



# Ackworth Community Church News Letter

[www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.ackworthcommunitychurch.co.uk)

Issue 237  
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Then they nailed him to a cross  
Mark 15:24

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## Michael's Letter

*'Do not despise these small beginnings...'*  
*Zech 4:10*



How have you been getting on with the 40 Acts if you have been taking part? Hopefully you

haven't been hard on yourself if you missed some or felt you'd rather not do some of them.

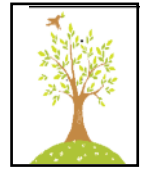


There have been some that I've been surprised by like 'begin to learn a new language', which featured on day 6. Well, so far I can say, 'Non ho fatto progressi'! You can probably guess the meaning.

Of course many of the challenges are ones you might expect. Small acts of kindness like taping coins to a parking meter or paying for a cup of coffee for the customer who comes in after you.

Now we may wonder in the great scheme of things what good do these small acts of kindness do? But in God's hands these little things, these small beginnings could make a profound difference. Small acts could start a ripple that form a wave of blessing!

The passage above from Zechariah refers to the words spoken to him by the angel in relation to Zerubbabel rebuilding the temple. I expect it has been used in many sermons over the years where modest projects have been undertaken by the church or when the church is few in number.



Probably encouraging folks not to become disheartened – God is bigger than the circumstances.

Another well known passage in this chapter serves as a reminder that success will come through God's Spirit not by human might or resources. '...'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty (Zech 4:6).'

God's presence, God's power, His purpose makes possible that which we can only dream and in His hands small beginnings can make great impact.

My memory is sketchy, but I recall about 20 odd years ago a tutor at Mattersey telling of a 'God' incident that occurred in church. During the service a member of church stands and says that he kept feeling God was prompting him to say something. Given the word the Lord was prompting him to say, his resistance was understandable because the word was 'polo'. Upon saying the word a woman in the congregation begins to cry.

Coming into the church she was looking through her bag and there was a packet of Polos. She said something like, 'Lord if you are real and love me let someone say Polo to me'. This is not an accurate account because time has eroded memory, but you get the point.

Do not despise the day of small things!

Every blessing  
Michael





## 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, Jacquie, Dot & Ash.

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### Birthday Celebrations

7<sup>th</sup> April - Helen

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

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

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

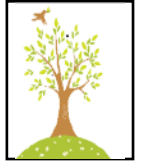
12<sup>th</sup> April - Oscar

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**



# Celebrating

Celebrating with Tony on his 75th birthday as he and Jilly completed the 3.5 mile Nostell Priory Park Run.



Tony running.



Adrian, Alyn, Julian, Tony, Brenda, Carole, Anne.



## Verse of the Month..

*Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV*

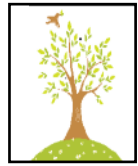
I didn't expect to be returning to *Proverbs 3*, certainly not as soon as this. But I was drawn to this scripture, particularly because I read it in the Message version. I am not always enamoured by the Message's take on the Bible, but in the case of *Proverbs 3:9-10* it really got my attention.

Honour God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. *Proverbs 3:9-10 MSG*

It was the phrase 'give Him the first and the best' that caught hold of me. Something God laid on my heart in recent months was to 'give Him the best'. I feel it's a value that as a church we must take to heart. Something that we take in and put into practice until it really is a fundamental value we live by. Jesus has clearly shown us that God deserves our very best. Let's apply this truth and hide this word from *Proverbs 3* in our hearts.

*Psalms 119:11* talks about hiding or storing God's word in the heart. The psalmist writes, 'that I might not sin against you'. We might add that we may honour you, serve you and be fruitful. Whichever version you prefer to use, hide this word in your heart this month and consider what giving God the best means in the situations you find yourself.

God Bless  
Michael



## *My Eyes Were Opened*

*Mark 10:32–52*

If Jesus asked you, **‘What do you want me to do for you?’**, how would you reply? In this passage Jesus asks this question twice (vv.36,51). The disciples give the wrong answer (v.37). Bartimaeus gives the right answer: ‘I want to see’ (v.51).

Some people simply do not see it. Some have described the death of Jesus as ‘unexpected and tragic’. But, in fact, it was planned, prophesied and predicted.

This passage in Mark’s Gospel (vv.32–34) is the third and most detailed prediction Jesus gave about his death. It shows us that Jesus expected his own death and even his resurrection (vv.33–34). His death was not unexpected. It was a deliberate choice. It would end not in tragedy, but in triumph.

Further, he had a clear understanding of the purpose of his death and the results: ‘For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many’ (v.45).

The background to Jesus’ understanding of his own death includes Isaiah 53 – one of the ‘suffering servant’ passages. We see here clear evidence that Jesus saw his own death in terms of this ‘suffering servant’.

### **Suffering**

Why did Jesus come into this world? He understood that the whole purpose of his mission was to suffer. This is the reason he ‘came’ (Mark 10:45b). He came to give his life for you and me.

### **Servant**

Jesus uses the expression ‘to serve’ (v.45a). He saw himself as ‘the servant’. He came not to be served, but ‘to serve’. The expression ‘to give his life’ (v.45b) echoes the words of the servant in Isaiah 53:10 (‘makes his life an offering for sin’) and Isaiah 53:12 (‘he poured out his life unto death’).



## **Saviour**

The word 'ransom' (Mark 10:45b) is used of prisoners of war and slaves. It means the price paid for redemption (Numbers 18:15–16). It is paid to set the captives free. Jesus' death on the cross saves you and me by setting us free.

