



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

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Michael's Letter

'So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others' Romans 12:5



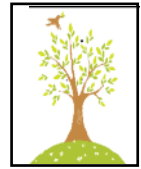
Closer Together

Some years ago, when I was still in Baptist training I went on a professional development workshop and as part of it was concerned with family background. We were given an exercise to do. With a partner we were given a pile of pebbles all different shapes and sizes and we were asked to choose different ones to represent family members and to place in relation to ourselves and in closeness to us I expect - I can't remember exactly what was required, it was a long time ago!

So I began with a pebble representing me and started arranging pebbles around to represent parents, brothers (I have no sisters), and presumably grandparents, uncles and so on. Again, I don't remember well so I'm guessing wider relatives were included.

When I'd finished I invited my partner to give her thoughts on it. She noticed something I hadn't, but was very significant. She noticed that none of my pebbles were together. None of them touched. I hadn't even realised it but I told her that this accurately represented my family relationship. None of us were really close - and we still aren't. We don't really keep in touch although I do make a point of calling my mother and brother now and then. I mainly keep in touch with my dad by text. If I didn't keep in touch there's every chance I wouldn't hear from them at all.

Part of finding change amidst the relational setbacks of the past is the opportunity to re-experience those relationships in a new and positive way. Being a Christian has meant having a loving heavenly dad who is



for me and closer than any other. It means having a Saviour, closer than any brother, closer than any friend and standing beside me through life's challenges. Being a Christian also means having a much larger family. Every true Christian is my brother or sister. We are one body. We need each other to function as we should. We belong to one another.

In last Sunday's prayer meeting Helen was praying and the Lord gave her a passage of Scripture to share from Zeph 3:9, *"Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder"*. Immediately, the picture came to my mind of an army of God's people, standing shoulder to shoulder. Hmm, I'm trying to remember if they were actually touching – they probably were. Nevertheless, they looked and felt undefeatable, standing united in God's presence.

So, unique as we are with our different strengths and vulnerabilities, together with God we are a force to be reckoned with against the forces that work against His will. Standing shoulder to shoulder, for Him and for each other we can be effective in His Kingdom and His mission.

God bless you richly

Your friend and brother
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, Michael, Helen, 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: Michael, Helen, Alyn, Carole, Brenda, Denise, Jacque, Dot & Ash.

Birthday Celebrations

2nd October - John B

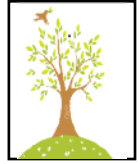
14th October - Joel

18th October - Pat

27th October - Val

27th October - Maryana

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



This I Believe (The Creed)

Our Father everlasting
The all-creating One
God Almighty
Through your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour.

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious light
Forever seated high.

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord
(I believe)
And I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.

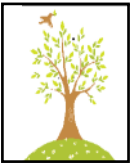
I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.
(Repeat)

For I believe in the Name of Jesus
For I believe in the Name of Jesus
(We believe in Lord Jesus)

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your Holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.
(Repeat)

Benjamin David Fielding / Matthew
Philip Crocker. Hillsong Music .



Promise verse for October...

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6*

I thought it would be good each month to be reminded of some of the promises of God in Scripture, the truth's about Him, His character and His love for us are always good to treasure in our hearts.

I also thought it would be good to memorise them together as a church and having a whole month to do so ought to make you pretty much proficient!

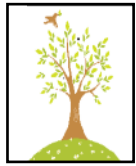
Memorising scripture is good to help us remember and apply His word, but also to ensure we use them correctly – often we think we know a Bible verse, only to find when we actually read it that it doesn't say exactly what we thought it did. So, it is important and valuable.

I find memorising by repetition, often phrase by phrase until I remember the whole verse confidently takes me 2 days for it to stick. Just remember to do it at different points through the day until you remember it. then, make sure you repeat it now and then to make sure it stays with you. It's like learning a language, if you don't keep it up you'll lose it... As I learned more recently when I stopped learning French! I might move on to not learning Italian next! Actually, I didn't have a good reason to learn French so lacked motivation, so it's not surprising. The Bible on the other hand is well worth my time and effort to remember!!

Now, if you want more of a challenge, why not memorise the next two verses of Proverbs 3 after you have learned these first two...

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

vv. 7-8

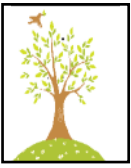


So that's an optional extra, but after remembering the verses it is really important to reflect and ask the Lord how to put them into practice. So, its more than brain training, it's discipleship!

Of course you don't have to stop there. As the Lord lays a particular Scripture on your heart during your Bible reading, why not memorise it?

Have fun and we'll see how you get on!

Michael.



Streets of Light



Back in 2016, Helen Ward was shocked to see the gruesome images her local pub had on display to celebrate Halloween. She writes, 'Is this really the first thing you want people to see as they come here? Is this the image that you want for this neighbourhood?', and my simple answer was 'No.'"

This gave birth to the Streets of Light movement in Sheffield and other parts of the country. So here's a challenge... for the week leading to Halloween – the Streets of Light week (so this year it begins Saturday 26th October to Sunday 3rd November). Decorate a window with words of Light, Love and Hope.

