



Ackworth Community Church News Letter

www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk

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See, I am doing a new thing! Isaiah 43:19

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Michael's Letter

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

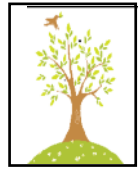
Psalms 150



I have owned a guitar of one kind or another for many years but that is not evidenced by my abilities. My finger picking is still little better than rudimentary, harmonics are still a bit hit and miss. One key reason for this is, over the years I have tended only to pick it up when I needed it for something, instead of practicing daily – if only for 15 mins.

I read recently that if you want the passage of time to stop feeling like it is going at mach 2 then you need to learn new things, take up new hobbies etc. The idea is that throughout childhood you are learning new stuff all the time and as a result the passage of time seems slower compared to when you reach adulthood and gain the wisdom that accompanies grey hair (or disappearance of for some of us). Now instruments can provide lifelong learning, provided you pick it up and play it regularly.

Having suffered a bout of illness, which I'm still not over, not only has it set me back in terms of getting started in to January, it also made me realise that January has already nearly gone! Tide and time wait for no man! Whilst stuck indoors sick, one miserable day just blurred into another. Looking back, I could have used the time listening to music (listening was probably all I was capable of) more to the point worship music. Whatever our circumstances, however hard they seem, it is



always a good time to worship and praise God. To draw close to Him, connect with God in worship and receive His love.

Did you know music (playing, singing or listening is good for our health in many ways?) It reduces stress, can decrease anxiety and pain and help us manage our emotions. Music is good for our brains, activating just about every region! Playing music can improve memory. Singing can boost your immune system and there is evidence to suggest that singing can stop you snoring by toning up the muscles in your airways!

So, there are many reasons to praise the Lord in song, on harp and lyre - or guitar, uke, keyboard, flute or paper and comb! So, Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs (Psalm 100:2).

Much love
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.

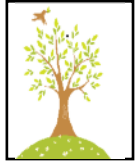
Birthday Celebrations

6th February - Neill G

11th February - Julian

25th February - Grace

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



Remembering John with Thanksgiving



John Issitt was born on 6th February 1938 in Boston Lincolnshire. He grew up with 4 sisters and quickly developed his mischievous nature. His smile has become one of the qualities that many people remember about him.

John played the cornet and piano from an early age and learnt his craft from playing with the Salvation Army. He has contributed to worship with his musical skills throughout his life.

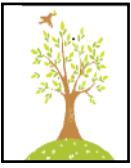
John was called up to serve his National Service in the RAF and played with the RAF band. Following this, he entered the training college for the Salvation Army and became an officer. He met Lilian in the early days of being a Salvation Army officer and they served together for 20 years.

The family settled in Yorkshire and John went on to become the Secretary to the Council of Voluntary Service in Wakefield from where he retired.

John and Lilian have been active members of the Ackworth Community Church for around 30 years, where they have shared in faith with numerous friends. They also served on the committee for the Ackworth concert society which brought live musical concerts to the village on a regular basis.

Lilian would like to express thanks for all the support both her and John have received from the church family in recent years. This demonstrates the love of God that can be shared amongst his followers.

Lilian & family



Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness," O God
my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with
Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy
compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever
wilt be.

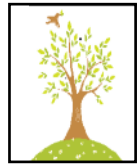
"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great
is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies
I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness,"
Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer
and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope
for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thou-
sand beside!

"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new
mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness,"
Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and
springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their
courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold
witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy
and love.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new
mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness,"
Lord, unto me!



Verse of the Month..

They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water. Isaiah 49:10

It might be difficult to imagine the sun beating down on us as we continue through the winter months. But spring isn't far away so be encouraged! This is an encouraging verse reminding us of God's compassion for us, assuring us that he will provide for our deepest needs. And in terms of His provision in the times ahead, I was reminded of an earlier passage of Isaiah...

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19

As we watch, pray and serve we look forward to times of refreshing and good things out of the riches of His grace!

Memorise this verse if this is part of your rhythm of life with God, or keep note of it somewhere and remind yourself of it through your weeks this month. Note the changes you experience. Also, if it makes a difference keep it going!

A good incentive to memorise Scripture is 2 Timothy 2:15:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Michael.



A Prayer for Embracing God's Unexpected Plans

Working as an executive assistant/production assistant, I quickly learned to have multiple plans. I'd have plan a, b, c, and sometimes d. I cannot tell you how many times my boss would come to me and say, "There's been a change of plans." As the famous saying goes, "The show must go on." Adaptability and flexibility were imperative to ensuring the show would go on.

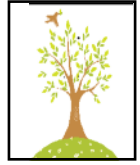
Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." In regard to our relationship with the Lord, it's important to know how to be flexible and adaptable. The comforting thing with the Lord is that He knows us better than we know ourselves.

Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

The Lord knows what we need and where we need to be, even if it's hard. I recently heard someone say, "Just because it's hard doesn't mean it's not good."

