

ashwoodnews

July August 2025



Baptism Day

What a great morning
hearing testimonies
from these wonderful
people as they were
baptised

AWAKEN

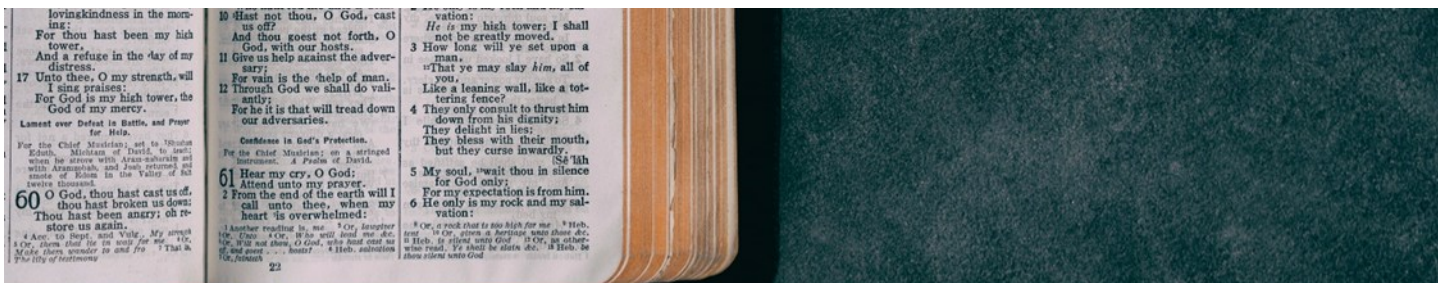
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hour or two?
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Helping people find
and follow Jesus



Matt's message

Hello Ashwood News Readers! Welcome to our 4th edition of Ashwood News in 2025! We will look back over the last couple of months as well as look ahead to things coming up in the life of the church. If you're new to us, we hope you can find what you're looking for. Feel free to contact us, if we can help you further. Thanks for reading!

One of the things we love to do in Ashwood is to celebrate! We believe that God's people should be good at celebrating because we have so much to be thankful for! Here are a few of things we celebrated during May and June!

Baptisms

We celebrated 6 people choosing to be baptised! What a great day it was!

We loved hearing the personal stories of why people were being baptised and how they came to this decision.



Several of those people, deciding to follow Jesus recently and meeting him for the first time! Baptism symbolises being cleansed from sin, dying to our old selves and being resurrected into a new life and a new start with Jesus! Wonderful!

(Next Baptism Sunday is 12th October – please let us know if you would like to be baptised then.)

John Hallett

We gathered for a very special evening to honour and celebrate the life of

John Hallett - giving thanks to God for his life and the countless others he touched across the world. John was a foundational part of Ashwood Church from its earliest days, even before we changed the name to Ashwood, and served in many roles over the years, including as Chair of our Trustees.



Throughout the evening, one theme came through again and again: the extraordinary hospitality that John and his wife Cecily extended to so many. Their home was a place of welcome, warmth, and refuge - a reflection of their deep faith and commitment to following Jesus not just in word, but in action.

We gave thanks for the personal impact John had on our lives and on our church community, as well as for his tireless work training and supporting teachers in some of the world's most challenging contexts. His legacy will continue to shape lives for years to come. We will always be grateful to God for Him and also his wife Cecily.

Café 22 handover

At the end of June we honoured and thanked **Gill Isterling** who retired from being employed by the church after 3 ½ years of serving as our Community Outreach Team Leader. We're thankful to Gill for all the work she has done in developing and leading our wonderful Café 22 and also Kirkby Storehouse (Foodbank) teams, which have made a difference to so many people. Gill has kindly offered to continue to oversee the work of Foodbank as a volunteer whilst we decide what we need going forward.

THANK YOU GILL!



Welcome to

On the same day, we welcomed **Christine Redfern** to our Staff Team – as she takes the role of Café 22 Team leader! Christine has been a part of the team in Café 22 for a long time, and we're delighted to appoint her in the role!

We pray for both Christine and Gill as they enter new seasons – for God's blessing in their lives and in their work. Please join us in welcoming Christine to her new role!



REFRESH

We have heard some great stories from **REFRESH 2025** – over 30 young people gathered in a place called “Hope” in Derbyshire, to learn about and experience God – as well as build relationships and have fun in the sunshine!

(Read more later in Ashwood News)

Guest speakers

We enjoyed a visit and input from our friends **Jack and Trish Groblewski** from America, who spoke many personal prophetic words from God, as well as speaking to our leaders and prophetic team.

More recently, **Rachael Heffer** from the Evangelical Alliance spoke in our morning meeting followed by a great session on the results from the Finding Jesus research – we have some copies of the findings, so grab one from the Information Area.

Bible Course

Finally, we launched the **Bible Course** in our LifeGroups **Summer**



Over the summer, it's a time for some people to take a break, have a rest and enjoy some down time!
If that's you .. Enjoy!

In Ashwood we have a relaxed rhythm, but don't miss our "Church Picnic" on Sunday 17th August after the meeting, and then in just a few weeks' time, we look forward to **AWAKEN 2025** - the gathering of Ground Level Network of



Everyone Welcome – bring a picnic

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST | 12.30PM
KINGSWAY PARK, KIRKBY

Churches from across the country on the Lincolnshire showground. Many of us will choose to camp together, but we recognise that camping isn't for everyone!

On Sunday 24th August we won't have our regular Sunday meeting in the Ashwood Centre but encourage everyone who would like to, to book in with a special "half price" discount and join us for the day at Awaken. Weather permitting we will plan to have a picnic tea together in the afternoon.

If you're thinking about camping with us, book in before 31st July in order to guarantee being with the Ashwood Group and also get the final booking price.

Enjoy the summer!
God Bless you!

Matt Bell
Senior Leader Ashwood Church.



Dates for your Diary

31st July—Book for Awaken!

Picnic in the Park Sunday 17th August

HEADS UP – in September we're planning **21 days of prayer**

"Experience Jesus" from 8th-28th

Sept – mark your calendar and watch out for more details.