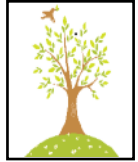
They can be simple or more elaborate. Usually made using thick black paper or card and coloured tissue paper. They could be made as one piece or several pieces stuck with blue or white tack to the window. Sheets of white tissue paper can be used as backing to maintain privacy if you have the curtains open. Or use an upstairs window for more privacy – just as long as the window can be lit up during the evening.

Images and Bible verses or phrases could be used. A cross or a lighthouse for example with the words 'Jesus the light of the world'.



It would be great if some of us could make window displays and in addition, on the 31st October at 6pm till 7pm I'll be holding a time of prayer at Alyn and Carole's at 2A Vale View. We'll be praying for the streets of Ackworth and for God's light to break through the darkness as well as celebrating the joy, hope and encouragement of Jesus.

I can arrange lifts if going out at that time seems onerous or uninviting.



To find out more about Streets of Light, look them up on Facebook (there is a 'Streets of Light' Facebook page). Go to the Streets of Light Website: <https://www.streetsoflight.co.uk/>

If you want help or resources for your window display talk to me and I'll help. I might even make a few small simple displays if you ask me early enough in October.

The pictures shown here are from the Facebook page and are just examples. Some are very elaborate but you can make something much more simple and just as effective and you don't need to fill a large window pane – provided its visible from the street. Take a look at the many examples online for inspiration!



Will you spread some light and hope this season?

Every blessing
Michael.



Praying for Ackworth – North, South, West and East

During a recent prayer meeting when we were praying for revival,
God spoke to us from Isaiah 43: 5-7

- ⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
- ⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

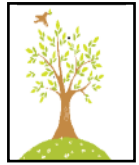
At the same time, we were led to sing the song 'Men of faith rise up and sing', which has a chorus:

Shout to the North and the South
Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth

Let us take up what the Lord is saying to us and pray for Ackworth. The prayer map on the opposite page may help you in praying for different areas, there are probably more to add, please let me know.

To get the directions, if you want to pray facing the right way, from the Parish Rooms, Pontefract is to the North, Barnsley to the South, Doncaster is East and Wakefield West.

Alyn.



Praying for Ackworth – North, South, West and East

NORTH

High Ackworth
Low Ackworth
Mount Pleasant
Hillside
Bell Lane

WEST

Holly Bank
Hayfield Estate
Strata Estate
Bracken Hill
Moortop

PARISH ROOMS

EAST

Doncaster Road
Doncaster Road Estate
Mill Lane Area

SOUTH

Charlestown
Orchard Drive
Howard Drive
Rhyddings Estate
Chiltern Drive

Please pray for:

Churches Together

St. Cuthberts
Quakers
Methodists
All Saints

Schools

Howard School
Quaker School
Mill Dam School
Bell Lane School
Oakfield Park School

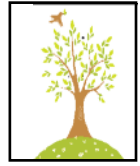


Malawi Prayer Update

One concerning issue in Malawi is the shortage of water in Tsumba village due to the fact that the local well has dried up. As a result of this, many of the villagers are walking to the Village of Light farm, the headquarters of the Church, and begging John the Church Leader to give them water. This puts John in a difficult position because he doesn't know how long his water supply will last.

John has a friend who understands how wells work. This gentleman made a preliminary visit to the farm and he told John that he would return in the near future. Please pray that a solution can be found to fix the well in Tsumba, that the man will return to fix it, and for the ongoing supply of fresh water.

Alyn.



Mystery Made Known

The best novelists are able to write in such a way that as you read through a story, the ending is a mystery but, when you look back from the end, the clues were there all along.

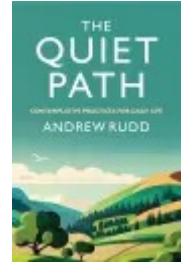
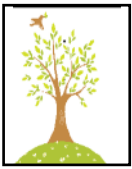
In today's New Testament passage, the apostle Paul tells us that God has revealed the mystery of Christ. He writes about 'the mystery made known to me by revelation... the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit' (Ephesians 3:3-5).

Reading the Old Testament is like going into a dark room full of furniture. We get a sense of what is inside the room by feeling the sofas, chairs and pictures. But, as we read the New Testament, it is as if a light has been switched on and we see the room clearly. Jesus places the Old Testament in new light. To paraphrase St Augustine, **'In the Old the New is concealed, in the New the Old is revealed.'**

Jesus is the climax of God's great plan for the world. Thus, Paul writes, 'My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along' (vv.8-9, MSG). The word that Paul uses (photisai) means 'to turn the light on so that people can see'.

The secret God reveals in Jesus is reconciliation not only with God but also with one another. Paul tells us, 'This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus' (v.6). Both Jews and Gentiles can now approach God on equal terms.

