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October 2026

Dear Friends

Hello again,

I am so glad you have picked up this issue of our magazine. Whether you are walking through these doors for the very first time, just visiting, or have called this church your home, please know that you are very welcome.

This is a space to rest, to ask honest questions, and to encounter a God whose grace meets us in the messy reality of everyday life.

In this edition, we have a piece from a devotional, on patience, in a fast-paced world we should understand that we need to lean on God all the time and let him show us that we can have 'the patience of Job!'

We often talk about the "patience of Job" as if he were a stoic saint who sat quietly through suffering with a serene smile.

But a closer look at the Book of Job reveals a much deeper, more raw truth.

Job was not quietly passive. He cried out, he wrestled with his pain, and he demanded answers from God.

Job's patience wasn't the absence of struggle; it was his stubborn refusal to walk away from God, even when everything around him fell apart.

True biblical patience is a subversive, heavy kind of endurance. It is the grit to hold onto faith when the night is long, trusting that God is present in the silence.

As you read through these pages, we pray you find encouragement for whatever season you are in.

May you find the space to breathe, the community to support you, and the assurance that God is faithful, even in the waiting. Amen.

With every blessing and deep gratitude,

Key





Prayer Meeting Sundays 5-6pm

Our Sunday Prayer Meeting is a time to focus our minds fully on God before we start thinking about the week ahead, and to try to learn how to navigate past the daily noise and stay close to God.

We are exploring *Lectio Divina* or "divine reading," the centuries-old way of interacting with the Scriptures. Rather than skimming the Bible quickly for information or treating it like a textbook we slow down and listen intently.

In his book *Sacred Reading, The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina*, Michael Casey breaks this ancient practice down into four simple, approachable stages:

Reading (Lectio): Listening carefully to a short passage of Scripture, paying attention to words that stand out.

Meditation (Meditatio): Pondering those words and letting them sink deeply into our hearts.

Prayer (Oratio): Responding naturally to God in an honest, unscripted conversation.

Contemplation (Contemplatio): Resting quietly in God's peaceful presence.

It is less about mastering the text and more about letting the Holy Spirit master our hearts through quiet reflection.

Want to learn more?

We will be exploring these exact rhythms of contemplative prayer and slow Scripture reading during our Sunday evening prayer meetings.

We meet every Sunday from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. If you find yourself longing for a quieter, deeper, and more meaningful prayer life, I highly encourage you to join us this Sunday night.

Come along, pull up a chair, and let's learn to listen to God together.

If you're unable to make this meeting but still would like to pray and study this way, then please let me know, and if there are enough people, I will run another group.

Lastly, if you just want to dip your toe in, I have written a beginners guide booklet about sacred reading - so please ask me for one.

Right of Way Day - October 17th

We will be holding a 'Right of Way' Day on the morning of Saturday 17th October.

The path that runs from South Street through to Oakham High Street is owned by the Church and is known as a permissive path as we allow the public to use it.

A permissive path on private land is often legally closed for one day each year to prevent the public from acquiring a permanent public right of way through long-term use.

Another legally recognised method is to hold a Right of Way Day and charge a nominal fee (just a few pence perhaps) for people to use the path - a toll, if you like.

Under UK law, if the public uses a path openly and without interference for 20 years, it can legally become a recognised public right of way and the owner loses their right to prevent people accessing it, should they wish to do so.

Rutland Foodbank

Rice (microwave pouches),
tinned meat: ham and
corned beef, cereal bars,
squash, UHT fruit juice and
noodle pots.

You can leave any donations
at the collection point at the
back of the church.

Thank you

*If you have any news that
you'd like to share with the
church family through The
Messenger, please submit to
Kev by 20th of the month.*

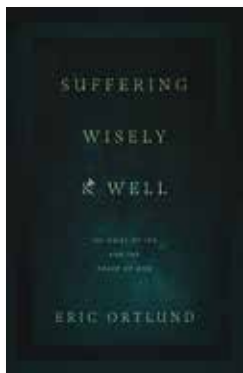


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Book Review

KEV WACKETT

Suffering Wisely and Well: The Grief of Job and the Grace of God by Eric Ortlund



Until now, I have never read this author, but Eric Ortlund's *Suffering Wisely and Well: The Grief of Job and the Grace of God* immediately caught my attention. Writing with the clear, conversational warmth of C.S. Lewis or Timothy Keller, Ortlund treats the ancient story of Job not as a complicated puzzle to solve, but as a comforting word for a hurting world.

