our God and King

Give thanks to the Lord our God
and King

His love endures forever

For He is good, He is above all
things

His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever.

With a mighty hand and out-
stretched arm

His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever.

From the rising to the
setting sun

His love endures forever
By the grace of God we will
carry on

His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever Forever.



How Do You Adapt to Change?

I had it all planned out. I would take the beginning of the week and get ahead on articles and assignments, leaving me the rest of the week (and part of the month) to work on a big project left unfinished on my laptop. But as I opened my laptop to begin to work, I quickly found it was not working correctly. I spent the rest of that week not working on the articles and getting ahead as planned, but instead, I went to the store, ordered new equipment, and restarted the computer.

If you've ever had computer problems like mine, you know what a hassle it is. It can take up to a week to order one, get everything transferred onto the new computer, and wipe the other computer clean. These were far from the plans I had for myself that week.

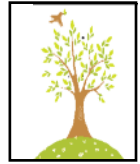
Additionally, some health challenges early this summer forced me to cancel a much-needed vacation. This summer has been far from what I planned.

This left me mad at God, and one day, I sorted out my feelings with him. Couldn't I have a vacation where I could get some much-needed rest? Isn't that what God wants for us?

While I may never know why I couldn't have a vacation this summer or why one hardship after another had to hit our family, I do know one thing: no matter how hard I plan for something, God can always step in and change my plans.

There's nothing wrong with having a plan for your life. Every year, we make goals and set New Year's resolutions, hoping to have a better life the following year. We set goals for a financial windfall; we plan to exercise and eat better to care for our health, etc. It's our responsibility to make plans for our lives. We should always want to move forward and see what God has next in his agenda for us.

But we can't lose sight of God's plan. God is ultimately in control. He's the one who orders our steps. God can re-direct our steps no matter what direction we plan to go. A person who is wholly yielded to God will allow this to happen. They will not fight the redirection but adjust their plans to accommodate the new direction.



The book *Who Moved My Cheese?* illustrates this idea. There is a piece of cheese in a specific part of a maze. The mice bounce back and forth to get that cheese. However, when the cheese is moved, two mice and two humans have a decision to make. The book depicts four different reactions to change, represented by four characters: Sniff, Scurry, Hem, and Haw. Sniff and Scurry adapt to the change, adjusting their direction to locate the cheese and devour its goodness again. The other two, Hem and Haw, complain that the cheese has been moved. They spend so much time complaining and resisting change that they starve because they allow the change to overtake them.

In life, we make plans. But God's the one who ultimately makes those plans come to fruition. We can spend our time complaining and hoping God changes his mind and allows our plans to happen, or we can adjust to his new plan and realize that his plans are always for our good. We sometimes make plans with impure motives, looking for our selfish gain. But God cares more about our character and hearts than he does about our prosperity in this life.

Earth is just a stopping point. This is not our home. Our home is in heaven. God is refining us to be the Christ-like people God wants for us when we reach heaven. Part of that refining is how we adapt to change.

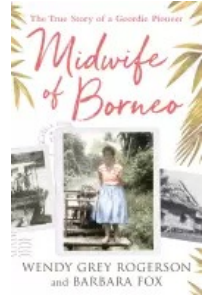
Will you allow God to change your plans? Will you spend your time being mad at God, isolating yourself from him? Or will you adjust to and embrace the change with gladness, knowing that God always has your best interest at heart?

Father, thank you for being in control of our lives. When we make plans, help us adjust accordingly when those plans change. Help us seek your wisdom, knowing that your plans are always about refining our character rather than earthly prosperity. Amen.



Book
Review
by:

www.eden.
co.uk



Midwife of Borneo
The True Story of a Geordie Pioneer

£9.38

Imagine Call the Midwife, but instead of the cobbled streets and rushing bicycles of 1950s East End London there are the lush jungles of Borneo, and a Geordie nurse answering calls from native people who have never seen a face as pale as hers before.

Her life in Newcastle was a comfortable one. As a trained nurse with a promising future ahead of her, Wendy Gray's future seemed secure. Fixed. Or, it would be if she didn't sense God calling her elsewhere, to a place a little warmer and wilder than the streets of Newcastle.

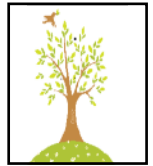
Soon she finds herself thousands of miles away from home, hundreds of miles away from urban life, running a clinic so remote from everything she's ever known that many of her patients stare at her light skin with disbelief. But it's not only her appearance that causes a stir. In a place where witchcraft is the primary form of medical care, there is a wall of suspicion about these alien practices Wendy brings to the area. Not that her resilient friendliness doesn't begin to win the inhabitants over one-by-one. She soon wins over the trust and respect of the men, women and children there.



Light Through the Cracks £12.33
How God Breaks In When Life Turns Tough

Light through the Cracks contains ten true stories, united by a common theme:

All of them feature ordinary people encountering God, in extraordinary ways, in the toughest of life's circumstances. Starting with her own dramatic story of the car accident that could have left her dead or paralysed, Joanna Watson writes authentically and compellingly of how God breaks in when life turns tough. Each story raises faith, builds hope, and encourages readers to look for God's Light through the cracks in their own challenging situations.



Coming Events for September

Sunday 8th September

6pm Induction Service for Michael

Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th
September.

Toddler groups re-start

Monday 23rd September

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

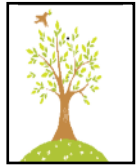


The Information Exchange

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 October

Monday 21st October

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

Monday 28th October

Half term so no Toddler Group meeting this week.



Small Group Meetings

Do get involved in a mid-week group and let us know which one you're hoping to be part of.

Alpha Groups 7pm

There will be no post alpha groups during September.

Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise

Meet on Thursday 5th September, Thursday 12th September, Thursday 19th September & Thursday 26th September at Dot's house - Midday. **Starting a new series on 1 Peter.**

Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (Zoom 8pm)

Meet on Thursday 5th September, Thursday 12th September, Thursday 19th September & Thursday 26th September./
Continuing the series on Revelation.

Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting at 6pm, venue to be announced.



Worship, Preaching, Projection and Children's Rota.

Date	Time	Theme	Worship	Preaching	Projection	Sunday School	Creche
1-Sept	10.30am	Simply Jesus / Communion Encounter- ing Jesus	Michael	Michael	Lisa	No Sunday School	No Creche
8- Sept	10.30am 6pm	2 Samuel 14 Michael's Induction	Michael	Michael	Jeanie Joel	Carole (Theme: The New Leader)	Val
15-Sept	10.30am	WKBP Skin of my teeth Job 19	Michael	Ash	Lisa	Di (Theme: What is God Like)	Holly
22-Sept	10.30am	WKBP A man after my own heart 1 Sam 13	Sue	Neill	Joel	Ash (Theme: What did God Make)	Jacque
29-Sept	10.30am	WKBP How the mighty have fallen 2 Sam 1	Sue	Denise	Lisa	Sue (Theme: Looking after the World)	Natalia

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 Michael & Helen
2 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	3 Anne- Marie & Alison	4 Dot	5 Andrew, Kimber- ley, Hannah & Joanna	6 John & Pat	7 John & Lilian	8 Kevin & Jeanie
9 Jacquie	10 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	11 Tony, Jilly & Family's	12 Denise	13 Brian & Linda	14 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	15 Ann
16 Joel & Holly	17 May	18 Neil & Eileen	19 Brenda	20 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope	21 Julian & Valerie	22 Amanda
23 Alyn & Carole	24 Joan A James	25 Lisa	26 Adrian, Anne & Family	27 Maryna	28 Julian & Caroline	29 Stan & Moira
30 Elders						