

# march/april2020

Happy Easter to all our readers, when we celebrate what Jesus won for us by his sacrifice. This year will include baptisms—a day not to be missed.

There are lots of things going on in the coming weeks, have a read, make sure the dates are in your diary so you can join in.



## this month

- |            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Page 2-4   | Ashwood Calendar              |
| Page 4-6   | Message from Matt             |
| Page 9     | New Home for Ashwood Update   |
| Page 12-16 | Around Ashwood                |
| Page 16-17 | Children and Youth in Ashwood |
| Page 20-21 | Justice Group                 |
| Page 27    | Sunday Messages               |
- Lots of information about forthcoming events in and around Ashwood

# Ashwood Calendar

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## Regular Meetings:

**Sunday Morning:** 10.00am Ashwood meets in the Ashwood Centre starting at 10.00am for refreshments, meeting starts at 10.30am

**Touching Heaven Gathering:** 7.30 – 9.00pm usually 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in the month

**LifeGroups** meet fortnightly on Sunday or Monday evenings. If you would like to be a part of a LifeGroup please speak to one of our LifeGroup coordinators: Molly Bell or Janet Wright

**Ashwood Youth** Sunday's fortnightly Term Time 6.00-8.00pm

## Ashwood in the Community: All at the Ashwood Centre

**Foodbank:** Tuesdays 2.00pm-3.00pm

**Seesaw (toddlers):** Tuesdays and Fridays Term time only 9.30am – 11.15am

**Toddlerobics (0-5's):** Monday term time only 2.00-3.00pm

**Youth Club (year 6 – 11's):** Thursdays 6.00pm – 8.00pm @ AC (Drop In)

**Café 22:** Mondays except Bank Holidays 9.30am – 12pm @ AC

## March

**Tuesdays through March** 7.00pm **Alpha continues**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March** 6.00pm-7.00pm Youth followed by

**7.00pm Transformed Worship Night**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** 6.30pm—8.30pm Fostering Information Evening

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** 8.00pm Prayer for Malawi @ Martin & Mandy's

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March** Decorating at the Ashwood Centre—see page9

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March** 9.30am Ladies Breakfast @ Wetherspoons, Kirkby

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** 7.30pm Ashwood Wider Leaders @ AC

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** 6.00pm -7.00pm Friday Night Takeaway

7.30pm Crafters Group @ Christine's

## Good Friday in Kirkby

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We have our usual invitation to join with the churches in Kirkby on Good Friday to remember Jesus death and victory on the cross, and also share the good news in the town centre for anyone who is passing by.

Everyone is welcome to either come to the Good Friday Service at St Thomas's (09.30am) followed by refreshments in the church hall or meet on the Plaza area in the town Centre for worship and prayers as part of a short service at 11am.



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** 6.00pm – 8.00pm Youth @ AC  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** 7.45pm-9.30pm Worship Team Night @ AC  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** 8.00pm Baptism Preparation Class @ AC **TBC**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** 7.00pm Astonished Men's conference @Alive Church Lincoln  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** 9.30am-8.00pm Men's Conference continues  
**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March** 9.30am Café 22 1st Birthday Celebrations

## April

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** 7.30pm-9.00pm **Touching Heaven**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April** 6.00pm – 8.00pm Youth Social—bowling  
**Mon 6<sup>th</sup>— Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> April** 10am-12pm Easter Holiday Club—Years 1-6 @ AC  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April** 11.00am **Good Friday Service on Kirkby Plaza with Kirkby Churches Together**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 10am** **Easter Sunday Service and Baptisms**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> — Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April** GroundLevel Leaders Conference  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** 7.45pm Worship Team Night  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April** 7.30pm Crafters Group @ Christine's  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April** May/June Ashwood News Deadline (end of the day)  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April** 9.15am-10.30am Prayer Space @ AC

## May

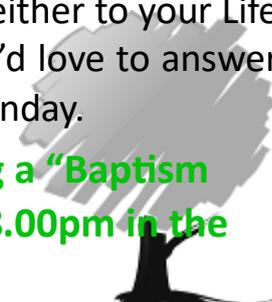
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** 7.30pm-8.30pm Justice Group @ The Walker's  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** 7.30pm—9.00pm **Touching Heaven**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May** 7.00pm **Transformed Worship Night**

### **Baptism Sunday – Easter Sunday!**

We love it when people are baptised as a sign of what God has done for them, but also a declaration of living for God. We believe baptism is an important part of our journey of following Jesus. In fact it's one of the things that Jesus told his disciples to do, so we want to make it possible for people to do just that! We always take people through a simple short session on what it means to be baptised.

If you'd like to find out more about being baptised please speak to either to your Life Group Leaders, Youth Leader, Janet Wright or Matt/Claire Bell. We'd love to answer any questions and arrange for you to be part of our next baptism Sunday.

**“For those who would like to be baptised we are arranging a “Baptism Preparation Class”. Provisional date: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 8.00pm in the Activity Room at the Ashwood Centre.”**



# Matt's Message

*Matt and Claire Bell are the senior leaders  
of Ashwood church*



Welcome to our March / April edition of Ashwood News! One of the best places where you can connect with everything that is going on in the life of Ashwood church. As I read through the pages, I'm always encouraged and excited to hear about all that has happened as well as the plans of things that are coming up! Hopefully as you read you will find the same – and if you are one of the many people who contribute towards the content of all of these pages then on behalf of all the readers (including me!) THANK YOU!! And, a special mention and special “thank you” to **Janet (Wright)** not just for this edition but for the hours and hours of time that she pours in, every month, so that all our readers can be informed, inspired and often invited to participate in all the many aspects of church life. We are incredibly grateful!!!

As followers of Jesus we're always aiming to hear what He is saying, so that we can



continue to follow Him faithfully and obediently. Jesus Himself explained one day “My Sheep listen to my voice - I know them and they follow me.” He often used the ‘shepherd’ and ‘sheep’ image to illustrate the relationship between Him and His followers. For us, as Ashwood Church (Sheep!) we believe that Jesus Himself (the Shepherd) is “calling” us in 2020 to “GO DEEPER”. For us that means we hear His voice and we follow.