Instead of standing at a distance, he steps directly into the ashes alongside Job to explore what it truly means to suffer.

The real strength of this book is how it challenges us when we try to comfort others.

Ortlund gives a gentle but sharp warning against handing out quick, tidy religious answers.

He shows how Job's friends started out well by sitting in quiet sympathy, but eventually used their theology like a weapon because they felt uncomfortable with Job's ongoing pain.

The book asks us an important question: when others hurt, do we speak to actually comfort them, or just to fix a messy situation?

True Christian love means having the patience to sit in the dark with someone without trying to force the sun to come up.

For any of you currently walking through your own dark valley, this book offers a wonderful sense of freedom.

Ortlund reminds us that God never scolds Job for his raw, painful questions or his deep confusion.

In fact, God prefers Job's total honesty over the defensive arguments of his friends. This is a beautiful reminder that crying out in pain is not a sign of weak faith.

It is actually the sign of a deeply honest relationship with our Creator.

By anchoring our hardest trials in God's ultimate grace, Ortlund has given our church family a message that is both incredibly tender and full of hope.

I wish I had read this before I entered into counselling as an occupation, it would have answered a lot of questions and saved a lot of mistakes, if you are thinking about heading down the psychotherapy route, either secular or Christian counselling, make sure you read this book first.

If you are looking to help a friend, stuck yourself or want to learn more of Job, this is the book for you.

This Month's Short Bible Study

ALAN TAYLOR

To stimulate and encourage, I have set out a short study to help explain fundamental Christian convictions.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. [Matthew 4:1-11]

Matthew, Mark, and Luke's biographies (the Gospels) of Jesus all mention the Holy Spirit in the opening of their account which means that there was a divine purpose in it all. These narratives picture Jesus as the Son of God asking what it means to live as the Son of God. Leon Morris writes: "Is he to be a wonder-worker using his powers to meet his own needs (and possibly those of others, too)? Is he to do spectacular but pointless miracles? Is he to establish a mighty empire ruling over the whole world? ... Jesus looked at each of these and rejected them all as the temptations of the devil...He had come to take a lowly place and in the end die on a cross to save others..." ¹¹

Before moving on let's notice the answer Jesus gives the tempter in that first temptation - "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'". 'Bread' in Palestine was almost synonymous with 'food', and Jesus does not deny the importance of food. But food (to feed our physical body) is not our exclusive need. There is another dimension to our existence - to life and to living - and the Word of God is spoken to feed our hearts.

11. Leon Morris, Gospel According to Matthew, Pillar Commentaries, William B Eerdmans USA & Apollos, Leicester, UK, 1992

All Things Bright & Beautiful

BARBARA BYRNE

PHOTOS: LIZ WACKETT

*All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.
The purple headed mountain, The river running by,
The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky.
The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruit in the garden: He made them every one.
He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell
How great is God almighty, Who has done all things well.*

This beautiful song was penned by Irish born Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) to help children understand the first line of the Apostles Creed: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth..." which is a foundation statement of Christian faith.

A devout Anglican and philanthropist, Cecil Alexander used the royalties received from her many publications to fund social welfare and educational causes - a school for the deaf and dumb, support for the vulnerable and relief to the destitute during the Irish potato famine.

Ostomy Group to start

B&BS is a new group set up to support those with a bowel or bladder ostomy, offering advice and emergency supplies. The first meeting is on 2nd November in the Church Hall from 6-8pm. Family, friends and carers are all welcome. It will run on the first Monday of each month.

See Kev for more details or email

bowelandbladder@outlook.com



Just a Moment

When I was growing up and I am sure that most of you of a certain age, were told, to remember your please and thank yous when you were out, or speaking to anyone. We called them our Ps and Qs, but then I come from Norfolk and maybe it's different from anywhere else in the country!

These days, a lot of these Ps and Qs are often omitted and yet if you do to take the time to use these two important words, it makes such a difference to the outcome.

For instance, I have been trying to get our congregational church out into the media and whenever we are successful and I say a thank you on behalf of the church, the response is truly remarkable.