As an executive assistant/production assistant, I often felt pushed to the brink of my capacity. I had to remain dependent on the Lord most days. However, the lessons and skills I learned at that job helped me tremendously when I started my business. That tough season was the training I needed to operate in my current season.

You may feel discouraged and disappointed if you're in a difficult season and the plans have changed multiple times or completely fallen through. Sometimes, you need to take a moment and grieve what you thought would be and entrust your tears to the one who invented them. Then get up, shake yourself off, and ask God to help you trust him. Because he knows what he is doing and can see the whole picture.



Psalm 18:30 says, "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him."

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you're the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Thank you that you're almighty, and you see the whole picture, and you're in control, even when things feel chaotic. Father, I pray for my brothers and sisters who are reading this devotional today. You know exactly what they are facing and feeling, and you know the plans they have.

*Lord, it can be hard to trust you, especially when things go awry. We often have our hearts set on people, goals, or things. I pray that you will help us to always have our heart, mind, soul, and affection on you. I ask that you help us when we face disappointments in the way our life is going. Psalm 84:11 says, **"For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."***

Lord, help us know that just because things have not gone our way, you are not withholding anything from us. We love you. Please help us to love and trust you more today than we did yesterday. Amen.



Book
Review
by:

www.eden.
co.uk



Night Bird Calling

£14.60

From award-winning author Cathy Gohlke, whose novels have been called “haunting” (Library Journal on *Saving Amelie*) and “page-turning” (Francine Rivers on *Secrets She Kept*), comes a historical fiction story of courage and transformation set in rural Appalachia on the eve of WWII.

When Lilliana Swope’s beloved mother dies, Lilliana gathers her last ounce of courage and flees her abusive husband for the home of her only living relative in the foothills of No Creek, North Carolina. Though Hyacinth Belvidere hasn’t seen Lilliana since she was five, she offers her cherished great-niece a safe harbour. Their joyful reunion inspires plans to revive Aunt Hyacinth’s estate and open a public library where everyone is welcome, no matter the colour of their skin.

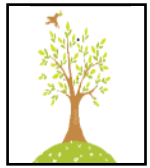


Under Scottish Stars

£13.18

Recently widowed Serena MacDonald Stewart focuses on her children to the exclusion of her career, her art, and her sanity. When her brothers ask her to oversee the family guest house on the Isle of Skye, it’s a chance to dust off her long-ignored business skills and make a new start. But her hopes for a smooth transition are dashed when the hotel manager, Malcolm Blake, turns out to be irritating, condescending . . . and incredibly attractive.

Malcolm Blake gave up everything—his home, his girlfriend, and his career—to return to Skye and raise his late sister’s teenage daughter. With few job opportunities available on the island, he signs on as the manager of the MacDonald family hotel, which he’s soon running successfully without interference from the owners. That is, until Serena shows up, challenging his authority and his conviction that there’s nothing missing from his new life on Skye.



Coming Events for February

Monday 3rd February

Funeral Service for John Issitt.
1.40pm, Pontefract Crematorium.
After the service, the family will be
gathering at the Kingscroft Hotel,
Pontefract. All are welcome to join
them for the service and at Kingscroft.

Wednesday 12th February

Toddler Group Half Term Holiday.

Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd
February

Michael is away.

Wednesday 19th February

Toddler Group returns.

Monday 24th February

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

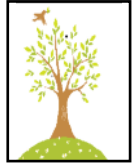


The Information Exchange

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.



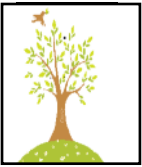
Coming Events for March

Sundays 9th, 16th and 23rd
March and 6th April

The Lent Course, a joint Churches
Together event. Details to follow.

Monday 24th March

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.

Alpha Groups

There will be no post alpha groups until further notice.

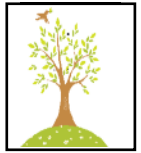
Thursday Lunch Group led by Denise

Meet on Thursday 6th February, Thursday 13th February, Thursday 20th February & Thursday 27th February at Dot's home at midday. Continuing series on the Gospel of John.

Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (Zoom 8pm)

Meet on Thursday 6th February, Thursday 13th February, Thursday 20th February & Thursday 27th February. New series to be announced.

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
2-Feb	10.30am	Simply Jesus / Communion Gideons	Michael	Jules	Lisa	No Sunday School	No Creche
9-Feb	10.30am	Praying the Full Armour of God Ephesians 6 - 16 Shield of Faith	Michael	Ash	Joel	TBA	TBA
16-Feb	10.30am	Praying the Full Armour of God Ephesians 6 - 15 Feet Fitted with the Gospel of Peace	Sue	Denise	Lisa	Di	Holly
23-Feb	10.30am	Praying the Full Armour of God Ephesians 6 - 14B Breastplate of Righteousness	Sue	Neill	Joel	Carole	Val
						The Friend At Midnight	

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