## DEEP and WIDE – Mini-Conference 2020.

It's easy for me to get excited when we plan a mini-conference! I've had enough experience to know that when we set aside 24 hours of dedicated time to together in



God's presence and with godly anointed speakers – something good always happens! So that's my start point – but this year as we gathered together for our mini-conference it was something very special. The messages that **Paul and Perrienne Brownback** (from Azle, Texas) brought to us over the weekend, came through such a strong sense of relationship and carried an awareness that the planning was out of

our hands and in the hands of God. One of the most confirming and underlying messages for me was that the “call” to go deeper isn’t from leaders, or humans but from the very heart of the creator God Himself. It’s **His** desire and purpose for us that we should go Deeper with Him. The words of Psalm 42 “Deep CALLS to Deep” - the very depths of God’s character and who He is, is calling to the deep parts of us. To have a greater knowledge, understanding and experience of the deep things of God. I knew it before, but over the weekend – it kind of blew me away again. PLEASE DON’T MISS IT!! Even as I type these words – there’s such a strong sense for me that there is a “pulling” and a “longing” in the heart of God for you and for me to go Deeper!



The teaching and the prophetic spirit that Paul and Perrienne brought to us was exceptional.

I keep encouraging people to listen and re-listen to the podcast to allow not just Paul and Perrienne’s words, but the words from God to marinate in your thinking but also your spirit.

There were many highlights, here are a few:

*“There’s a call to become dissatisfied with surface level anymore”*

*“There is a deeper thing in you than the depth of the thing messing with you!”*

*“Going Deeper means being free of disappointment/s”*

*“God is in the big orchestrated picture of this church!”*

*“Worship is the soundtrack to Deep and Wide”*

*“Miracles and Provisions are coming to this HOUSE! Prosperity is breaking out in this house to advance this church and it’s purpose in reaching the harvest”*

*“Ashwood has a spirit of adventure”*



[#helpingpeoplefindandfollowJesus](#)

[#deepandwide2020](#)



## Reaching WIDER

And not just Deeper but also reaching WIDER too. We're so pleased to welcome such a large group to **Alpha** each week – if that's you – we hope you enjoy every session and benefit from some helpful conversations exploring life's big questions. We're preparing to celebrate the first-year anniversary of **Café 22** – the place to be on a Monday for great chat, wonderful cake and removing loneliness! We're praying and believing for **DOUBLE** every day at **20:20** – for those people we know, who we would love to connect with God and find Jesus as their saviour this year. Part of this faith journey is baptism – and we can't wait to **baptise people on Easter Sunday** – the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, will also be a day to celebrate the new life that is available to all who believe and put their trust in Him! Don't miss that day! We already have a number of people wanting to be baptised – please speak to someone (See page 3) if you would like to find out more.

**Wider LifeGroups!** We're getting ready to multiply one of our LifeGroups and grow some others! More information to follow. If you're part of a LifeGroup let's continue to pray for Double in 2020.

### Thank God for His Provision!

In one of our Sunday meetings recently I shared an amazing story concerning our friends at Betel UK. (an organisation and also a church that see lives restored through discipleship programmes) Betel UK are in the process of developing a new HQ in Birmingham. It's a large project, with a total cost of 4.5 million pounds. The first phase is nearly finished at a cost of 1 million pounds and in 2020 they have a goal to complete phase 2 which will cost around 2 million pounds. The exciting news was that one day, out of the blue an anonymous donor deposited... 1.5 million pounds into the Betel bank account towards the project! Praise God!! We asked our friends if we could share the story, and they gave us permission! 2 reasons for sharing with you:

- Let's rejoice and celebrate God's provision for the work of Betel, many of whom are friends of Ashwood but also
- We continue to move forward our own building project – and we serve and believe in the same God of Betel! So let's be encouraged to pray in faith and also continue to give financially as well. (See details later in Ashwood News)

I believe God wants to reveal Himself to us again and again this year. Don't miss any opportunity for Him to break in to your situation. And especially as we prepare for Easter, as the apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

**Let's do it Ashwood! Don't ever give up! God is for you and with you!**

*Matt Bell, Senior Leader*

## Mini Conference 2020

A Huge Thank you to everyone who served us over the weekend! Great food, great fellowship, great teaching, great fun and a significant time hearing and responding to God's call to go Deep and Wide in 2020.

*Matt Bell*



## Leadership Event with Duane White

We were privileged to be able to host an evening for our wider leaders, and a number of other leaders from our close GroundLevel churches, with Duane White from Texas. Duane and Kris lead the Bridge Church in Denton, Texas and also the O2 Network across the US. For the last 20 years Duane has travelled to the UK with a prophetic message from God – this was the final year he will do this in this format. We were able to thank and honour him for serving God and blessing the church across the UK in this way. This year he brought us a word from God - that God wanted to do something FRESH: Fresh Bread (revelation) Fresh Oil (anointing) and Fresh Fire (passion) to His church. And in the next decade time for the church to “Go Bold”.

*Matt Bell*



# Prayer in Ashwood

*Prayer underpins everything we do, personally and as Ashwood Church, and is a priority for us individually, with our friends, in LifeGroups and when Ashwood meets together.*



## Touching Heaven

**7.30-9.00pm Ashwood Centre Wednesday's 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June**

We believe that if we are to grow and thrive as individuals we have to create space and welcome the input of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As a church we place great value on God's presence, and Touching Heaven is our monthly opportunity to be together to welcome the presence of God into our lives.

Perriane Brownback encouraged us in February to "*maximise your time in the presence of God.*" Touching Heaven is a wonderful opportunity for us to do that.

We believe that as a result we will be filled with God's power, passion and compassion to be part of the transformation in our world.

In a year of going Deeper – we believe that Touching Heaven has a significant part to play for you personally but also us corporately. Let's press in and see a breakthrough. We know sometime people say "I didn't feel like coming," but I came and it was a great decision! Sometimes just turning up is part of the breakthrough! Let's do it for our sake but also the sake of the Kingdom!