Many of the press are so busy these days and emails can be so abrupt, but I often find if I say my Ps and Qs then these kind people who actually have busy deadlines to adhere to, will often come back and offer even more services!

I can recall a very well known passage in Luke Chapter 17, Verses 11 to 19, where ten men with leprosy called on Jesus and asked if they could be healed. Jesus told them all to go to the priest and they would be cured. On their way, they were all healed of the disease, but only one of the men returned and thanked and praised Jesus for what He had done.

How often does this sort of thing happen in our own lives? We sometimes tell ourselves that we will go back later and say thank you for a good deed that was done to us and then promptly forget our promise. "Oh, I will do it later", I can hear myself say...."as I simply don't have the time now". Basically I am too busy right now.

To automatically say thank you to someone, also affects the person who has been good to you. They instantly feel appreciated, which then gives you a 'lift' – so it's a chain reaction taking place, over a simple act of saying please or thank you.

God loves us to thank Him for His goodness to us and there is plenty of His goodness going on!

Patience By Joni Eareckson Tada

Surely oh God, you have worn me out. You have devastated my entire household, you have bound me and it has become a witness. My gauntness rises up and testifies against me. All is well with me but he shattered me. He seized me by the neck and crushed me. [Job 16: 7-8, 12]

You've heard of the patience of Job? To me that never made sense because the book of Job is one of a long list of complaints.

Not one to take suffering meekly, Job cried out in protest against God. Even his friends were shocked at his impudent anger.

Goodness! Most of us would bite our nails in fearful trembling if we ever talked to God that way. God however does not get offended, He doesn't get insulted or intimidated. In fact, in a supreme touch of irony, in the end God orders Job's pious comforters to seek repentance from the man himself. Job, the very source of so many leaked complaints, I love that about God! Where it concerned Job, the guy was only human and yes, his patience was gloriously played out in that he refused to curse God and die.

But it was the Lord who demonstrated the very best of what it means to be patient. God, as it says elsewhere in the Scripture, refused to break the bruised reed or snuff out the smouldering wick. God even defended Job!

The patience of Job? I would think it should be the patience of God, the God of Job - your God - defends the hurting, uplifts the oppressed and listens to the complaints of the suffering. He may not respond to your questions with neat put answers, but he will always, always answer your questions with his own patience.

O patient and long suffering God, thank you for being so tolerant with me, with all your children who tend to complain. Patiently lead us through our trials until praise is on our lips. Amen

Word Search

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6)

T	Y	A	H	S	Y	A	W	L	A	E	C	I	O	J	E	R	B	J	K
B	O	U	Z	D	D	R	O	L	E	R	O	F	E	B	E	C	N	A	D
F	L	M	X	B	X	D	R	O	L	E	H	T	Y	F	I	N	G	A	M
D	I	A	Z	L	P	M	C	N	G	H	B	D	W	P	T	U	C	A	G
O	F	K	V	E	S	U	L	B	H	L	A	W	S	L	J	G	L	D	W
G	T	E	O	S	A	H	A	W	H	L	O	L	H	Y	Z	G	W	U	K
O	U	J	I	S	L	A	P	C	O	Q	P	R	L	C	K	K	L	N	Y
T	P	O	C	E	M	R	Y	Q	Y	R	U	C	Y	E	S	G	P	O	P
G	H	Y	E	D	S	P	O	T	E	M	S	N	H	T	L	S	S	V	R
N	A	F	O	B	O	O	U	M	R	G	B	H	H	C	O	U	L	C	X
I	N	U	F	E	F	F	R	M	W	U	I	A	I	N	R	G	J	D	I
S	D	L	S	G	D	P	H	S	F	E	M	V	L	P	G	Q	O	A	V
L	S	N	I	O	A	R	A	E	J	E	A	P	E	S	H	N	F	D	H
V	Y	O	N	D	V	A	N	Q	T	B	M	H	E	T	R	I	M	R	I
O	E	I	G	Z	I	I	D	Q	V	J	L	K	G	T	H	N	M	I	J
L	Y	S	I	I	D	S	S	P	K	W	U	T	F	Z	S	A	V	P	D
V	C	E	N	V	B	E	P	L	V	H	H	H	D	S	N	M	N	Y	X
Z	W	I	G	E	X	A	L	T	H	I	S	N	A	M	E	W	B	K	C
W	Y	O	J	R	O	F	T	U	O	H	S	N	M	L	B	U	T	D	S
P	R	A	I	S	E	T	H	E	L	O	R	D	Z	P	H	F	G	B	G