Baptism Sunday – 12th October

What a great morning we had! We baptised 6 people – what a celebration! If you've never been baptised, please speak to someone, and find out more. We already have a number of people interested in being baptised. Could this next time be you?

Please contact your LifeGroup Leader or Youth Leader or email admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk or bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk to register your interest or if you would like to have a conversation.

new home for ashwood

New Home for Ashwood – Continuing to Pray

Now that planning permission has been granted the NHFA team are working hard behind the scenes in lots of areas that will move us forward. Please pray in one or more of these ways!

1. Monthly Gatherings

We plan to meet every month, 8-9pm at the Ashwood Centre:

- **Thursday 24th July**
- **Tuesday 16th September**
- **Thursday 23rd October**
- **Thursday 27th November**

2. Fasting Thursdays

We're also encouraging people to consider fasting from food on "Thursdays" as we intentionally seek God and add extra weight to our praying. Fasting demonstrates "We're serious and we're focused."

3. Daily Reminders

Some people might like to set a daily reminder to pray at 20:24 during 2024. Using either the prayer below or praying using the words from Leviticus 20:24 which says: *But I have promised you, 'You will possess their land because I will give it to you as your possession - a land flowing with milk and honey.'*

4. Pray the Declaration Prayer:

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for all that you've done in our past and thank you for your faithfulness to us over many years. We believe that you've called us to be a healthy growing church for all ages. We believe that you have good plans and purposes for our future. We believe you have said "Enlarge the place of your dwelling" and it's time to Plan for Growth. We pray that you will make it possible for us to acquire the land next door, to help with our growing church family. Thank you in advance for providing all the provisions we need! Lord increase our faith for this project – we believe you can do it! We don't want to settle for anything less than your best for us. Help us to think big! Amen

NHFA Giving



For donations, please scan the QR code or/and see information on the page overleaf



Freedom in Christ



Many of you will have heard the good news stories shared by people who have done the Freedom in Christ

course. How it has transformed their lives and brought clarity and healing.

We are going to be running it again at Ashwood on a Thursday evening (7.30-9.30pm) for 10 weeks, starting on **11th September**, with 'the steps day' on **Saturday 8th November**.

It has been so encouraging to hear how much the course has helped to set people free of strongholds that have held them back, to identify negative thoughts/unhelpful thought patterns and to learn new ways of thinking positively.

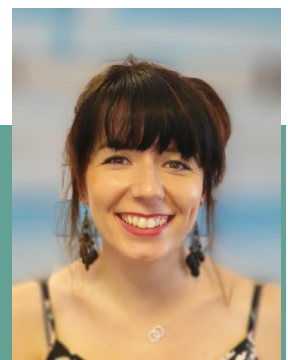
If you've not done the course before - why not try it? If you've done it before - why not do it again? (There is so much to be gained from doing it again, many of us have found it more helpful a second, third or fourth time!)



We are really excited to be running the course again and are really expectant to see what God is going to do and what breakthroughs are going to occur. We have a wonderful team of people, please join us in praying that this will be a real season of transformation for us all!

If you're interested in signing up let Bec know-at
Bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Bec Goody



PARENTING 4 FAITH course reflections

A BIG Thanks to Bec and Rich who gathered a group of us together who were willing and available to turn up at the Ashwood Centre to learn together on the 'Parenting for Faith' course over 5 weeks.

Rich came up with a weekly fun starter: "What were your favourite sweets, ice cream, Kids TV programme as a child?" Some of us had to think back more years than others!! What were yours?

Watching the videos led by Rachel Turner, was entertaining, inspirational and challenging. Along with the participants' journal, we reflected on our own personal experiences and shared with each other some of our reflections and experiences. We shared golden nugget ideas to try with our own children, grandchildren and in church. We grew in our friendships together as a group as we encouraged each other to put into practice our takeaways.

Josie brilliantly and honestly shared with us in Ashwood Church her own reflections on Sunday 22nd June if you want to watch on our YouTube or Facebook page.

https://youtu.be/iOs_FkUMaxw



parenting for faith®

Living Faith



Do you want to help the kids you love find God in everyday life?

A course for parents, grandparents or god parents on how to help the children (0-12 years) in your life connect with God



5 Thursday evening sessions, starting 8th May, 7.30 – 9.30pm

For more info or/and to book, contact Bec Goody
bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Personally, I found it deeply challenging thinking about my own experiences and failures as a parent, as well as encouraging that Parenting for Faith is above all RELATIONAL, as we keep receiving GOD's unfailing LOVE for us and share that love with our children and others. Now I'm old enough to be a grandparent, I can enjoy the privilege of praying for and supporting families in church and in Earthshakers.

Some of us said, "I wish I'd known all this years ago!"

I think we all agreed that this course could inspire everyone in Ashwood Church, to learn from the simplicity of a childlike faith. Hopefully we'll run it again.

Want to know more?
Simply ask anyone who did the course.

Dave Redfern



Quote of the night!

We are made in the image of God, how does that make you feel?

"I'm chuffed!"

The Bible Course



Central Lifegroup



prayer

Opportunities to pray TOGETHER:

We believe prayer is so important in the life of Ashwood. If you consider yourself part of our Ashwood Family – please find ways of joining with us to pray.

“Prayer Rally”

Every **Sunday** morning 9.50am at the Ashwood Centre before the meeting

“Pray First”

Fridays 7.00-7.30am on Zoom*

“Prayer Space”

Thursdays 9.30 -10.30am on Zoom*

“Touching Heaven”

Please join us! Everyone welcome! The people of God in the Presence of God. **Wednesday's:**

3rd Sept, 1st Oct, 5th Nov

“Prayer for the New Home for Ashwood”

Thurs 24th July, **Tuesday** 16th Sept, **Thursday's** 23rd Oct, 27th Nov

***For Zoom meetings,
find details on your
weekly email.**

Season of Prayer "Experience Jesus" Mon 8th – Sun 28th Sept

Join us each day as we encourage each other to pray and expect to experience Jesus personally.