*Matt Bell*

## Prayer Space — Thursday 30th April 9.15-10.30am

A small group of folks have been meeting for an hour or so to pray on a Thursday morning once a month. We are not experts but people who want to welcome God into our lives, the life of Ashwood and the life of our communities and hear more from him. It's a great place to be if you'd like to grow in prayer, why not come and join us and see where God takes us as we put time aside together to pray.

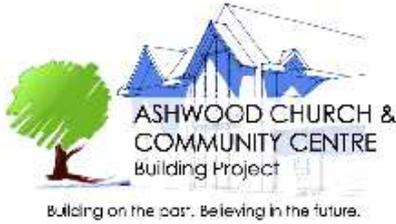
*Janet Wright*

## Coxmoor Prayer

Dave and I have been dreaming of having a regular prayer gathering at our house to grow prayer for Coxmoor and Kirkby. So you, along with others people who are part of churches around Kirkby, are invited to come, as little or as often as you can. Come for the full hour or drop in for as long as you can. We are gathering at our house **every Thursday day evening between 8.00pm and 9.00pm. Please ring first just in case we're elsewhere** and come and chat to us if you are interested.

*Christine & Dave Redfern*





## New Home for Ashwood Redeveloping the Ashwood Centre

FUNDRAISING

Ashwood Church invites you to be part of our fundraising drive to rebuild the Ashwood Centre



or visit our giving page  
[www.give.net/ashwoodcentre](http://www.give.net/ashwoodcentre)

CAN YOU?  
HELP

Ashwood Church is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales. Registered No: 69496764. Registered Office: 41 Crocus Street, Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottingham NG17 7DY. Registered Charity No: 1134946.

The project team have been working in the background the last couple of months on fundraising plans, reviewing the consultation results and looking at size and room spaces. The Project Leaders (Claire Bell, Elaine Torr and John Butler) have met, and also a meeting with Matt and Claire Bell with John Hardie our Architect. We have put together a giving page, and have produced a pop up banner for the reception area so that we can go public on our plans to redevelop the Ashwood Centre. We have already had our first £100 given through the giving website, we are praying this is the first of many!

Our website has been updated and you can click on "fundraising" on the Home Page and this will give you more information. Our Facebook page also has a new cover photo giving all the details for fundraising including the QR code, making it really easy to donate. Please share where possible to get the word out! Exciting times.

We are very thankful to many people in Ashwood who are helping to keep the centre in the best shape possible whilst we are in this season of "in between"...from painting and tidying and just this week Phase 1 of a makeover of the upstairs room for our young people to enjoy using.

Dave Redfern is looking for a team of people who are available either on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March (or both!)** to give the main kitchen a through clean and refreshing coat of paint. Saturday won't be an early start due to the Ladies Breakfast. If you can help with cleaning, painting or making tea for everyone, please have a word with Dave 07950 147509.

*Thanks, Claire Bell*



# Ashwood in the Community



## Foodbank

Foodbank continues to have lots of new people coming each week for lots of different reasons.

Please continue to pray for the foodbank as there are lots of situations that we are generally unable to help with on a professional level, pray that we are able to handle difficult situations effectively that we have had a few of recently, and also pray for the people that come that they see answers and solutions to the problems they may be currently facing.

Food stock is pretty good at the moment, the one thing we could probably do with donation wise, is items for people that have no cooking facilities as we have quite a lot of homeless people:

- things for sandwiches such as sandwich spreads and paste,
- crackers, cereal bars, tins of fruit with ring pulls and cartons of juice.
- Also we have a need for dog food and dog biscuits at the moment.

I am also wondering if people have old hot drink flasks lying around in their cupboards so we are able to send them away with a hot drink or soup on a weekly basis, especially with the weather being so cold at the moment.

This would all be gratefully received.

If you would like to know more about the foodbank or anything related to this then please do not hesitate in speaking to me.

Thank you for all the continued support

*Louise Webber*

## Coming soon: Quiz Night & Family Board Games Evening

**Dates to be confirmed**

**Do you have any spare time on a Monday?**

**Wanted:** Someone to check the Morrisons food donation bin every week and empty if needed.

For more details please speak to Louise.



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Registered Address: 41 Crocus Street, Kirby in Ashfield, Nottingham, NG17 7DY

## Café 22—Birthday Time!

Café 22 has almost reached its 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday WOW it opened on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, that year has gone so fast. We will be holding a birthday celebration on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am – 12pm** as normal then staying open extended hours **12-2pm** offering an afternoon tea style lunch, we will be offering birthday cake and goody bags to take home. Please pop along if you can or invite and tell your friends and family and share within the community.

It has been an amazing year and I am so pleased with the way that everything has run so far . It has achieved what we wanted it to when we had the ideas of setting it up in the beginning, we wanted it to be an inclusive place for everyone In the community including and especially making it a welcome and accessible place for foodbank clients to be able to come to.

Everything is run on a donation only basis so no one feels the pressure of not having any money to be able to come. We have quite a lot of regulars who come each week but also lots of new people who try us. Lots of people have made new friends by coming to the café and use it as a place to meet weekly. When it is half term I know that lots of the children love to come also.

Thank you to those of you who bake for the café, we have lots of lovely cakes on offer each week. I just want to particularly say thank you to Gisela who makes us a huge lemon drizzle cake almost each and every week. I think it's what the café has now become famous for! We really are truly grateful for the time you give to baking for us each week, and it really is appreciated.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who help at the café each week, who make it run as successful as it has done and I just want to express my thanks to each and every one of you, you all do such a fantastic job.

- If anyone wants to bake some cakes for the café birthday celebration I would be grateful: Some victoria sponges or different flavour variations of this and / or scones as well.

Please pray that the café continues to serve the community in the best way possible, and that people continue to feel so welcome that they want to come back time and time again. It has a great atmosphere and is a great place to be on a Monday morning.

Thanks for your continued support

*Louise Webber*  
Community Coordinator  
07414 576975

**MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
The Ashwood Centre

You are invited to our 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party!