If we are in Christ, we are all reconciled to God and to one another – regardless of race or social and cultural background. It must also apply to the church: Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Pentecostal, and so on. In the Old Testament, we see only hints of this – it was concealed to some extent. Now, however, the mystery has been revealed in Christ.

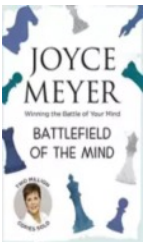


The Quiet Path

£12.36

The Quiet Path explores how to discover the spiritual realities of goodness and love in ordinary daily experience and everyday practices. Through a series of 'quiet walks', sometimes physical, but mostly through the landscape of the heart, it cultivates contemplative practices that will lead to deeper awareness of the presence of God in all things.

In a series of short reflections that blend prose and poetry, Andrew Rudd explores walking, noticing, reading, writing, meeting, seeing, breathing, feeling, thinking, inhabiting and blessing as spiritual practices that are available to all. Each page offers a short walk, a small spiritual exercise, a small inward journey, that leads to a knowing of the heart. Each section stands alone, so the book can be dipped into.



Battlefield Of The Mind £10.53

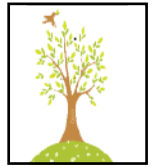
"Our actions are a direct result of our thoughts. If we have a negative mind, we will have a negative life. If, on the other hand, we renew our mind according to God's Word, we will prove out 'the good and acceptable and perfect will of God' for our lives."

Worry, doubt, confusion, depression, anger and feelings of condemnation - all these are attacks on the mind. But take heart! Joyce Meyer has helped millions to change their lives by changing the way they think.

Joyce Meyer's all-time bestselling book:

Shows you how to control the thousands of thoughts you have every day
Helps you to recognise damaging thoughts that can influence your life
Identifies the 'Wilderness Mentalities' that hold us back.

Demonstrates how to focus your mind to think the way Jesus thought.
Joyce shares the trials, tragedies and ultimate victories from her own marriage, family and ministry that have led her to amazing, life-transforming truth, and reveals her thoughts and feelings every step of the way.



Coming Events for October

Monday 21 st October	All articles for the News Letter must be received by Lisa.
Saturday 26 th October - 3 rd November	Streets of Light (see article)
Saturday 26 th October	Focused Day: Theme, venue and timings tbc.
Tuesday 29 th October & Wednesday 30 th October	Half term so no Toddler Group meeting this week.
Thursday 31 st October	6pm-7pm Prayer meeting at Alyn & Carole's.



The Information Exchange

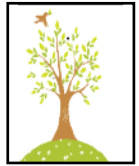
This is a place where you can request prayer for yourself or others, share your need /request for help, exchange surplus goods, or if you have some spare time, help someone with gardening, housework, shopping etc. You can use this section also if you want to say anything to the Church. Just ask Lisa 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.

Christmas Meal at The White Horse Charlston

The Christmas Meal at The White Horse will be on Friday 6th December 6.30pm. The menu will be available soon. Please see Lisa if you would like to go.



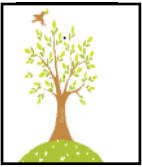
Coming Events for November

Monday 25th November

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

Friday 29th November

Christmas Lights switch on.



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

There will be no post alpha groups during October.

Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise

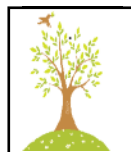
Meet on Thursday 3rd October, Thursday 10th October, Thursday 17th October, Thursday 24th October & Thursday 31st October at Dot's house - Midday. **Starting a new series on 1 Peter.**

Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (Zoom 8pm)

Meet on Thursday 3rd October, Thursday 10th October, Thursday 17th October, Thursday 24th October **continuing in 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
6-Oct	10.30am	Simply Jesus / Communion (Theme) Open Doors	Michael	Michael	Joel	No Sunday School	No No Creche
13-Oct	10.30am	1 Sam 13:14 Man After My Own Heart	Michael	Neill	Jeanie	Ash (Theme) The two Sons	Cerwys
20-Oct	10.30am	Ecc 10:20 A Little Bird Told Me	Sue	Ash	Lisa	Carole (Theme:) The man who wouldn't forgive	Val
27-Oct	10.30am	Mathew 5:41 Go The Extra Mile	Michael	Michael	Joel	Di (Theme:) The good Friend	Holly

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 Ann	2 Julian & Valerie	3 Brenda	4 Alyn & Carole	5 Lisa	6 Neill, Sue, Grace & Hope
7 Maryna	8 Stan & Moiria	9 Neil & Eileen	10 Julian & Caroline	11 Ash, Di. & Ceryws	12 May	13 Adrian, Anne & Family
14 Andrew, Kimber- ley, Hannah & Joanna	15 Matt, Cheryl, Oscar & Georgina	16 Amanda	17 Michael & Helen	18 Dot	19 Kevin & Jeanie	20 Joel & Holly
21 John & Lilian	22 Brian & Linda	23 Tony, Jilly & Family's	24 John & Pat	25 Dimytro, Natalia & Denys	26 Denise	27 Anne- Marie & Alison
28 Jacquie	29 Joan A James	30 Ann	31 Elders			