The 21 days will include a half night of prayer on **Friday 12th September** and also Transformed Worship on **Sunday 21st September**, plus more!

Watch out for more details coming soon!

TRANSFORMED WORSHIP NIGHTS 2025

Sunday Evenings 7pm.

Let's gather together to worship and to press in to all that God has for us! Join us for a night of praise, worship and seeking God. And make sure you have the dates for the rest of 2025!

On these evenings we gather together to worship, recognising that as we do that we can be transformed in God's presence. We often find ourselves praying for a fresh in-filling of the Holy Spirit and praying for those who need a touch from God.

Future Dates: 21st Sept / 23rd Nov

prayer local and global

Reflecting on the Bible Course session 1 and 2 Timothy 3:16 'All Scripture is God breathed and useful...'

My prayer is that Ashwood News is also God breathed, inspired and useful to everyone who reads it. [Obviously not having the same authority as Scripture - I get that! But helping people believe Jesus all the same].

Thanks so much for our faith journey together in prayer and action.

WAKE UP! WAKE UP!



I'm hearing a wake-up call from Jesus to "Watch and pray." Pete Greig explains this "WAKE UP!" call and prophetic word, in his message on YouTube: Pete Greig AWAKENING.

The main points of his message are: Stop... Review... Advance...

It starts with a quiet revival in my own heart. Jesus came on the scene and started preaching, "*Change your heart and life for the Kingdom of God is near...*"

The new Pope Leo: brings a WAKE UP! call to the Catholic Church and anyone who has eyes to see and ears to hear. Did you know there's 1.4 billion Catholics in the world?

When we watch, listen and read the news both local and global there is so much insecurity, fear, anxiety... so much suffering and death... so much fake news... There's a lot of darkness in our world... BUT Jesus says, "*I AM the Light of the world...*" John 8. Light is the only thing that can expel darkness... This is true both physically and spiritually!

Now more than ever I'm trusting Jesus to lead me in the light way, in the right way in prayer and action.

We're called to BE a house of prayer for the Nations: The disciples were reminded "*It is written: my house shall be called a house of prayer for the nations.*" Isaiah 56:7, which is also quoted in the New Testament in Mark 11:17 and Matthew 21:13.

Dave Redfern

Rainbow Promise of God... to the rainbow people of God...



We were walking down to the Centre for our NHFA prayer gathering and a beautiful full rainbow appeared in the sky over Kirkby. I was reminded of God's covenant promises in Genesis 7 and in Revelation 4. Our God is enthroned within the rainbow of His promises.



In this season let's receive, embrace, welcome all that God's Spirit is revealing to us in the light of the riches of God's mercy and His

unfailing LOVE. Let's BE willing to change our hearts and lives, respond to the call, ASKING our Father in heaven to help us in our time of need.

We pray for the AWAKEN weekend, coming soon... as we welcome God's AWAKENING TOGETHER.

Have you booked in yet? Don't forget to let Claire know if you want to come on Sunday and benefit from the discounted tickets. (See page 28)



Dave Redfern



Summer Clean and Tidy

Garden and Grounds Maintenance

Wednesday 23rd July



Building Summer Clean

Monday 28th July

Tuesday 29th July

Wednesday 30th July

Thursday 31st July



Can you help for an hour or two?

Contact Caretaker

Dave Redfern

07950
147509



awaken

Family ● Faith ● Fun

AWAKEN 2025

Our church is part of the Ground Level Network of churches. Each year for over 40 years the churches have gathered over the August Bank Holiday weekend for teaching, friendship and to worship Jesus for all the family on the Lincolnshire Showground.

Last year over 100 people stayed on site from Ashwood Church (mainly camping but with some residential places too) and this year looks to be a similar number.

It's also possible to travel each day – as day visitors. (Around one hour drive)

We'd love to invite you to join us either onsite or as a day visitor.

Booking link for regular booking is here: <https://awakenevent.uk/tickets-2025>



****AWAKEN SUNDAY TICKETS****

If you can't come for the whole weekend, why not consider joining us for just the Sunday?

We don't have our regular Sunday Meeting in the Ashwood Centre on Sunday 24th August, and as a result we have a special deal where you can apply for **Half Price tickets**. If you'd like to do that, (just for the Sunday)

Below are the ½ price costs for Sunday tickets:

- Adult - £19.50
- Concession - £16.50
- Child (5-17's) - £10
- Child under 5 is free

Solidrock Booking System Awaken 2025 - GL Sunday Tickets - Solidrock Booking System

Speak to Claire or Gisela for more info or if you would like to come but need help with transport (or could offer transport)



Ashwood LifeGroups

LifeGroups have always been important for maintaining support and care and also a place to grow spiritually.

LifeGroups are a committed place in Ashwood where you can get to know a group of people, share life together and support a smaller group of people. It's also a safe place where we encourage one another to be followers of Jesus.

We continue to add new people to our groups which is always a great pleasure, and is a great way to become part of the Ashwood Family.

If you are new to Ashwood or maybe you've started connecting with us on Sundays online, and you would like us to introduce you to one of our friendly LifeGroups.

Please email admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk and we'll be in touch with you!

What are LifeGroups all about?

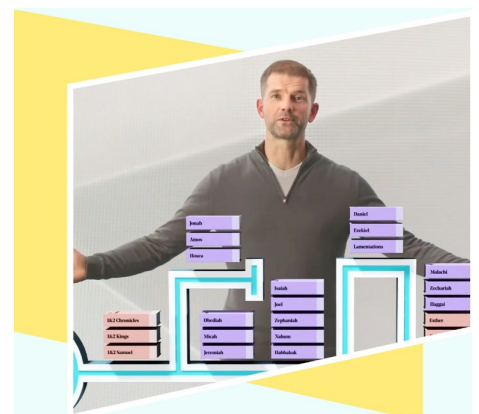
These are the four core values that are at the heart of all of our LifeGroups:

1. **WELCOME** – LifeGroups are inclusive and a really positive place for everyone to “share life” together.
2. **RELATIONAL** – LifeGroups are a place of high commitment where people are supported, through trusting, open and accountable positive relationships.
3. **GROWING** – We believe that the Christian life will always include spiritual development as we seek to become more like Jesus. LifeGroups are a great place to do this.
4. **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.