Open 9.30am - 12pm  
as normal

Afternoon Tea served  
from 12-2pm

Goody bags to take home

FREE EVENT  
donations welcome

www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk  
louise@ashwoodchurch.org.uk  
01623 758974

ASHWOOD CHURCH



## You are My Family

Last Sunday I shared in our meeting that a significant battle in my life had been won that week and wanted everyone to celebrate with me. Many of you won't be aware of the difficult journey I am on. Last November my 3 younger children were taken into care with a view to being adopted. As you can imagine I was not happy and didn't agree with this.

To give you a little bit of background: 3 years ago I was living in Nottingham and struggling as a single mum with 4 very small children. I was put in touch with Safe Families as I needed respite care to help me cope, which is when I met Beth, then Jono and later Janet and Simon. Then I moved out of the area and Safe Families were no longer able to support me but Beth, Jono, Janet and Simon continued to give some respite care and moral support for myself and the children. Over the last year and through the court process we've grown closer.

When I first met Janet my support network was 3 people now it's in double figures and growing which is amazing, all bringing friendship, support, prayer and encouragement in different ways. The first time I came into church it felt like this was my family, although I knew very few people. Now you are my family! It's nice to feel appreciated, wanted and not judged and to belong. I don't know where I would have been over the last 18 months without you.

Since November my legal team have been working to get the adoption order revoked, we've been in court twice in the last couple of weeks, not sure if the appeal would win, but it did, quite amazing. The children will remain in care for the time being while I get the help and support I need.

In the week before we went back to court I prayed properly for the first time, asking God to help and guide me. I felt this was significant because he listened to me. I'm learning that God's love for me is unconditional through the good and the bad times. Your prayers as I continue this journey would be very much appreciated.

*Anne (name changed)*

## FOSTERING INFORMATION EVENING

Churches from across Nottinghamshire are teaming with Nottinghamshire

County Council to recruit foster carers to help provide homes for the many vulnerable children who need one.

There are currently over 900 children in care in Nottinghamshire and only 188 foster carers. Whilst some of these children can be safely housed with family or friends, or may go on to adoption, there are many children being placed out of area or in expensive Independent Fostering Agencies. Nottinghamshire County Council is currently looking to recruit 200 new foster carers to meet the current need.

*“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.  
God sets the lonely in families...” (Psalm 68)*

As churches and Christians, we have a lot to offer to vulnerable children, and this is recognised by Nottinghamshire County Council. Our churches provide ready made support networks for foster carers and the children in their care. Christians are called to love and care for those most in need, and often have the right skills and commitment to do that.

Bishop Paul of Southwell and Nottingham, says **“Everyone can play a part, whether that means supporting someone who is fostering or by becoming a foster carer themselves.”**

We would love to invite you come along to find out more about fostering for Nottinghamshire County Council, what it means to foster and how that can be part of Christian service and calling.

We will explore a little of what the bible has to say that might shape our thinking about fostering, and hear from Christian foster carers about their experiences. There will also a presentation and information from the County Council Recruitment team about the different ways to get involved, and opportunity to ask questions.

**We are hosting an information evening at The Ashwood Centre,  
on Wednesday 11th March, 6.30-8.30pm**

*Zoe Bell*



## Around Ashwood

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### Welcome and Hospitality



We trust you are finding our welcome area on Sunday mornings before the meeting a great time to grab a drink and meet with people for a chat. We have had some great feedback, particularly for first time guests. We have made a few adjustments as we have gone along, and then on Sunday 23 February the team met to discuss our successes and work on a few things which needed tweaking, which we will be rolling out in the coming weeks.

We are looking to recruit a few extra people to join our teams. We currently have four teams with a team leader, and they work on a rolling rota. If you would like to know more then please speak to Janet Wright or Claire Bell who will be happy to give you an overview of what is involved.

*Claire Bell*

### The Crafters

A group of ladies meet together about once a month to knit, crochet, chat and share together and would love to welcome you if you'd like to join us either to craft with us or come along and learn a new skill.



The 'Stash Busters' or craft group as we are also known were really pleased to take part in the Ashwood Christmas Fayre, there was a great mix of contributors to the stall, including some people who are not regularly part of the group. The group is open to everyone who is interested in making things. It doesn't matter if you are skilled or not there will always be someone who can help you. We craft, chat, share stories, have a giggle and build up friendships whilst we are together.

We meet on Fridays 7.30pm our next two meetings are:

**Friday 20th March and 24th April**

Please come and have a chat with me if you want to know more.

*Thanks, Christine Redfern*

### Ashwood Cleaning Team

Please give a big shout out to the Ashwood Cleaning team! A small group of people who work behind the scenes when few people see them to make sure the Ashwood Centre is clean and ready for all our users.



A couple of enthusiastic cleaners have joined the team since our last Ashwood News which is brilliant, (a big thank you to them!) and has strengthened the team – always room for more! If you want to volunteer speak to Janet Wright or Dave Redfern.



## Ashwood Men's Events

There are no Ashwood Men's Events this month but there are some men going to the Astonished Men's Conference **Friday 27th & Saturday 28th March**. If you want to join them talk to me or go to

<https://alivechurch.yeah tickets.com/astonished-2020/tickets> to book in.

You can come for the Friday night £8 or the Saturday £12 or all day £20 or all day concession £12. We're expecting it to be a great conference, don't miss out!

*Victor Croll 07496 889904*



## Tree Planting Opportunity

Over the last few months, I've been doing a few tree planting, hedge laying events with the Woodland Trust and a few people have been interested in joining me so I thought I'd let you all know of the next couple of events.

There are a few of us planning on going on Saturday 21st March so if people want to join us, do get in touch. I can give a lift to a couple more and moral support/snacks etc to more. It would be great to see as many Ashwood folk as possible at this to be a great witness and be good stewards of our world.



### **Community Tree Planting Days at Mead**

"Come and join The Woodland Trust for tree planting at the new Young People's forest at Mead, as part of the [#iwill](#) campaign to promote youth social action.

Help us plant the first seasons trees on the former opencast site adjacent to Shipley County Park in Derbyshire where local young people have the opportunity to get involved and direct it's future development."

**Time: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm although staying all day is welcomed!**

Address - Shipley Country Park Car Park, Slack Lane, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7GX where signage will direct you to the tree planting area.

Car parking available for £4.50 for over four hours, very limited street parking available within a short walk.

Bring your own spade or use one provided by the woodland trust. Last time there was a marquee with snack and refreshments, not sure it will be the same this time so bring snacks/drink.

Wear suitable footwear i.e. sturdy boots if not wellies.

*Thanks! Jono Wright 07505 777716*





## Children in Ashwood

*Ashwood Church has always had a great bunch of children who are really important to us. Most Sunday mornings the children after worshipping together go to their zones where they enjoying discovering more about Jesus as well as having fun.*

If you've been in church over the past month you cannot fail to have noticed the 'mass exodus' on a Sunday morning when the children are sent out to their zones. There has certainly been a wonderful increase in the number of children regularly attending on a Sunday, praise God, and they are a delight! Welcoming new people well has always been one of Ashwood's strong points and this can certainly be said for our children too. I'm so proud to tell you that the kids have warmly welcomed new children, most of whom have had little experience of church, and have quickly made friends with them.

Our increase isn't quite double (yet!) but it is spurring us on as a team to be prepared for more. Please pray for us as we prepare and make plans, we need God's grace and wisdom as well as fresh  to see how best we can serve the children on Sundays. We count it a blessing that God gives us time with His special treasures when we lead zones and our heart is that we can passionately convey God's heart of love for them and the great adventure He wants them to have as one of Jesus' followers.

Our series 'Experiencing God in the psalms' has so far got us digging deeper into Praise, God's holiness, Worship preparation and Worship. The youngest, mini zone, have enjoyed the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Joseph. We also made space for lots of fun, games and soft play as one of the elements of zones is encouraging fellowship within the age groups.



*Left: A Minizone craft using biscuits, icing and jelly babies where children made a starry blanket for baby Isaac celebrating God keeping His promise to Abraham.*

*Right: Another yummy craft: Kidszoners made house-shaped*

*sandwiches as they discovered in Psalm 84 that 'one day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship, beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches' (The Message).*



During the next coming months we will continue our journey through the psalms and the stories of the significant characters in the Bible as well as celebrating and reflecting on Easter.



We hope after the kids holiday club in the Easter holidays that we can welcome even more new children into zones as we work towards moving people from the community into the committed realm of church and belief.

Thank you for praying for us as a team of leaders and for the children we serve.

*Esther Ransome*

## Youth in Ashwood

*We have a great team of volunteers who help our young people grow in God and build a strong foundation in their faith ready to move out into the world.*



During the past few months we as a team have been following on from the LifeGroup series looking at Transformed Living with the young people. We have

had some great times of delving deeper into the word as well as getting know each other better. The young people have come up with their own expectations of what they get out of youth and how they would like to treat each other. We've seen young people getting more grounded in their faith and testing the reasons behind what we believe from the word.

We're looking forward to a session this Sunday about 'Harmony at Home' with Martin and Mandy walker, drawing on years of experience and fun together.

We're also really looking forward to learning more about the Armour of God then a bowling social on the 5th April!

Please continue to pray for our young people as your prayers really do make a difference, please pray for healthy relationships, more learning and more encounters with our living God!

Peace!

*Jono Wright and the rest of the youth team*

### Youth Dates this term

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 8th March</b>  | 6.00pm– 7.00pm with Mandy & Martin Walker followed by<br>7.00pm Transformed Worship Night |
| <b>Sunday 22nd March</b> | 6.00pm– 8.00pm Armour of God  |
| <b>Sunday 5th April</b>  | 6.00pm Youth Social—Bowling   |



## Praying for Malawi and Beyond

Mandy and Martin Walker are off to Malawi in April and would appreciate your prayers as they travel and spend time with Sam, their son. They will be going to Sam's church - Flood Church and hoping to see Annie, Francis, Tamanda and Wonga and find out more about what's been happening since they were there last year. We'll send out more details nearer they leave.

We are planning a time of prayer on

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 8.00pm at Martin & Mandy's** to pray for their visit but also to be praying for Sam and Hope Mission.

Everyone is welcome.



## ONE Event 2020

Every year as part of our church connection with Ground Level many of us either camp or travel over for the day to Lincoln for the ONE Event. A celebration with over 6000 people gathered for worship, teaching and equipping over the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

To find out more information go to the website [One-Event.org.uk](http://One-Event.org.uk).

There are different ways to pay and discounts the earlier you book in. The next booking deadline is the end of March so it's time to get booking. You can also join the crew if you like helping out and there is a discount depending on how many hours you can volunteer for, see the website, the brochure or speak to someone who's been before.



There are many who have already booked! Why not consider joining us!

*Janet Wright*

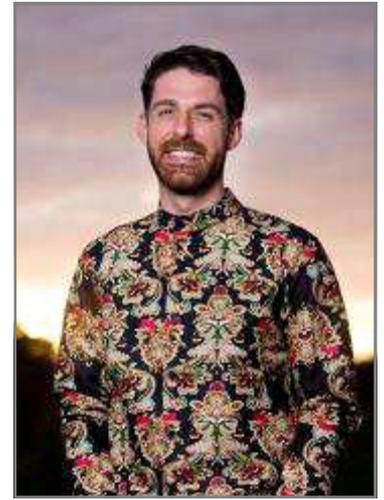


## Sam Walker in Malawi

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Sam Walker lives in Malawi and is working as Links International's African Region Coordinator. You can find his "Keeping Connected" Newsletter on the information table, do pick up a copy and see what he's been up to in the last few months. He values the ongoing support and prayers from Ashwood church.

There are a few more ways to support the work that he is doing:



### Links – London Marathon

On 26th April Sam Walker will be running the London Marathon to raise support and awareness for the work of Links International. Sam works for Links International as their African Region Coordinator and this will be his first ever attempt at completing 26 miles!

You can support and donate to Links through Sam's Virgin Money Giving website page or giving donation to Mandy Walker. <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SamWalkerLinks>

There is an exciting twist to those who will donate! Sponsors should donate an amount that they believe is the time Sam will complete the London Marathon in; freely moving the decimal place to their chosen amount.