CYMBALS
SING TO GOD
SHOUT FOR JOY
REJOICE ALWAYS
MAGNIFY THE LORD

TRUMPETS
WORSHIP HIM
BLESSED BE GOD
CLAP YOUR HANDS
VOICE OF SINGING

HALLELUJAH
GLORY TO GOD
EXALT HIS NAME
PRAISE THE LORD
DANCE BEFORE LORD

GIVE THANKS
LIFT UP HANDS
HARP OF PRAISE
PSALMS OF DAVID
MAKE JOYFUL NOISE

What's on this week?



Wool Craft Café

MONDAYS
10am-2pm

Learn crochet with Karen
Bring along your own wool projects
Meet, craft and relax

Any unwanted yarn donations gratefully received



TUESDAYS 10am-2pm

BOARD GAMES CAFE

Come & join in or just watch




akham Congregational Church

COFFEE MORNING
WEDNESDAYS 10am-noon

DONATIONS WELCOME
THANK YOU



akham Congregational Church

Community Lunches
12 noon-2pm

16th September
14th October
11th November
16th December



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FREE SOUP & BREAD LUNCH

DROP IN FOR LUNCH AND A CHAT
12 noon-2pm

7th, 21st & 28th October

TEAR & SHARE
DONATIONS WELCOME
THANK YOU

Kindly supported by **TESCO**
We are so grateful for the support of our local community



akham Congregational Church

All Welcome
Thursday Lunchtime BIBLE STUDY

3rd & 17th September
1st, 15th & 29th October

at 1pm in the Church Hall
with refreshments

'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' Matthew 7:7



akham Congregational Church

BIBLE QUESTION TIME
All Welcome

Looking at faith together- asking hard questions

10th & 24th September
8th & 22nd October

1-3pm in the Church
with refreshments

'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' Matthew 7:7



akham Congregational Church

TABLE TENNIS Club
Everyone Welcome

FRIDAYS 4-7pm
in the Church Hall

Free & Fun Activity
Tuck Shop

akham Congregational Church

Church Diary Dates



Sunday Services	11am Service	5pm Prayer Meeting
4th October Communion	Kevan Wackett	Kevan Wackett
11th October	Susan Deacon	Kevan Wackett
18th October	Kevan Wackett	Kevan Wackett
25th October	Lizzie McCleod	Kevan Wackett
1st November Communion	Kevan Wackett	Kevan Wackett
8th November	Rev Dr Rob Hunter	Kevan Wackett

Church Hall

* in vestry

Date	What's On	Time			
Thurs 1st	Crafty Café	10-2	Fri 16th	Just Be Café	10-2
	Bible Study*	1-2.30		Table Tennis Club	4-7
Fri 2nd	Just Be Café	10-2	Sat 17th	Right of Way Day	9-1
	Table Tennis Club	4-7	Mon 19th	Wool Craft Café	10-2
Mon 5th	Wool Craft Café	10-2	Tues 20th	Board Games Café	10-2
Tues 6th	CLOSED		Wed 21st	Coffee Morning	10-12
Wed 7th	Coffee Morning	10-12		Tear 'n' Share	12-2
	Tear 'n' Share	12-2	Thurs 22nd	Crafty Café	10-2
Thurs 8th	Crafty Café	10-2		Bible Question Time*	1-2.30
	Bible Question Time*	1-2.30	Fri 23rd	Just Be Café	10-2
Fri 9th	Just Be Café	10-2		Table Tennis Club	4-7
	Table Tennis Club	4-7	Mon 26th	Wool Craft Café	10-2
Mon 12th	Wool Craft Cafe	10-2	Tues 27th	Board Games Café	10-2
Tues 13th	Board Games Café	10-2	Wed 28th	Coffee Morning	10-12
Wed 14th	Coffee Morning	10-12		Tear 'n' Share	12-2
	Community Lunches	12-2	Thurs 29th	Crafty Café	10-2
Thurs 15th	Crafty Café	10-2		Bible Study*	1-2.30
	Bible Study*	1-2.30	Friday 30th	Just Be Café	10-2
				Table Tennis Club	4-7