As we take a break over the summer, we're half way through the amazing "The Bible Course" – created by the Bible Society.

We're praying that for all of us, it will grow our understanding, deepen our roots in God's Holy Word and have fresh revelation.

We'd love to hear how the Bible Course has helped you! Please email admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk



Social LifeGroup

Our LifeGroup (Huthwaite area) loves to meet up and work through the various courses we've been looking at recently, not least "The Bible Course" that we've just started. We also love to meet up for socials!

Here's us on a walk around Silverhill a few weeks ago and a chill out with ice creams on our patio at home.

We also had a brilliant social time Alex and Tony's house with lots of food and karaoke!

Great to mix study, discussions and prayer with food and fun!

Andy Beighton

The Bible Course



Pastoral Care



Caring for the Carers

Are you involved in caring for someone? A spouse? A sibling? An elderly parent or a friend?



We recognise that within church we have a lot of people involved in caring for relatives and we've been thinking about how we can support those within church that are involved in caring for loved ones. We're aware that this takes a toll and can be draining and that chatting with others who are in a similar position can be really helpful/encouraging.

We have set up a WhatsApp group for those involved in caring for loved ones and we meet up every few months for a drink/pudding/food at the Regent! Our next date is: Wednesday 10th September 7.30pm at the Regent - why not come get in touch with me and come along?

Caring looks different for each of us, some live and care full time for someone, for some it's regularly checking in and supporting a loved one, but we all share that emotional

burden of caring for someone.

Bec Goody



The Gathering Place

FRIDAYS FRI	FRIENDSHIP Icon of two people	FAITH Icon of a cross	FUN Icon of a smiley face
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A place to
connect, have conversations, receive support, relax and have fun!!

1st & 3rd Friday each month, 2pm – 4pm The Ashwood Centre

ashwood church

Maybe you're caring for someone?
Maybe you're older and wanting some company? Maybe you're just wanting to connect with people more?
THIS IS FOR YOU!

The Gathering Place

It takes place on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month, 2-4pm at the Ashwood Centre.

Why 'The Gathering Place'?

As a church we're always looking for ways to 'do life together', to go deeper with one another and to provide more opportunities for people to mix.

You may be thinking "Is the Gathering Place for me?" There is no set agenda or criteria, there are a variety of people that go, different ages, different backgrounds, just playing games, doing craft, drinking tea and sharing life together. Why not come along?

Pastoral Visiting Team



Many of you know that we have a team that will be available to visit those who are in hospital or chronically ill at home. This is primarily for adults who are within or connected to the church.

We recognise that our LifeGroups, Pastoral Hub and Gathering provide the backbone of our Pastoral care across the church and this team of pastorally gifted people will only enhance our support.



The team is led by myself and includes a variety of people who are both trustworthy and compassionate and have the capacity to give some time to visit those in need on behalf of Ashwood Church. The purpose of the visit is to offer encouragement and a listening ear, to pray, offer communion or anoint with oil – always led by the person being visited.

During the visit, the person will also be given a card from the Ashwood Church family to let them know we are thinking of them.

For more information or to request a hospital visit for yourself or someone connected to Ashwood Church, please contact me at helen@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Helen Tomlinson



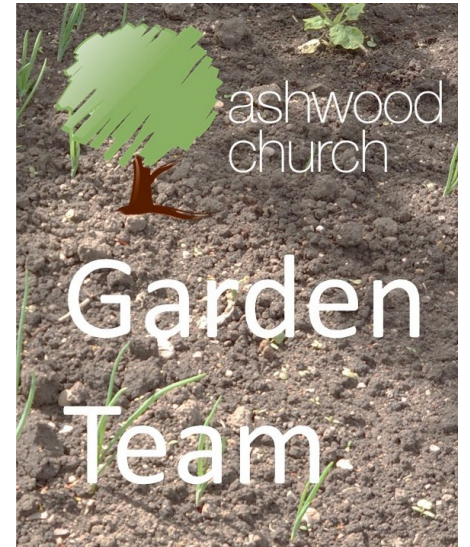
“Belonging to Ashwood” – Next Sessions

Sunday 21st Sept 12-12.45pm after the morning meeting.

If you'd like to find out what it means to be part of Ashwood – please join us for this short session. This is the perfect place to ask questions, and hear about our vision, values, and mission as a church. You can also find out how to join a LifeGroup or one of our serving teams. If you're new to Ashwood or been around for a while this is also perfect for you. You can just turn up or let us know you're coming

claire@ashwoodchurch.org.uk or
bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk





If you are interested / want to know more, email
admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk





Welcome and hospitality are really important to us at Ashwood, we long to see every person made to feel welcomed and cared for whether they are new to us or whether they have been coming to us for while. We hope people feel seen and valued from the moment they come through the church doors to the moment they leave and beyond! Every person helps to cultivate a welcoming atmosphere, but our welcome and hospitality team play a big role in sustaining this!

We hear from Lewis this month:

I help on welcome and hospitality team because it helps me to get to know other people and it can improve people's days by seeing a friendly face. I would encourage people to serve in this area as it is a great place to not only meet new people but it's also a place you can think about God with friends.

My role includes serving teas and

coffees to the people of Ashwood church and it brightens me to see how happy people are when they come over to me.

Why should you join the team? I think it goes down to the core values of being kind and understanding and offering hospitality. It's also a place where you can get to know the team you are with very well.

Overall being on the welcome and hospitality team gives me joy as it gives me the tools to know other people and new people who walk into church and it also gives me joy to know that giving them a drink of tea or coffee just brightens their day.

Lewis Bustard



If you would like to be involved in the welcome team, please speak to Janet Wright janet@ashwoodchurch.org.uk





At Ashwood, we strive to create a culture of care and to support people pastorally to the best of our abilities.