Example: a sponsor who believes Sam will complete the marathon in 3.5 hours could donate £3.50, £30.50 or £350! The closest sponsored amount to the Sam's actual finish time will receive a thank you card and project-related gift from one of Links' partners.

Thanks for your support!

### Southern Africa Emergency Relief Appeal

This appeal is soon to close and has been working to support those hit by the biggest cyclone in decades in Southern Africa last year. The fallout of losing an entire year's crop through flooding and prolonged community displacement has created a ticking time bomb for reliable food supplies so it's been important to keep our support ongoing.

If you missed this opportunity you can still support in prayer and giving to Links International general fund will help them support other such projects.

You can donate by visiting Links International Website

Thank you so much

*Sam Walker*

# Terracycle



**TERRACYCLE**



A huge thank you again to everyone who has made Terracycle recycling a part of their daily habits.

We are continuing to collect three items on the first Sunday of the month. Our next collection date is Sunday 5th April. Bring your separated items:

**Bag 1— Crisp Packets**

**Bag 2—Chocolate and Sweet Wrappers**

**Bag 3—Biscuit and Cracker Wrappers**

At the back of the welcome area will be three white boxes for you to sort your waste into. Any unsorted bags of waste will be sent to landfill.

If you're not sure whether something can be recycled please speak to Dave Redfern, Zoe Bell or Roanne Torr.



Esther Bell is also collecting some beauty packaging and plastic pens for recycling at Ashfield School. Beauty packaging includes:

**Moisturiser/cream tubes**

**Cleansing wipes packaging**

**Eye shadow compacts**

**Lip and cheek highlighter**

**Bronzer sticks**

**Mascara**

**Lipsticks/balms and lip gloss tubes**



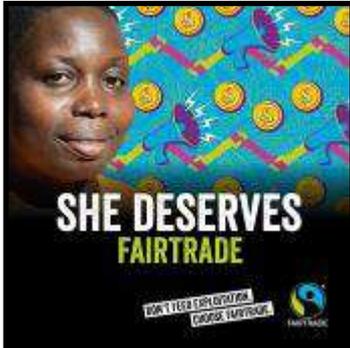
Please talk to Zoe Bell for more information.

These will also be collected on the first Sunday of the Month.



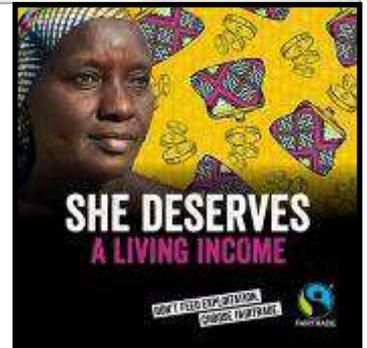
# The Justice Group

*The Ashwood Justice Group meets quarterly to encourage each other, discuss, campaign and pray for justice issues locally, nationally and abroad.*



## Fairtrade Fortnight

**Sunday 23rd February—Sunday 8th March**



The focus of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight is again chocolate and particularly women cocoa farmers. The

majority of cocoa is grown in Ghana or the Ivory Coast. Farmers here are often on less \$1 a day for their cocoa beans or even lower if the price of cocoa drops. However, with Fairtrade chocolate a farmers wage is maintained and they are paid a premium to invest in their communities.



Therefore as a group we have been encouraging church to join with us in swapping to Fairtrade chocolate during the Lent period.

Dave and Christine, our Fairtrade Ambassadors will be taking orders for Fairtrade Easter eggs. Get yours before they all go!



If you would like to be more involved please come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 5th May 7:30pm at the Walker's house. Please speak to Roanne for more information. Or join us for an evening looking at 'What does God say about Climate Change?' on Tuesday 2nd June 7.30pm at The Ashwood Centre.

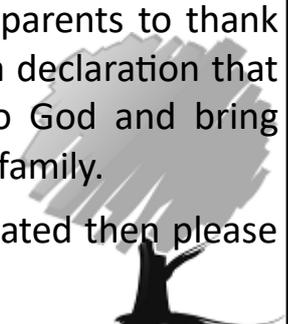
*The Justice Group*



## Child Dedications

Child dedications are an opportunity for parents to thank God for the gift of children and to make a declaration that they want to give their children back to God and bring them up in a godly way within the church family.

If you would like to have your child dedicated then please speak to Claire Bell or Matt Bell or Janet Wright to find out more.



## A Genuine Display

*Forget all the people  
Who claim false love  
A genuine display  
Is what you will get from him above*

*Never ever failing  
Omnipresent if you wish  
Not a dip in and out friendship  
Always on hand  
feed from his dish*

*A love that never fails  
A hand to pick you up  
Never here to mock you  
Always to build you up*

*Just ask and you will get  
He promised when he came  
Relationship wanting  
You will never be the same*

*Made in his own image  
A perfect masterpiece  
A true love that's never ending  
A true love that will never cease*

*Carl Webber*



## Brittleness

I have always wanted to publish a book.  
When I was younger, I would read Roald Dahl and love the way he would transport you to a fantasy world in which you could lose yourself.

I still love to read now but have also found that I love to write.

I have no idea why, but poetry seemed to be my favourite thing to write and soon I found it was a great way to release my emotions, through a pen and onto a blank page.

I started to suffer from depression which I didn't really notice at first but soon my writing would express this.

I also found that writing whimsical poems helped me in promoting me to a happy place, full of silliness and randomness. Like Roald Dahl used to, I guess.

Over the years I have accrued a fair few poems of mixed nature and saw it as a great opportunity to put some of them into a book and get it published.

Hampered by a lack of self-confidence and lies, stopped me from doing this, but finally in Feb 2020 I got over these obstacles and my book "Brittleness" was published.

It is filled with a concoction of emotions, but I am hoping that it touches people who faced the struggles I did.

You can find my book "Brittleness" on Amazon or just ask me if you would like a copy. Priced at £7.99



# Ashwood LifeGroups



*LifeGroups are a committed place in Ashwood where you can get to know a group of people and do life together. It's also a safe place where we encourage one another to be followers of Jesus. If you'd like to know more about LifeGroups or would like to join one speak to:*

**Janet Wright (Pastoral Coordinator) & Molly Bell our LifeGroup Co-ordinators.**

*Ashwood LifeGroups are situated in different geographical locations across the area.*

## LifeGroup Core Values:

These are the four core principles that are at the heart of what we want LifeGroups to be:

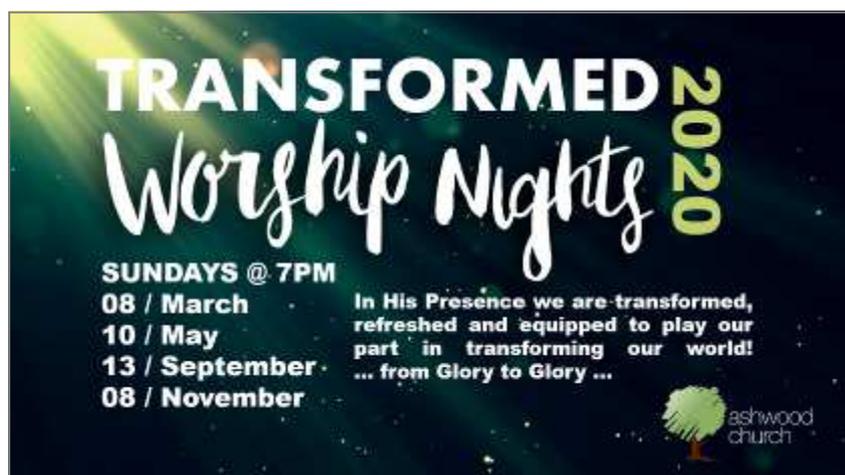
**WELCOME** – LifeGroups will be inclusive and a really positive place for everyone to “do life” together.

**RELATIONAL** – LifeGroups will be a place of high commitment where people are supported, through trusting, open and accountable positive relationships.

**GROWING** – We believe that the Christian life will always include spiritual development as we seek to become more like Jesus. LifeGroups will be a great place to do this.

**JESUS CENTRED** – We want to be a community of people who know the truth of Jesus and live by His Spirit. Prayer, sharing God’s word and exercising the gifts of the Spirit are all part of keeping Jesus unashamedly at the centre of all we are about.

**January to March** – In this season we are looking to create extra space as we explore what it means to go “Deeper” in 2020. Our LifeGroups normally meet Bi-weekly but for the next 3 months they will meet monthly to give extra focus on Alpha, Touching Heaven but also building and growing relationships (Acts2) both within and outside church. When we meet together we will eat, pray, take communion and also explore together what God is saying to us. Let’s make sure that we prioritise the monthly gatherings so we don’t miss out. LifeGroups will still continue to be the first place of support and care within church.



# The Word

---

You say I told a lie today  
but if I did, I did not know it.  
So I wondered, could it be a lie  
and I, the liar who told it?

I thought of how my words will change  
moons, stars, and galaxies  
and if my words truly are untrue  
their effect on eternity.

I wondered who, if they were a lie,  
my words would hurt and there were two.  
Firstly, there was the Lord Himself  
and secondly, there was you.

But when I took your viewpoint  
that you're a spec in the universe  
and God a myth that doesn't exist  
why, I could kill and not hurt Him worse.

Then I thought of all the prayers I've prayed  
and the answers I've received  
and I thought of how my life had changed  
from the instant I believed

Next, I thought of those in dire need  
and the solace His word brought;  
If, as you say, His word's a placebo  
surely, the damage done is naught.

Yes, I believe I am His messenger  
so, therefore, carry on I must.  
For it's only you the word offends  
and you tell me you are dust.

*Tony Cartwright*



## Abigail's Big Operation



As some of you may remember, our 33yr old daughter, Abigail, has been suffering from a very rare condition, since just before the birth of our youngest grandchild Ewan, in March 2016, which resulted in her having to undergo a tracheostomy (the surgical provision of an artificial airway).

The disease has subsequently been diagnosed as Idiopathic Subglottal Stenosis, which results in the thinning of the circumference of her trachea, as a result of repeated scarring. She has had quite a few operations to try and widen the trachea in the scarred area but because there is always further trauma involved in the widening, fresh scar tissue forms repeatedly.

On April 8th, she is due to go to have a bigger, more drastic operation, performed by a specialist in such repair operations, in Salford. This will involve a heart specialist being involved, as they try and remove the need for frequent widening ops, this one would involve the excision of 2.5cm of tracheal tissue, along with the stretching upwards of the lower part of trachea, lungs and heart to re-join the 2 ends and thus hopefully repair the damaged area.

Understandably, this is quite a risky operation and the situation is made even more worrying, by the fact that she has 4 children aged 9 and under. However, we do believe our Heavenly Father, is a miracle working God and the family would really value the prayers of all our church family and friends, for the success of the operation along with guidance and wisdom for the doctors, anaesthetists and other theatre staff involved and for Abigail's speedy recovery.

THANKING YOU ALL in anticipation.

*Kevin and Jane Gull xx*

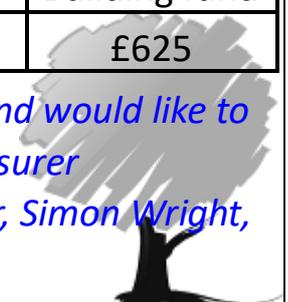
### Ashwood Offerings

*We want to say a big, big thank you to each of you who either, puts some money in our offering on a Sunday morning or have money sent direct to the church bank account. Whether large or small amounts each pound helps Ashwood Church to function and enables us to bless over people and organisations during the year.*



	<b>Total Offerings</b>	Offerings	Development fund	Building fund
<b>January</b>	<b>£11, 341</b>	£9,993	£722	£625

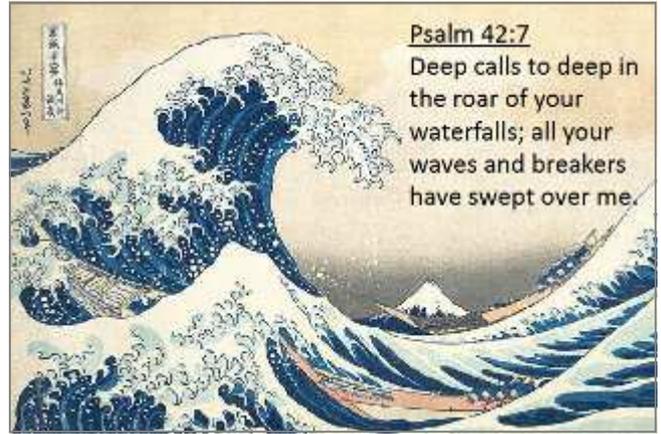
*If you would like to send your gift direct or if you are a tax payer and would like to know more about gift aid do talk to Becky Holmes (treasurer [becky@ashwoodchurch.org.uk](mailto:becky@ashwoodchurch.org.uk)) or one of the trustees – Elaine Torr, Simon Wright, Gaye Locke or Elaine Townsend.*



## Deep calls to Deep

Since our mini-conference I've been thinking a lot about the verse that Perrienne brought to us from Psalm 42:7 NIV *"Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls, all your waves and breakers have swept over me."*

The Message translates this *"Chaos calls to chaos, to the tune of white water rapids. Your breaking surf, your thundering breakers crash and crush me."*



Perrienne was helping us to realise that God is in the deep, in the chaos – the word can be translated either way. God has room for chaos, although we often think that God is too rigid for our mess. Yet in Gen 1:2 *"The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters."* Here the word deep is the same word so could be translated chaos, so where there is chaos the Spirit of God is hovering and she said God isn't intimidated by our chaos. I found that so helpful. Do listen to the podcast to hear Perrienne talk more about this and so much more.

I kept coming back to this verse but then I read it in the New Living translation, and read the verses before and after:

*Psalm 42:6 NLT My God! Now I am deeply discouraged, but I will remember You—even from distant Mount Hermon, the source of the Jordan, from the land of Mount Mizar.*

*Psa 42:7 I hear the tumult of the raging seas as Your waves and surging tides sweep over me.*

*Psa 42:8 But each day the LORD pours His unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing His songs, praying to God who gives me life.*

We really don't like the waves and breakers coming over us or others, nor do we like to be in or see others in the raging sea, but the psalmist knew that was where God was to be found and he/she could sing right there. In fact despite him being deeply discouraged (v6) he chose to remember God and who He is and what He had done. As he remembered he found God in those turbulent waters and finishes the psalm saying *"I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again – my Saviour and my God!"*

I'll be looking at chaos and discomfort differently from now on: asking "Where is God in all this? Let me feel his love so these times don't crush me but grow me". I want to remember who God is and focus on who He is not on my circumstances. I know that may not be easy or natural and I may need help to remember to do this, but now this gives me a perspective that will help me to handle the chaos rather than looking at the fear that tries to drown me.

*Janet Wright*

## Sunday Series—Devoted



At the time of writing we're right in the middle of a Sunday Teaching series called "Devoted" - focused on exploring what the very earliest church considered to be their priorities in a post Jesus resurrection era. As we intend to go "deeper" ourselves we're asking ourselves the question "If it was important then – is it still important to us today?" And asking God to give us fresh insight as to why these 6 things are still so important to us today in 2020. As the church in Acts devoted themselves to these 6 activities the outcome was "many were added to their number as they were being saved". We're praying for the same again and for the Holy Spirit to once again come in power not just in our church but in our nation.

### Sunday Messages

*The best way to get hold of our Sunday messages is the podcast on the church website. But here's a reminder of what has been preached over the last few weeks:*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

**Going Deeper and Wider: Matt Bell & Zoe Bell**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**Going Deeper and Wider part 2: Dave Ransome & Zoe Bell**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**Going Wider and Deeper Part 3: Zoe Bell**

**Included in this morning was the dedication of Tobias Wright**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

**Deeper Vision: Kris White**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

**Deep and Wide Mini Conference Session 3: Paul & Perrienne Brownback**

**Also Mini Conference session 1 & 2**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**Devoted: Teaching - Matt Bell**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Devoted: Fellowship - Claire Bell**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**Devoted: Communion - Dave Ransome**



## furtherinformation

For further information about any church activities, please speak to one of our welcome team or one of the people taking part in the meeting. Alternatively, feel free to make use of the following contact information:

<b>Senior Leaders</b>	<b>Matt &amp; Claire Bell</b>	<b>01623 237749</b>	
<b>General information</b>	<b>Janet Wright</b>	<b>01623 472849</b>	
<b>Associate Leader</b>	<b>Molly Bell</b>	<b>01623 401450</b>	
<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Roanne Walker</b>	<b>01623 758974</b>	
<b>Youth Work</b>	<b>Richard Reason</b>	<b>07852 915270</b>	
<b>Community Coordinator</b>	<b>Louise Webber</b>	<b>07414 476975</b>	
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Becky Holmes</b>	<b>becky@ashwoodchurch.org.uk</b>	
<b>LifeGroups</b>	<b>Molly Bell</b>	<b>01623 401450</b>	
	<b>And</b>	<b>Janet Wright</b>	<b>01623 472849</b>
<b>Ashwood Centre</b>	<b>Claire Bell</b>	<b>01623 758974</b>	
<b>Church email</b>	<b>info@ashwoodchurch.org.uk</b>		
<b>Church website</b>	<b>www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk</b>		
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>ashwood church page</b>		

[www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk](http://www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk)

In case you miss any of the information from Ashwood News or the weekly notices, then visit [www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk](http://www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk)  
All the information is either under Diary or Publications.

## regularactivities

<b>Sunday Meetings</b>	10.00am in the Ashwood Centre starting with coffee
<b>Youth</b>	Fortnightly on Sunday Evenings
<b>LifeGroups</b>	Sundays or Mondays at various locations
<b>Prayer</b>	7.30pm the first Wednesday each month in the Ashwood Centre

March and April information to Janet by Tuesday 3rd March 2020