## **Substitute**

The word translated 'for' in Mark 10:45 is the Greek word *anti* which means 'in place of', and it suggests the idea of substitution. It is this idea of suffering in our place that so strongly underlies Isaiah 53. By using these words Jesus showed that he believed that his death was not accidental or for his own sin, but suffering 'in the place of' others who would otherwise have had to suffer.

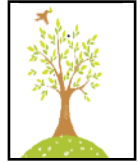
Further, Jesus understood his own death in the light of the metaphor of the cup (Mark 10:38). The Old Testament speaks of the cup of God's 'wrath' against sin. Jesus speaks of 'the cup I drink' (v.38). He saw himself as drinking the cup of God's hostile reaction to sin on our behalf.

By his death and resurrection Jesus defeated sin, evil and death. As a result, you can be forgiven, set free from guilt, shame and addictions. You can be sure of the ultimate triumph of good over evil. You need not fear the future. Death itself has been defeated.

When Jesus asked his disciples, 'What do you want me to do for you?', they gave the wrong answer. They wanted position (v.37). It's always a temptation for Christian leaders to compete with one another for the most prominent position.

We are called to follow Jesus, serving him and each other. Spiritual ambition is not wrong, but it is possible to have the wrong sort of spiritual ambition. This could be as subtle as seeking our own glory rather than being ambitious for Jesus. Jesus says, 'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant' (v.43).





Of course, for most of us, most of the time, our motives are mixed. Where we, like the disciples, are tempted to seek our own position, prospects, promotion, pay and popularity, Jesus says four words to us: 'Not so with you' (v.43). You are called to serve because it is the pattern of Jesus to serve.

The clothes of authentic discipleship are not the purple robes of an emperor, but the crown of thorns of our Saviour. It is about a cross, not a throne. It is a life laid down for others.

Let's follow the example of Bartimaeus who cried out to Jesus for mercy (v.47). Jesus always responds when you cry for mercy. Bartimaeus asked for his sight. His eyes were opened and he saw Jesus.

Ask God today to open your eyes to see Jesus and understand all that he has done for you through his death on the cross for you.

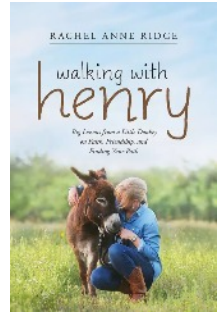
Prayer

*Lord, open my eyes to see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.*



Book  
Review  
by:

www.eden.  
co.uk



## Walking with Henry

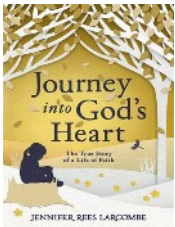
£12.15

Big Lessons from a Little Donkey on Faith,  
Friendship, and Finding Your Path

Just when you think it's the end of your story . . . grace shows up.

Sometimes it arrives as a moment of joy in the middle of despair. Sometimes you find it next to a trusted friend along an old, well-trodden path. And sometimes, grace has fuzzy ears, a bristled mane, and hope for a new start.

Join Rachel Anne Ridge, author of the beloved memoir *Flash*, in a journey back to the pasture. As she adopts a second rescue donkey as a little brother for *Flash*—a miniature named *Henry*—she finds that walking with donkeys has surprising lessons to teach us about prayer, renewing our faith, and connecting to God in fresh ways.



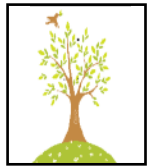
## Journey into God's Heart

£10.60

In *Journey into God's Heart*, Jennifer Rees Larcombe writes an epic autobiography that will grip all whose lives have been touched by her and surprise those who thought they already knew her story. Even Jennifer herself has in the light of severe recent tragedies found herself gaining a new understanding of all she has been through.

This book looks back at the traumas and insecurities of her childhood, the joys and trials of family life through the most testing of circumstances, the confusion caused by her life-threatening illness and subsequent miracle healing, the pain of bereavement and - the most recent chapter that no-one foresaw - divorce from her husband Tony.

"*Journey into God's Heart*" is an epic saga of a unique woman's journey through the fire. This is an adventure that lasts a lifetime, a path strewn with heart-testing challenges.



## Coming Events for April

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Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April - 13<sup>th</sup> April

Michael & Helen away.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

3.30pm The Lent Course at All Saints Church.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April

Toddler Group Easter Holiday.  
Restarts Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April

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

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am Power Prayer Starts then alternate Tuesdays at Alyn & Caroles.  
Thursday Power Prayer at Lilians will start on 24<sup>th</sup> April and then on alternate Thursdays. Details to follow.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

End of Lent. Until then if you would like to join the 40Acts Challenge you can still do so. Go to the website:  
<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts>

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

12noon Good Friday Out Reach with Churches Together at the Co-op car park.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

4pm Iona Based reflective Good Friday Service at The Community Centre.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am Easter Sunday Service Celebration in Church. No evening prayer meeting.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Ackworth Harmony singing group starts 7.15pm in the Parish Rooms. See Sue or Cheryl to learn more.



## 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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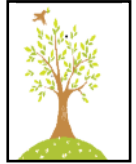
### Remember to Recycle

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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Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May

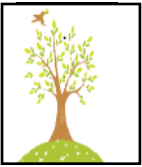
Church Meal to follow after the service.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

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

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Toddler Groups breaks up.  
Returns on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.



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

Meet on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April at Dot's home at midday. Continuing series on the Gospel of John.

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### **Thursday Evening Group led by Alyn (Zoom 8pm)**

Meet on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April Continuing series on Romans.

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