Some issues however are so complex and deep that they may require additional support. If you're unsure of where to go, here are a few ideas. This may be for you or someone you're supporting, but we hope you find it useful. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me for more information.



Bec Goody

Pastoral Care Team Leader

NAKED TRUTH

Naked Truth Project is a brilliant UK based Christian charity that supports people struggling with the issue of pornography, either themselves or those who have been impacted through a partner's use of pornography. Their research findings are shocking - Compulsive porn users are at higher risk of stress and depression. Over 88% of porn scenes contain physical aggression and both men and women who were shown

pornography reduced their support for women's rights. Their site has some brilliant support and resources. It's a big issue that affects a huge amount of people, Christian or not. <https://nakedtruthproject.com/get-educated/>



Blazing Grace is a US Christian charity that supports those impacted by pornography and sex addiction. They've got some great testimonials from those that have been impacted by pornography and have some great resources and articles.

<https://www.blazinggrace.org/uk-couples-course-for-recovery-from-porn-and-adultery/>

If you're struggling in this area-don't go through it alone - talk to someone you trust. We want to love and support people whatever they're facing.



ACC - Association of Christian Counsellors

Need some extra support? ACC is a great place to look, whether you'd like face to face counselling or online, there should be a counsellor that's suitable for you.

<https://www.acc-uk.org/>

SAMARITANS

If you need to talk to someone who doesn't know you or your situation, this is a useful place to go. You can ring their number and speak to someone who will listen and not

judge! They also have a self help app that helps you to cope, feel better and stay safe in a crisis. <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Ashwood Crafters

The crafters have been busy over the last few weeks, firstly creating the wonderful picture of Africa that we hope you've seen in the entrance hall, made using a variety of African fabrics that celebrate some of the richness our African friends add into our Ashwood family.



At the moment they are working on another idea of setting Jesus in the central place and putting some of our favourite characteristics around him. Keep your eyes open for when this one is finished.

If you'd like to get involved with the crafters do have a chat with Mandy or one of the people in the photo. There is so much encouragement in the group to share what we know and to learn and develop our skills, there is always room for others to join us, and beginners are always welcome to come along and start learning something new.

Janet Wright





Faith and Fun at 'REFRESH WILD'...

Summer's here and so was our annual youth weekend **REFRESH**, this year was different, this year it was going to be **WILD**! The vision behind **REFRESH WILD** was to show and invite young people into a wild countercultural way of life that Jesus offers!

This was our fourth youth weekend away under the name **REFRESH** and as usual everyone involved was excited and expectant for our time together and what God was going to do.

We had thirty young people who were all ready to have an unforgettable weekend of faith, friendship, and fun at **REFRESH WILD**! Like last year we were joined by a small group of young people connected to the vine church in Lincoln.

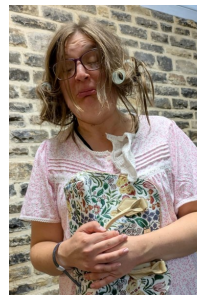


If you've ever been to or been involved in a youth weekend you know how amazing and transformational they can be. The weekend featured a mix of exploring faith in our meetings, wild talk seminars and high-energy outdoor activities like, hunt the leader, capture the flag and good old fashioned water fight!



Doing a youth weekend in June was a great opportunity for us to do a BBQ. To start the weekend everyone enjoyed a couple of games of OAP Bingo, which was amazing to see. Everyone (leaders

included) dressed up as grandmas and grandad's, I guess you could say kit was like a nursing home gone WILD!



As part of our meetings our time of worship was led by a dedicated, gifted and talented youth band, who did an incredible job.



At our wild talk seminars, we wanted to focus on four of Jesus' 'I AM' statements to highlight Jesus' invitation to a wild counter cultural way of living, we even ventured outdoors to do some teaching.

A new addition to this year was our 'Fresh News' segments to update everyone and have some on screen fun.



Every year we invite a guest speaker and this year we were joined by Ben Lloyd from IKON Church Chesterfield, which was a highlight of the weekend, delivering a powerful and practical message. Ben encouraged everyone to embrace their faith with boldness and authenticity.

Some amazing encouragement was shared with the young people from Anne-Marie (Lincoln Vine Church) on our Sunday morning meeting, which I believe is encouraging not only our young people at Refresh Wild but for anyone who knows or wants to know and follow Jesus...



Wildcard, wild fire and wild life...

I am your wildcard. When the world counts you out, I count you in. When the odds are stacked against you, I am the unexpected move that flips the whole table. Some trust in what they know, but I am calling you to trust in who 'I AM'.

What begins with trust will erupt into a wildfire of passion, purpose, and power. I am igniting you with my Spirit. You will not burn out - you will burn bright. What I start in you will become a wildfire in your generation.

You were not made for cages or comfort zones. You were made to run wild in MY purpose. This is your call to wild life - a wildly good, radically surrendered, fearlessly free life with me. This is not survival. This is revival. This is the wild life of the Kingdom.

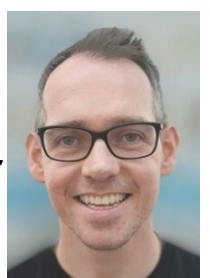
Trust me as your wildcard. Let my Spirit become your wildfire. And I will lead you into the wild life of purpose, freedom, and joy.

From team games and relational time to a lively BBQ and times of reflection, the weekend struck a perfect balance between wild fun and deep spiritual connection.

REFRESH WILD was a chance for young people to step away from the noise of everyday life and reconnect with God in nature.

Plans are already underway for next year's event!

Rich Reason
Children and Youth Team
Leader



We walked away refreshed

Refresh this year was brilliant: a high-energy, faith-filled weekend where Elevate youth came together to reconnect, recharge, and reignite their passion for God! With powerful worship, real talk, and unforgettable moments like water fights, slip n slides and BBQ fun! Hearts were stirred, lives were changed, and we walked away refreshed, renewed, and ready for more. Already counting down to the next one!



Joel Bell

Many Emotions

My weekend at Refresh wild was filled with many, many! emotions as I was going through a certain phase at that point of my faith and being alone without the comfort of my phone made me really think about myself and my experience with the world and pain, not physical pain but an emotional one, that comes randomly but is still there and very evident, the one that had has you thinking about not living anymore.

But it's crazy how every single time I'd go to worship in the auditorium it filled me with so much peace and so much joy and the lyrics to the songs warmed my heart. But after that I still ended up feeling empty.

In other news, the games were fun I never knew I could get that competitive! Everybody was so supportive, so happy, so smiley, I usually shy away from talking to my peers unless they talk to me, but everyone there seemed so genuine that I actually wanted to talk to everyone.

And the youth leaders, top tier team I'll tell you for a fact, they were so free and easy to converse with and I just want to say I love them all so much.



If you were paying attention, you'd noticed I stopped half way on my sob story, well we're going back to that.

The guest speaker was sent by God for me, I don't know about others that were there but the message was

something I really needed to hear. What really stood out to me about that whole message was:

1 Peter 4:13 which says; *"Instead, be very glad---for these trials make you partners with Christ in the suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory it is when it is revealed to all the world. "*

Which simply means finding joy in suffering because it's actually worth it.

I felt like a weight has been lifted off my shoulder and I like I was finally connected and back on track again with God.

It was truly refreshing and I'd love to go to it next year and for as long as I can. Thank you.

Kimberley Okojie





Elevate YTH

You can connect with Elevate.YTH over the next few months on these dates...

July - Sunday 20TH + Sunday 27TH

All Sunday evening sessions are 6-7.30 pm (unless stated otherwise) at the Ashwood Centre and open for all young people in year 6 – age 18.



EARTHSHAKERS
ACE KIDS

We are so grateful for our wonderful children who make up the different Earthshakers groups. They all bring their unique

personalities to each session, giving the adults many different insights to their relationships with God.

Over the last few weeks we've been busy learning more about some of the big characters in the Bible, their relationship with God and how we can apply what we have learnt in our lives today. We've been in the lion's den with Daniel and the fiery furnace with Shadrack, Meshack and Abednigo. We've learnt that God is always with us even through the hardest of times. We've practised listening to God and talking to Him too. We've worshiped in song and in craft, and we've played lots of games.

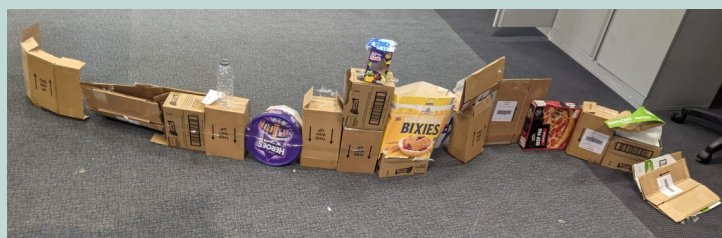
One of our specific focuses recently has been taking part in 'Thy Kingdom

Come' with help from the Cheeky Pandas videos. We were able to look at different ways we can pray, talk and listen to our Father God, following the example of Jesus and the Lord's Prayer.



It really is a pleasure and a privilege to spend time with the Earthshakers children, to learn from them and to help them grow their relationship with Jesus and each other.

Christine Redfern



We learnt about Nehemiah and our fabulous 5-8 year olds built walls of Jerusalem with recycling.

Bethany Hamilton-Wright





community

Less Donations - Please Help



We are so grateful for all the donations we get from people at church as well as from the Kirkby and Ravenshead Communities.

The Food Bank team has noticed a real drop-off in donations from the public at Morrisons. There are many complex reasons for this. Suffice to say we get less than a quarter of what we used to get last year. So we need to think about different ways to bring in our food.

Ways you can help

Order your donations from Amazon at the following link

https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/quest-view/2C7PWYGU2F4R1?ref=cm_sw_r_apan_ggr-subnav-share_K7K5J0587XCMHJFH1BEP&language=en-US



You can also find

this on the Ashwood Weekly Update and on 'The Storehouse' Facebook site.

- Go to the link, choose your food.
 - Go to the basket, pay for it.
- This will then arrive at our house, and Robin and I will bring it to The Storehouse.



Please share the link on social media so that the word can get around. Alternatively, you can still bring in any donations to Ashwood Centre, and place them in the Storehouse bin in the foyer.

Thanks for all you do, it really does make a difference when we share God's love in such a practical way.

Gill Isterling





Goodbye and Hello

The end of June, beginning of July saw some big changes in the Cafe 22 Team. Gill

Isterling retired after 3 and a half years in the role of community lead, including leading Cafe 22. We are so grateful for all that she has done within the cafe to grow the team and what is on offer for the guests.

BUT someone was needed to fill her shoes, and I am delighted to say that the new(ish) face is me, Christine!

I say 'ish' because I have been involved with the Cafe since it started and recently have stepped up to support Gill on a regular basis. I am so looking forward to working with the wonderful Cafe team weekly, and having the opportunity to spend more time with our customers, the regulars and the visitors who we hope will become regulars too. There is always a welcoming atmosphere and people who are ready for a chat, not to



mention the drinks, cakes and lunches that are available too.

If you are free any Monday morning why don't you pop in to say "hello" and sample some of what the cafe has to offer?

If you are looking for somewhere to serve and use your talents, either hosting or in the kitchen, please come and have a chat with me.

Excited to see what God has in store in this next season

Christine Redfern



Two's Company- Celebrating Volunteers

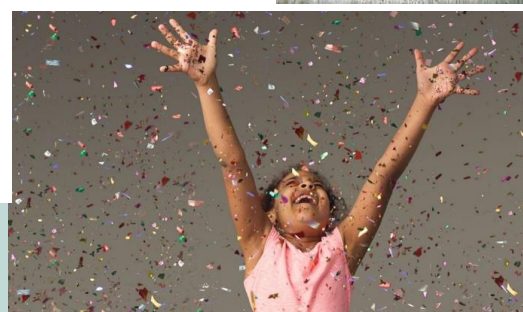
Many of you know that we have a telephone befriending service called 'Two's Company' in which trained volunteers ring someone they have been matched with on the phone most weeks, to bring some encouragement and to help them to



know they are not alone. This befriending really makes a difference.



We recently had a celebration night for our volunteers which was lovely to be able to chat about the blessings, the challenges, the things we've learnt and what God has done in those relationships. Grateful for our faithful church family.



Bec Goody

Laughter is the Best Medicine

During one of our Friday Gathering's we spent some time considering this thought, thinking about what makes us laugh and how it makes us feel.

Did you know this is taken from the Bible. Proverbs 17:22 ESV *A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. I think we'd all agree that we feel better when we have a good laugh. Here are a few things we discovered:*

- Laughter relaxes the whole body – leaving your muscles relaxed for up to 45 minutes after!
- Laughter boosts the immune system.
- Triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel good chemicals.
- Protects the heart – improves the function of blood vessels, lowers blood pressure and increases blood flow.
- Burns calories – might only be 40 calories for 10-15 mins laughter.
- Lightens anger's heavy load.
- Might help you to live longer – one study said it might add 7-8 years to your life

Laughter is a certainly a gift.

It lightens the moment, connects us to the people we love, and reminds us that joy isn't just a passing feeling - it's a glimpse of God's goodness. Even in the hardest seasons, he gives us glimpses of joy, moments of laughter that remind us we are loved and invited to delight in life. Here a few more verses to encourage us to laugh.

Job 8:21: *"He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy."*



Psalms 30:11: *"You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy."*

Proverbs 14:13 ESV *Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief.*

We ended our reflection with a **prayer for laughter**, maybe you want to join us and pray:

Jesus, today, we will pray that you will bring us laughter. Laughter is a beautiful expression of joy, a gift that Jesus gives to uplift our spirits and remind us of His goodness. We pray that your joy would fill our hearts and strengthen our souls, especially when we face challenges. May our lives be touched with moments of laughter and joy. And may our joy touch others who are facing difficulties and hardships, so that together we may maintain an ever deepening trust in you.

Janet Wright

PS. I've discovered there is a World Laughter Day in May every year, spreading joy and laughter across the globe



GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

God's Goodness Favoured Us

Every time spent in spirit with the Almighty God never goes wasted.

I participated in the Freedom in Christ course in Sept-2023 and indeed, it's a life-changing discipleship course worth taking. The 10-week course reminded me of my identity as a child of God, to believe and hold on strongly to what God says in the bible and not how the world interprets things.

I had a gynaecology concern and Drs judged it would take a long time for child bearing to be possible. I prayed through this during and after the course as it was a stronghold and, miraculously, God showed up, as we conceived during this period, though I miscarried few weeks after.

Despite the loss, I was content and thankful to God as I felt the stronghold had been overcome, hence I shared this in January 2024 during our celebration gathering following the course.

This touched everyone and I was prayed for. I then declared my faith and hope in God to show up before the end of the year.



Baby Ann was dedicated on Sunday 13th July in our Ashwood meeting. The week before, Esther and William, gathered with family, friends, Matt, Claire and her 'prayer team' to "Name the baby" (part of their Ghanaian traditions).

Truly, God did it exactly as prayed for! We welcomed a beautiful baby girl Ann Asabea Ackor (Ann - favoured by God Asabea - female warrior) days before Christmas 2024!

This great miracle has increased our faith in God that indeed, with Him nothing will be impossible (Luke 1:37) and there were plenty of other God moments on the way where he kept me and Ann safe.

We are forever grateful to God and also for blessing us with a team of great women of faith and prayer, who were put together by our pastoral team member, Mrs Janet Wright. They have supported us spiritually, emotionally and physically right from baby's conception to present, constantly praying for us out of love and also on behalf of the entire church. God bless them so much.

We know that the God who has changed our lives remains at work. He's for everyone. All we need to do is to keep up with prayer and have faith. He sees, hears us and His actions are purposeful, occurring just when the time is right (Ecclesiastes 3:11 - *God has made everything beautiful for its own time*). Amen.





Ashwood Church Giving

The easiest way to financially support the work of Ashwood Church is to make a direct bank transfer / set up a standing order:

Account Name: Ashwood Church
Account Number: 00216525
Sort Code: 60-01-73

If you decide to give via bank transfer / standing order, please let Becky Holmes know (becky@ashwoodchurch.org.uk) so that we can say thank you and allocate your gift to the appropriate fund.

Alternatively, you can:

- Make a debit / credit card donation via our online Stewardship page. Go to <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20024077> or scan the QR code
- By debit / credit card / Google Pay / Apple Pay on a Sunday morning (please see Becky if you would like to donate this way)
- By cash during the offering on a Sunday morning.
- **We are no longer able to accept cheque donations.**

Gift Aid

Don't forget – if you are a UK Tax Payer, the church can claim an extra 25p per pound you give back from the government, using the Gift Aid Scheme. It's easy! – Just email [Becky Holmes](mailto:BeckyHolmes) and your giving will go even further!



Did you know?

We have 10 organisations / groups that use the Centre regularly during the month plus one off bookings!

Since we took over the Ashwood Centre in 2018 / 2019, the income raised from hiring out our rooms has more than tripled! April 2024 to March 2025 was our busiest ever year!



	Total Giving	General Offerings	Development (NHFA) Fund*	Building Fund
April 2025	£14,807	£11,851	£2,182	£775
May 2025	£12,429	£11,024	£929	£475

Finance Focus: Building and Support Services

Our vision is to 'help people find and follow Jesus'.

The Ashwood Centre is a place for people – a place where Ashwood church meets and a popular community centre at the heart of Kirkby in Ashfield. The Ashwood Centre welcomes hundreds of people each week.

From Kirkby Storehouse (Foodbank), Café 22 (our Community Café) and the Seesaw Toddler Group to a centre for our Youth 'Drop-In' and a meeting place for many local groups, the Ashwood Centre is at the heart of our local community.

Your regular giving, whether large or small, helps us to keep the Ashwood Centre open and thriving. We have some ongoing maintenance issues – which is one reason we're planning a new building!

Over the last 12 months your giving has enabled us to:

- Run our twice weekly toddler group **Seesaw**.—averaging between 50 to 60 children at each session
- Maintain a safe and welcoming space for young people using our "Drop In"
- Run Kirkby Storehouse (**Foodbank**) and **Café 22** (our community café)
- Maintain the Ashwood Centre
- Run in house PAT testing for equipment
- Purchase equipment for the Ashwood Centre (including cleaning, health & safety and first aid items)
- Pay all our bills (the usual utilities plus internet, waster and waste disposal)
- Enable people and groups to hire out rooms at the Centre
- Part-Time employment of Care-Taker Dave – who does an amazing job.

Alongside the running of the Ashwood Centre, there is so much that happens behind the scenes. Gisela Beighton is our Office Administrator and Becky Holmes is our Finance Administrator. Gisela and Becky do an amazing job!! Here's just a snapshot of some of the things they do:

- Update the website with news, events, talks and update Social Media too!
- Create and manage bookings for all of our events (including our community Christmas events, holiday clubs, FNT and Mini Conference)
- Take care of policies, assist with safeguarding administration and support our team leaders
- Watch over Communications – including our weekly email
- Produce the amazing Bi-Monthly Ashwood News
- Administer the finances of the Church (including banking and processing all income and expenditure)
- Set up additional giving methods to make it easier for people to give
- Prepare the annual budget and process salaries
- Process expenses claims (for staff and volunteers)
- Produce monthly financial reports for trustees and the Year End Accounts
- Submit the annual Gift Aid claim to HMRC
- And much, much more!

Thank you so much for the money you give which has enabled us to do this and much more! Everything we do is connected to our mission to help people find and follow Jesus!

Becky Holmes
Financial Administrator



Regular Meetings:

- **Sunday Morning:** 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 1st Wednesday in the month: 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November. Details see page 9
- **LifeGroups** meet fortnightly on Monday afternoons or evenings. For more info, see page 12, to join, talk to Bec Goody
- **Ashwood Youth** meets on Sundays, details see page 20
- **Prayer Opportunities** see pages 5, 8
- **New Home for Ashwood Prayer** dates see pages 5
- **Belonging to Ashwood Meetings** see page 15
- **Opportunities to Serve**, see page 16
- **Ashwood Centre gardening and cleaning days**, see page 10

Ashwood in the Community

- **Ashwood Men:** Weekly Breakfast on Thursdays 9.30 am
- **Café 22:** Mondays except Bank Holidays 9.30 am – 1 pm
- **Foodbank:** Tuesdays 2.00pm - 3.00 pm
- **Seesaw (toddlers):** Tuesdays & Fridays term time 9.30am – 11.15 am
- **The Gathering Place:** First and third Friday of the month 2-4 pm / pg 18

SIMPLY



For Your Diaries:

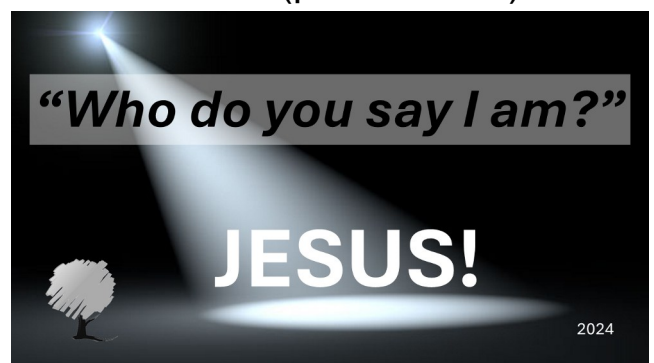
Sunday 17th August	Church Picnic in the Park	pg 4
22-25th August	Awaken Conference @ Lincoln	pg 11
8th—28th Sept	Experience Jesus	pg 4 & 8
Thursday 11th Sept	Freedom in Christ course begins	pg 6
Friday 12th Sept	Half Night Prayer	pg 8
Sunday 21st Sept	Transformed Worship Night	pg 8



sunday messages

The best way to get hold of our Sunday messages is the 'Talks' section of our church website (or Facebook).
Here's a remind of what has been preached over the last few weeks

Sunday 18th May	Who do you say I am? - Part 10 - Redeemer Bob Goody
Sunday 25th May	Who do you say I am? - Part 11 - Leader Jack Groblewski
Sunday 1st June	Who do you say I am? - Part 12 - Healer Matt Bell
Sunday 9th June	Passion for the Bible - Pentecost Matt Bell
Sunday 15th June	Baptism Sunday Bob Goody
Sunday 22nd June	Who do you say I am? - Part 13 - Teacher Gill Isterling
Sunday 29th June	Who do you say I am? - Part 14 - Courage Rachael Heffer
Sunday 6th July	Who do you say I am? - Part 15 - The Rock Helen Tomlinson
Sunday 13th July	Who do you say I am? - Part 16 - Matt Bell Plus Ann Asabea Ackor's dedication (photo below)



Further information

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:

Senior Leaders	Matt & Claire Bell matt@ashwoodchurch.org / claire@ashwoodchurch.org
Administrator	Gisela Beighton admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk
Children and Youth Work	Richard Reason rich@ashwoodchurch.org.uk
Community Outreach Leader	Gill Isterling gill@ashwoodchurch.org.uk
Pastoral Care Team Leader	Bec Goody bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk
Finance	Becky Holmes becky@ashwoodchurch.org.uk
LifeGroups	Bec Goody bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk
Church email	admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk
Church website	www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk
Facebook	ashwood church page

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.

We have a Church Weekly email with lots of information to help keep you up to date with what's going on and how to get involved. To be included in the mailing list to receive this information please email admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk.

Ashwood Church is a company limited by guarantee
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Registered Charity Number 1134945

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

www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk