

ashwoodnews

November December 2025



Prayers

Many areas we can pray about and also praise for answers!

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NHFA

We are making progress - sign up for the mail update.

Page 5

Christmas

Boots and Baubles event to serve the community.

Page 21



Helping people find
and follow Jesus



Hello Ashwood News Readers! Welcome to our 6th and final 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!

Vision Offering Sunday

What a day! **Vision Offering Sunday!** (28th September) As we continue our journey towards our "New Home" this was another landmark moment along the way. Bob shared again the latest view of our plans to create a new building that will firstly honour God and secondly be a safe, warm, sacred and welcoming place for people across our communities as well as our wonderful church family. A place where Jesus will be at the centre and a place where more and more people can know His love and start to follow Him.

On behalf of the Trustees and leaders a huge **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who brought your offering to the Lord and gave financially towards this project. At the point of writing, the current total (including Gift Aid and pledges) is £78,171! Incredible!

I've loved sharing the story with friends in other churches who are cheering us on, and also sharing with colleagues at work who are curious and supportive of what we are doing. People are interested!

As we celebrated the offering and gave it to God – there was a strong sense that it was more than just about the finances but also a demonstration of faith and our trust that Jesus will enable us to see this project come to fruition. We have a good amount of finance already, but we still need a significant amount more before we can start to build. The NHFA team continue to communicate with potential funders who we hope will support our vision.

We recognise that our prayers remain vital and powerful in our journey – Let's give ourselves to praying regularly. (Thursday is a day we've set aside each week and our monthly prayer gatherings – see later in Ashwood News)

Guest Speakers

What a joy it was to have Joe Gisbey (CEO Links Charity) and Jonas Eyles (Alive Church Grantham) speak in our Sunday meetings.

Both spoke passionately about Jesus and many of us responded to both messages and people experienced God's presence. We loved it!

We continue to pray the prayer we've been singing – "Let me see Jesus" more of Him in every way in our lives, individually and corporately.

Freedom in Christ

Freedom in Christ course is in full flow – with more people signing up to this course than ever! Thanks to Bec Goody and the great team who are facilitating the course and helping us to step into the Freedom we have in Jesus.

Christmas

Christmas is coming! Are you ready? Time to dig out those Christmas jumpers, Christmas jackets, or for me my special Christmas suit and tie! (Claire loves it too! See pic)



In Ashwood each year we will make sure that we celebrate Christmas well in all the different activities and with special events planned for all ages!

Look out for (Car) "Boots and Baubles" special Christmas

event this year! (pg 21) We hope this should be fun! We will love to welcome many of our friends from Seesaw (Toddler Group) and other guests from our community. See later in this edition for all the dates for your diary. This year especially, we'll do everything to put all the spotlights on Jesus the LIGHT of the world! In a dark world, let's celebrate, invite people to come and meet the REAL JESUS!!

Matt Bell

Senior Leader Ashwood Church.



Baptism Sunday – 25th January 2026

In October we baptised Tony and Rob – it was great to hear their stories and their declaration that they want to follow Jesus. If you've never been baptised, please speak to someone, and find out more. Our next Baptism Sunday is provisionally 25th January with an information session on 11th



January. Everyone is welcome to come along and find out more, even if you're not sure if you want to be baptised, please come and ask any questions you might have and we'd love to explain what we believe baptism means.



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@aswhoodchurch.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 Prayer together

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

- 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."



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 one of the QR codes



Via Stewardship pg



Via ChurchSuite



New Home for Ashwood – Giving Thanks and Moving Forward

We are so thankful to God for His incredible provision and for the generosity of our Ashwood family! Through our recent Vision Offering, we have already received over **£78,000**, along with a number of new monthly supporters who have committed to give regularly towards our New Home. What a wonderful start to this next stage of the journey, thank you to everyone who has prayed, given, and encouraged us along the way.

We're also pleased to share that we are now in active discussions and looking to appoint a company that could undertake the construction of our new centre. These conversations are helping us to finalise the costings and clarify what the following practical steps will look like as we move towards construction.

Please continue to pray for wisdom for the NHFA team as we make key decisions, for our ongoing fundraising efforts, and for God's continued blessing and provision over the entire project.

If you'd like to stay up to date with the latest news and progress, make sure you're signed up to receive our **monthly NHFA emails** through ChurchSuite. You can update your preferences anytime under *My ChurchSuite* → *My Details*.

With gratitude and faith,

Bob Goody
*On behalf of the
NHFA Team*



Give thanks

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us a purpose!

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Made the heavens and the earth!

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Paved the way!

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given purpose, meaning and direction

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us hope!

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us salvation!

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Filled the world with His colour!

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us light in the darkness

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us eternal life

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us faith, fun and friendship (with flapjack)

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Accepted everyone

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Shown us His Patience

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Taken our baggage away


Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us life

Give thanks - Shout to the Lord all the earth. He has...

Given us the freedom to choose

Coxmoor 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 December, 7th January

“Prayer for the New Home for Ashwood”

Thursday 27th November,
no meeting in December

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



TRANSFORMED WORSHIP NIGHTS 2025

Sunday 23rd November 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.

In 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.



A photograph showing several hands of different skin tones gently holding a small globe of the Earth against a dark blue background. The text 'prayer local and global' is overlaid in white.

prayer local and global

AWAKENING... AWE and WONDER

On our recent holiday in Scotland we enjoyed days of sunshine and showers giving us lots of rainbows, beautiful scenery and photos! We gazed in awe and wonder, being reminded of God's faithful promises and covenant love for us and all of creation.



Then on the first morning of ACE Kids Holiday Club there was another rainbow over Kirkby which encouraged the team as we welcomed children to enjoy FUN, FAITH and FRIENDSHIP through knowing Jesus.

With news of recent hurricane Melissa to hit Jamaica and Caribbean islands and other global news of extreme weather devastating the lives of so many people we are made aware of the battle we're in and our need to pray and give everyone and everything to

JESUS, trusting that Jesus is making all things new.

Looking forward to celebrating Christmas

We pray for our local Churches in Ashfield to make the most of every opportunity we have to be and to share the Good News of Jesus in our communities. We pray for the 'Quiet Revival' in our nation to be welcomed, experienced and seen here in Ashfield.

"LORD Jesus, help us to be AWAKE to all you are doing in our communities. AWAKE to pray and Love our neighbours. To GO and help people find and follow You, the real Jesus! Amen."

Homelessness

We pray for homeless people in Ashfield to find Shelter in their Crisis, a Framework of support, freedom from addiction through New Hope

Rehabilitation and BETEL UK, to find and follow Jesus through His salvation army. All working together to end homelessness.



The Message Trust on tour in Derby

We are part of a World Wide Message Tribe where JESUS is The Message and He calls us to be part of His mission in the world.

This was the message of The Message Trust on tour in Derby on 30th October, that Dave and Christine attended along with friends from Ashwood and Community Grocery supporting their work and our partnerships.

Esther and Maisy from Ashwood Church were there sharing their amazing story of answers to prayer, dreams fulfilled and more, through an inspirational video and interview. We continue to pray for them and our Elevate young people as they seek to be salt and light in their schools, colleges and community.

We give thanks for the incredible growth and fruitfulness of the Community Grocery and Food truck in Kirkby run by Illuminate Hope in partnership with The Message Trust. We continue to pray for the team and the growing relationships with Community Grocery members.

Andy Hawthorne shared his passion for Jesus, the work of The Message and his experience in Edinburgh when he sensed God speaking to him about simple obedience to these ABC's:

A: Keep our heart ATTITUDE right and beautiful like Jesus. The beautiful attitudes of Jesus in Matthew 5 and Philippians 2.

B: Keep the BIBLE central and foundational to our faith journey.

C: Keep JESUS CHRIST central in all we do and say. It's all about Jesus.

Andy challenged us to keep focused on these simple ABC's. Together we can be part of God's amazing mission and revival in our nation and beyond, in our generation.

LINKS @40 - Our Ruby Anniversary Appeal

We give praise and thanks for ALL the wonderful things that God has done through the faith filled work of LINKS over the past 40 years, bringing community transformation to the lives of so many people. We pray for the ongoing work of LINKS to be fruitful and multiply.



We pray for Sam Walker developing relational [Church partnerships in Africa and the UK through LINKS Church Connect vision and mission.](#) Following the Ashwood team working with Sam



and Hope Missions earlier this year, we give thanks and pray for the recent teams led by Sam in Malawi with Seeds of Promise and River Church.

We continue to pray for the growing work of [LINKS African Hub in Kenya](#). They will have their annual partners summit at the Hub at the end of November. This is where all our key 15 organisations from 5 African nations meet, share learning and fellowship together. We can read more to fuel our prayers on the [LINKS website/whyus?/Blog](#).

A Fair Trade Christmas... is a win-win Christmas.



When farmers and creative producers are given the opportunities to work and trade their way out of poverty and

into provision for their families and communities, that is win-win shopping! Fairtrade and sustainable business practices put people and planet before convenience, consumerism and profit. Simply search "Fairtrade Christmas" or check out Fairtrade Fortnight links in the last Ashwood News or chat to Dave and Christine. Thanks. Together we are sharing LIFE to the full that Jesus promised.

Dave Redfern



Giving Thanks

Some of you will remember that last year our daughter-in-law, Hayley was serious ill with Pancreatitis, spending a while on Intensive Care, followed by many weeks of excruciating pain. Thankfully, once the pancreatitis began to improve they were able to remove her gall bladder and the pain stopped. Then she began the slow road to recovery. All your prayers were so appreciated and made a difference to Hayley and the family.

They expected to have to take Creole, an enzyme to help her digest food, for the rest of her life. She was extremely weak but she was soon back at the gym determined to get back to a reasonable level of fitness. By September she went back to work part time and in November full time. We praise God for all this, as there were moments when we really didn't know what the future might hold.

She and her husband Pete, spent some time with the Matron of the High Dependency unit, to help them process what they went through. Many in her situation have been left with lasting difficulties - Hayley has none. She no longer takes the creole and has no ill effects. She was told she would not be able to put weight on but she tells me she has!!!!

I am truly grateful for every prayer, no matter how small or short, together and with many others, we held her before the Lord as he poured out his love and healing over her.

The biggest thank you goes to our Heavenly Father, to Jesus our Saviour and Healer and to Holy Spirit

Janet Wright





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.



Being part of a LifeGroup is a great way to deepen your faith with others. LifeGroups are small groups that meet together fortnightly to share life and support one another. At Ashwood we aim for our LifeGroups to be: Welcoming, relational, Jesus centred and a place to grow! LifeGroups are a brilliant place to share, develop and learn together, supporting one another in the highs and lows of life.

A place to ask “stupid” questions

Hello, my name is Robert Marriott and I am a relatively new member to the Ashwood Church family. The word ‘family’ is so important to me and now I have 2 sets of families, which makes me feel very special.

I asked to become a part of a life group because, although the whole church provides plenty of opportunities to talk and pray together, I feel more confident and comfortable in smaller groups of people. I wanted to ask the ‘stupid’ questions and be inquisitive about the bible, this was far easier for me after joining my LifeGroup.

I don’t know the dynamics of other groups, but I feel my LifeGroup is perfect, with all age groups covered from young adults to the more experienced elders. I think I’m in the “elders” bracket but with no experience!

We all participate in our own ways but there is never any pressure to talk or pray if you don’t feel comfortable doing so. We gather together at different homes every couple of weeks and just enjoy each other’s company, faith stories and perspectives whilst eating sweets, cakes and biscuits. What is there not to like about that!

Join a life group at Ashwood it’s for **life!**

Rob Marriot



The Bible Course

We've had some great feedback about the Bible Course! During the Autumn we're finishing the second half. 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

Pastoral Care



Two's Company-Fuelling connection

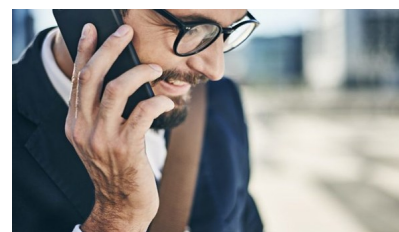


Most of us have a variety of people that we connect with in some way: People at work, parents at school, those we see at church or at café 22. But for some people in our community, they may not have connections, they may not see anyone for weeks. For some the TV is their main source of company.



Two's Company is our telephone befriending service. It is one of the

many ways we can serve the community and help to address the problem of loneliness. A simple phone call once a week, or once a fortnight could make a HUGE difference to a lonely person in Ashfield. We are blessed to have a variety of wonderful volunteers at Ashwood.



Do pray for our volunteers and the people that they are supporting. This befriending is such a blessing and we want our lovely volunteers to feel upheld.

If you want to know more why not chat to - **Bec Goody**



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.

We want to support our carers, so we have set up a WhatsApp group for those involved in caring for loved ones, so we can pray/support each other.

We have social get togethers

(about every few months). 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.

If you're involved in caring for someone -whatever capacity that is-we really encourage you to get in touch and come along! Or maybe you just want to find out a bit more about it- get in touch with me: bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

THINK CARER

Bec Goody

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 Helen Tomlinson 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 will be 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 Helen at



helen@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Ashwood Marketplace

Linking needs to resources
within our Church Family Community

Have you signed up yet?

Ashwood Marketplace was created to encourage recycling (NOT landfill) whilst meeting practical needs in the church.

Description and rules of Ashwood Marketplace:

Ashwood Marketplace is a "virtual place" where people in our church community can share requests / needs of items. Each request / offer will be included in the Marketplace email once, unless the person posting the add asks Ashwood admin to repeat it.

The email is sent out on Friday whenever new items are listed.

Excluded:

- Electrical items
- Services

Posting and exchange of items:

- Email to admin@ashwoodchurch.co.uk:
- Phrase the post so it can be copied and pasted directly into the email.
- Make it clear if the item is to give away or if this is something you are in need of.
- Any arrangements for the exchange of the item are between donor and receiver directly only.
- Include your phone number (or/and email address) for people to get in touch directly.

When offering an item:

- If possible, include a photo of the item with dimensions or other details that would help a possible receiver understand if the offered item is suitable.
- Make clear on the email if the item needs to be picked up, can be delivered or brought to church on Sunday (Ashwood Church cannot store any items).

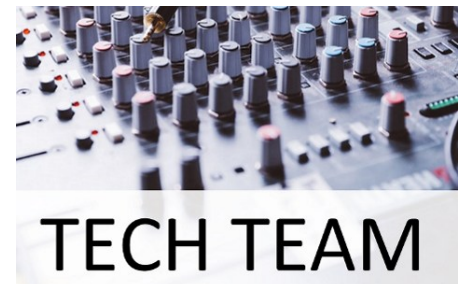
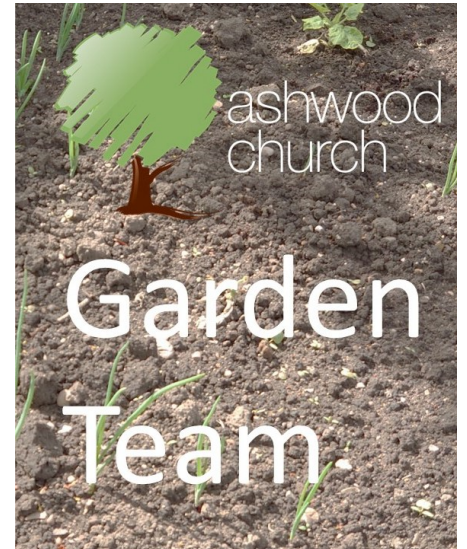
When asking for an item:

- Be clear about details of what you need (e.g. bed = double or single bed?)

Liability

- Ashwood Church cannot be held liable for unanswered inquiries (this is down to the individuals).
- Any incidents or damage occurring during the collection / delivery of any item are between the two parties.
- Ashwood Church is only a facilitator and does not take responsibility for any potential safety issues with goods changing hands.
- We will not be able to confirm if any goods (e.g. furniture) meet the fire safety standards. This should be checked by the recipient who is responsible for accepting any goods.
- We reserve the right to refuse publication of items which we don't deem suitable for the Ashwood Marketplace.

Contact admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk if you want to sign up



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





WOW-moments

Looking back over the past few years we've seen our church

grow both in size and in depth. Numbers are not the only measure of growth by any means but it's encouraging to see what God has been doing and they certainly show us part of the story!

We've had over the past 4 years:

-  23 people baptised!
-  Over 80 different people have done the Freedom in Christ course!
-  Over 60 people have done the alpha course, marriage course and parenting for faith course!
-  Over 43 people have done the keys to health wholeness and fruitfulness course!
-  Over 40 people attending belonging to ashwood as they've come into church!
-  And over the past 2 years: So far 66 new people have joined a LifeGroup!

"Welcome" according to Wikipedia

A **welcome** is a kind of greeting designed to introduce a person to a new place or situation, and to make them feel at ease. The term can similarly be used to describe the feeling of being accepted on the part of the new person.

In some contexts, a welcome is extended to a stranger, to an area or a household. "The concept of welcoming the stranger means intentionally building into the interaction those factors that make others feel that they belong, that they matter, and that you want to get to know them".



What is there when one makes a welcome?

No thing really, and yet more than any thing. When one makes a welcome one creates the conditions that promise of home. One makes it possible for the other not any longer to feel outside or out of it, but to feel part of it.





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!

I wanted to give something back

I joined the Welcome Team because I wanted to give something back to the church that made me feel at home from day one. I remember walking through those doors for the first time and being greeted with genuine warmth — it meant so much, and I wanted to be part of creating that same experience for others.

Being on the team has been such a blessing. It's not just about shaking hands or smiling at the door — it's about making people feel seen, valued,

and part of the family. I've met so many wonderful people and grown in confidence just by stepping out and serving in this simple way.

If you've ever thought about getting more involved, I'd really encourage you to give the Welcome Team a try. You don't need to be outgoing or have loads of time — just a heart to make others feel at home. Honestly, it's one of the most rewarding things I've done at Ashwood.

Pete Brennan



Interested to join?

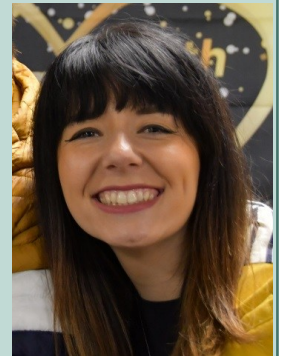
Why not come and be a part of our amazing welcome team and help provide a welcoming space for everyone coming into Ashwood? Whether you can make a cup of tea/coffee or simply greet people as they come in with a smile and warm welcome—we'd love to hear from you!

Chat to Janet Wright If you want to find out more!





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

Dementia



Carers UK is a great organisation that is the voice of carers and fights to obtain better support for carers. They talk on their website about what your rights are, what you are entitled to benefits wise, helplines you can contact and looking after your own wellbeing, which is so important when you're looking after someone! <https://www.carersuk.org/>



Alzheimer's Society have helpful information and a dementia support line you can ring if you are a carer, are affected by dementia yourself or worried about a diagnosis. <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/>



Admiral Nurses are specialist nurses developed by **dementia UK** who help people living with dementia stay independent for longer – and support the people caring for them. Admiral Nurses work in local community services, GP practices and NHS hospitals, care homes, and hospices. To find out how they can support you ring their free helpline-**08008886678**

Domestic Abuse



S.H.E.U.K. is a Registered Charity based in Nottinghamshire that offers a holistic range of support services for survivors of childhood sexual abuse, exploitation and sexual violence. You can make a referral on their website <https://www.she-uk.org.uk/>. They provide peer led support groups, telephone support and can offer clients up to two years of weekly therapy delivered by trainee counsellors.



Equation is a Nottinghamshire charity that works with the whole community to reduce the impact of domestic abuse, sexual violence and gender inequality, working with men, women and children. Equation run brilliant online training events that help people to understand how to support those who've been through this type of trauma. Why not check out their website <https://equation.org.uk/>

Eco Tips

Month: November

Big Impact: Insulate your house properly - Loft/Walls/Floors/Doors/Windows



Little Stuff: Reusable wrapping paper ahead of Christmas: "Furoshiki": repurpose those old t-shirts into quirky new wrapping material (and ideally get it

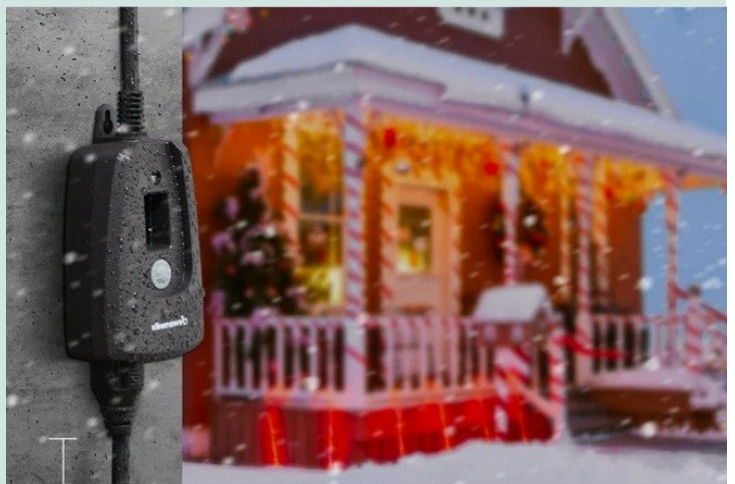
back or encourage the other people to do the same next year!)

Easy: Reduce food waste - buy wonky fruit/veg. Cook smaller portions if food is going in the bin regularly. Take a "doggy bag" from the restaurant if it is too much!

Month: December

Big Impact: If you are renovating your house, recycle the carpet, and everything else you can!

Little Stuff: Shop local for Christmas! Avoid amazon! (Find it on amazon, then search for other vendors)



Easy: Use a timer plug for your Christmas lights so they are not on all day/night.

Jono Wright





christmas

Kirkby Christmas Festival

Thursday 27th November
5.30-6pm

Once again we've been invited to be part of the Council's Christmas Event in Kirkby town Centre. Together with the other churches in Kirkby we have the opportunity to be part of the evening programme before the Christmas lights are switched on. We'll sing carols, share the message of Christmas and pray right in the centre of Kirkby, (Kirkby Plaza). We need to gather a make shift choir together for the evening. No age limit and no auditions required – just the ability to step onto the stage, sing with enthusiasm and with plenty of smiles!

Please email admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk to let us know that you can be with us and arrive by 5.15pm wrapped up nice and warm ready to sing!



Or if you'd prefer to come and be part of the crowd that would be great too. We want to be a great blessing and witness to the people of Kirkby.

Carol Singing in Morrisons

Saturday 20th December 10am

Morrisons have invited us to come and



sing to their customers ahead of Christmas! We can also invite people to come to our Carol Service and Christingle Service if they would like to, but our main aim is to bring joy and be a blessing to all the Morrisons

Customers heading to do some Christmas shopping on the Saturday morning! We've done this for a few years now – and it's a lot of fun! Please put the date in your calender and join us on the day if you can!

Boots and Baubles



An outside event for the community and church on Saturday 13th December where people go from one Car Boot to another - kids will have a Trail Passport and get stamps for each Car Boot they visit and then get a treat at the end.

Ten LifeGroups will each have one (or two?) Car Boot/s.

Ideas for Car Boots - cars to use battery operated fairy lights etc. Dress up their area.

- Bethlehem Bakery - Gingerbread decorating
- Christmas Tree Decorations
- Candle Jar decorating with a battery tea light and tissue paper

- Sparkly Stars
- Sheep Herding Challenge Woolly “sheep” (cotton balls or small plush toys) that kids must guide into a pen using spoons or sticks.
- Angel Hoop Toss Halos (glow stick hoops) tossed onto cones/pegs.
- Pop Up Nativity - maybe over two cars exploring the story. Maybe a couple of people being in character.
- Christmas Selfies Station - props and backdrop.
- Tin Can Alley in the boot of the car with snowballs to throw.
- More initiatives along those lines are very welcome!

If you want to commit to be in charge of any of these, please inform admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

We will also have:

- Some heaters and big lights
- Prayer or Blessing Tree - Families write down a hope or/and prayer for Christmas and hang it on a tree.
- Music - plus some carol singing with people can join in—maybe a few people to create a small choir.
- Refreshment stop: hot chocolate, non-alcoholic mulled wine, mince crepes etc with cookies and cakes
- Fire Pit - toasting marshmallows, smores.

If the weather doesn't allow an outdoor event, we will have to be able to move inside.

Free (booking required)

To book, go to <https://ashwoodchurch.churchsuite.com/events/xxv1pysj> or scan the QR code in the picture. Bring your friends.



Harvest School Assembly Thankfulness and Sharing

This October, ACE Kids team sent out a virtual assembly to local primary schools focusing on Harvest. As many of us know, harvest is a special time of year when farmers gather in the crops that fill our tables with good things like wheat, apples, and pumpkins. Our aim was to help the children to learn that Harvest is also about both thankfulness and generosity.

The children shared their favourite things about this season, joined in with a lively Harvest Festival True or False Quiz, testing their knowledge with questions about farming, food, and Bible stories before discovering what Harvest means for Christians: a time to thank God for all we have and to remember others who may not have as much.

The children watched a short animated retelling of the Feeding of the 5,000, reminding everyone how Jesus gave thanks, and a small boy shared his lunch — and how God used that small act to bless thousands. The children reflected on how they can make a difference by sharing what they have, perhaps by giving to a food bank or helping a neighbour.

It was great to celebrate the true heart of Harvest



ACE Kids: October Friday Night Takeaway A Celebration of Thankfulness!

On Friday 3rd October, our ACE Kids gathered for another fun-filled Friday Night Takeaway — and what a brilliant evening it was! With 20 children joining in, the room was buzzing with fun, faith, and friendship from start to finish.

Our theme for the night was thankfulness, explored through the inspiring story of Ruth. Together, we discovered how Ruth's loyalty, kindness, and gratitude remind us to be thankful for the people God places in our lives.

The children got creative with a colourful vegetable printing craft,

making beautiful harvest-themed artwork to take home. Laughter filled the room during the energetic Harvest Relay Race, where teamwork and joy were the stars of the show!

It was a fantastic evening of learning, laughter, and thankfulness — and we're so grateful for everyone who came along to make it special.

ACE Kids – growing together in fun, faith, and friendship!

ACE Kids Superhero Holiday Club

Heroes of Faith!

During the October half term, ACE Kids hosted an exciting Superhero Holiday Club, running over three fun-filled mornings. Each day, around 20 children joined Team Spider-Man and Team Captain America for an action-packed adventure of faith, fun, and friendship!

Day One – David and Goliath: God Helps Us Overcome Challenges
We kicked off with the story of David and Goliath, learning that God gives us strength to face even the biggest challenges.

Day Two – Esther the Brave Queen: God Can Use Us to Do Amazing Things.
Our superheroes discovered the story of Queen Esther, who showed great courage and faith—reminding us that God can use anyone to make a difference.

Day Three – Jesus and Zacchaeus: Rescued by Love

We finished the week with Zacchaeus meeting Jesus, learning how God's love can transform hearts. Abby brought the stories to life with fun props— including a Christmas tree on day three!

Each morning was packed with team challenges, small group discussions, creative crafts (like shields, superhero masks, and fingerprint art), energetic games, and joyful praise and worship. The children also took home a worksheet each day to help them remember what they learned.



A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the week possible—our amazing team, those who prayed, and all who supported behind the scenes. Together we had an unforgettable time celebrating how God makes heroes out of ordinary people!

Rich Reason
*Children and Youth
Team Leader*





Elevate.YTH

Growing in Faith, Purpose and Community

It's been an incredible start to the new term for **Elevate.YTH**! Since September, our youth have been diving deep into the **Youth Alpha Course**, exploring big questions about life, faith, and purpose in a fun, open, and relevant way.

So far, we've tackled four powerful sessions:

- **Who is Jesus?** – Looking at who Jesus was (and is!), His life, His teachings, and the amazing impact He continues to have today.
- **What Does Real Love Look Like?** – Exploring the power of unconditional love, forgiveness, and God's amazing grace.
- **Why Would I Want a Relationship with God?** – Discovering what it means to be invited into a real, transforming relationship with God.

We'll be continuing with **Youth Alpha** over Christmas and into the new year — it's all about creating space for

young people to ask honest questions and encounter God in a real way.

➡ *Who could you invite to join the journey?*

IGNITE Nights

In October, we launched our first-ever **IGNITE** evening — a space to get real about what truly matters. Together, we unpacked what it means that **Jesus is better than...**

1. **Social approval** – His love isn't based on likes or popularity; it's constant and unshakable.
2. **Temporary comfort** – Life isn't perfect, but Jesus gives joy, peace, and purpose that never fade.
3. **Our own plans** – God's plans are always better! As Philippians 3:8 reminds us: *"I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*

Following Jesus sometimes means letting go of things that hold us back — but what we gain in return is so much greater: real love, lasting purpose, and a foundation that never fails.

Rich Reason
Children and Youth Team Leader



Stay Connected

Parents and young people can stay in the loop:

- 📱 Join our **WhatsApp groups** for updates (Parents and Year 7+ Youth)
- 💬 Follow us on **Instagram:** [@elevateyouthashwood](https://www.instagram.com/elevateyouthashwood) for updates, inspiration, and event info
- ✉ Got questions or want to get connected? Contact **Rich** at rich@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Key Dates This Term

November: 7th · 14th · 21st

December: 5th 12th

January: 9th 16th 23rd

When, Where and Who

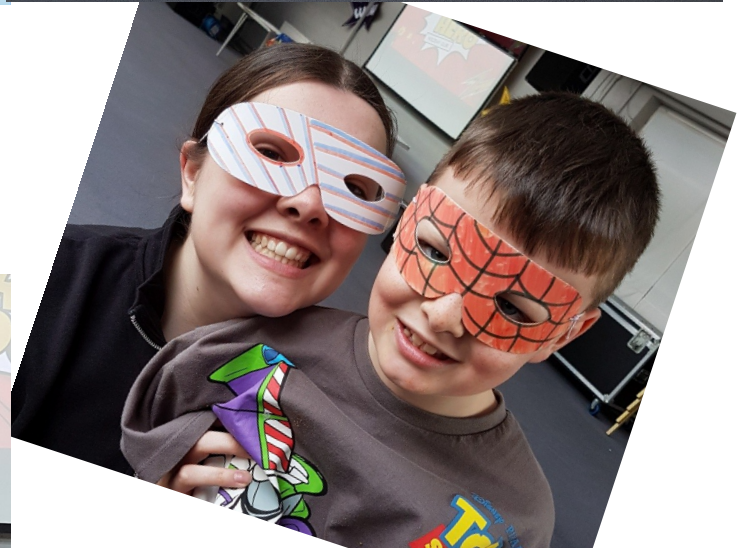
All Friday evening sessions start at 7 pm (unless stated otherwise) at the Ashwood Centre and open for all young people in year 6 – age 18.



Come along to our next Friday Night Takeaway, guaranteed Fun, Faith and Friendship! To book, go to: <https://ashwoodchurch.churchsuite.com/events/5lnurnan>



If you would like to be involved in the Elevate or children's team, please speak to Rich Reason: rich@ashwoodchurch.org.uk





other

Free Access to RightNow Media

Hopefully by now you'll have heard about our exciting **free gift** for everyone in our church family, **full access to RightNow Media!**

It's an incredible online library packed with thousands of Bible studies, devotionals, teaching videos, and children's series to help us all keep growing in our faith and focusing on *Simply Jesus*.



I said I would give you a little update on what I have been watching, and I am enjoying one of their fascinating series,

Excavating the Evidence for Jesus, where archaeologist and author Dr. Titus Kennedy explores the history, archaeology, and evidence surrounding Jesus' ministry. Filmed from his research lair and

on location across Israel, it's engaging, faith-building, and perfect for all ages.

If you haven't already signed up, you can access it all for free at <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/ashwoodchurchuk>

“Belonging to Ashwood” – Next Session Sunday 30th November 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



Rural Missions Update

– Autumn 2025



It's been an incredible few months for Rural Missions, and I'm so thankful for all that God is doing as we continue to equip and encourage rural churches across the UK.

We recently celebrated a huge milestone - **over 2,000 of our Missional Toolkits have now been sent out!** These free, practical

resources are helping churches of every size to reflect on their mission, explore their local context, and take fresh steps to reach their communities. We've heard from churches



using them in PCCs, small groups, and leadership teams, and we love seeing how God is using them to spark new vision and action. If you haven't got yours yet, you can order one free at www.ruralmissions.org.uk/toolkits.

Last month, I had the privilege of being invited to **Lambeth Palace** for a national gathering focused on **New Worshipping Communities**. It was encouraging to see the growing recognition of rural mission as a vital part of the Church of England's future,

and to share how Rural Missions is helping churches think creatively about what new forms of church might look like in their own settings.

We've also just launched another exciting new resource — our **Visiting Church Booklet**. It's a fun, interactive guide for children coming into church for the first time, whether with school, for a wedding, baptism, or community event. It helps them feel welcome, understand what's happening, and discover something of the wonder of church. You can find out more and order copies from our website.

And finally, I'd love to invite you to join us for our upcoming **Fundraiser Comedy Night with Andy Kind** on

Sunday, 30th November. Andy's a brilliant Christian comedian who combines faith, joy, and laughter in a way that lifts everyone's spirits. All proceeds from the evening will go toward supporting the ongoing work of Rural Missions. It promises to be a fantastic night out, so bring your friends and come ready to laugh!

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. It's exciting to see so many people catching the vision that *small places matter to God*, and together we really are making a difference in rural mission across the nation.



Bob Goody
Leadership Core Team

PASSION LED US HERE

community



What do people think about Café 22?

It's been a very busy few weeks with many customers eating up

all our bacon butties, jacket potatoes and cakes. It was



suggested that I ask a few people about why Cafe 22 was special to them so on Monday 3rd November I spoke to people who were there, both regulars, fairly new people and the team who were on duty. I was so encouraged that the responses reflected what is at the heart of the cafe which is good food and good company. Here are some of the comments, I am keeping them anonymous and also mixing team and customers too. I hope that you enjoy reading them as much as I loved hearing the comments.

- We like the friendliness, it's a social thing we can do (as a couple), it's affordable. It's a nice place to be for

everyone and we are made to feel welcome. It's a good thing to have in this area, for lots of people it's the only palace they can go.

- We like nice people.
- I like meeting people, speaking to them, encouraging, helping when possible and serving food if required!
- Its where community can come together
- I'm homeless and I'm always hungry
- I want to find out more about God and that. I find it soothing
- I've been coming a couple of years, it's a welcoming, friendly, and safe place.
- Listening to 'em talk, it's nice to have a chat with people.
- I enjoy chatting and laughing with the volunteers, lunch and home made cake is good too.



- The meal was so well displayed I could have been in a Cordon Bleu cafe!
- Somewhere I can belong, company and a warm place.
- A lovely happy team, watching each others back when we miss something, great conversation and it's fun working together. Laughter, lots of it, with encouragement. Lovely to see happy customers enjoying the atmosphere, helping people to connect with a warm welcome and drink, good food, and welcoming. It's great to watch people make connections.
- It's a vibrant centre for the community that I want to be part of.
- I like it, love talking to people, there's a bit of everything, tea and cake.

People are looked after, I like to see who's there.

And finally my thoughts:

Cafe 22 is a reflection of God's heart in and through the team and our customers. I'm so grateful that everybody who is part of the cafe (those I spoke to and those I didn't) play a vital role in enabling such a wonderful and warm space for team and customers alike. Also that everyone who comes into that atmosphere gets a taste of Heaven on earth leaving restored and refreshed.

Christine Redfern



Autumn Craftiness



Our Autumn craft night is on Saturday 22nd November. Whether you are a seasoned crafter or just starting out we would love you to join us for a relaxed and informal evening of creativity and fun.

On the night we will be making and selling some lovely craft items perfect timing ahead of Christmas being just around the corner.

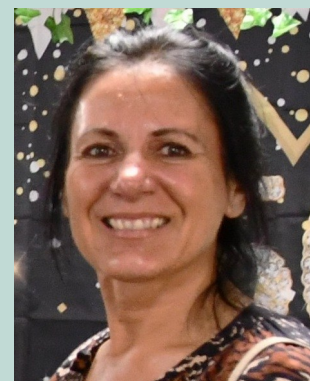
There will be coffee and cake on the night which is always a plus.

We find here at Ashwood nights like these are a perfect chance to relax come together and share ideas, get out of the house and get our crafty heads on.

We would love it if you could join us.

Hope to see you there.

Zoe Jones





Storehouse Foodbank

We are excited about all the things God is doing through Storehouse.

Gratitude

Every week, I turn up at Storehouse Food Bank and have so much gratitude for the team of faithful, joyful and hardworking volunteers who make things happen. But that includes:-

- Everyone at Ashwood and beyond that prays for us and those we serve
- Everyone in Ashwood and beyond that donates food or money to us
- And increasingly, everyone who goes the extra mile to make the folks coming into church welcome

Lots of Prayer Ministry

There doesn't seem to be a week that goes by that we don't get to pray one-on-one with people, which is such a privilege.

The Storehouse Community

We have begun to host a team meal for those we serve and the team to get together. There's nothing like a meal to build relationships so this is something else to be praying about.

Challenges ahead

Safeguarding

If you're in a LifeGroup the Safeguarding team has given your LG leaders some guidelines to pass on to keep the church and people who are beginning to come safe. If you're not yet in a LifeGroup, you could have a word with myself, Elaine or Claire.

Space

We may be considered for up to a van load of food a month in the near future,





but we don't have a great deal of storage space. If anyone has any ideas, I would be grateful to hear them as I don't really want to turn down the opportunity. Come and have a word with me if you have any insight that might help.

Gill Isterling
Community Outreach
Lead



I was *hungry*, you fed me.

I was *thirsty*, you gave me something to drink...

MATTHEW 25:35

The Gathering Place: Come and See

Get Connected

This is a year of focusing on 'SIMPLY JESUS' and we know that God has designed us to be in relationship with one another. '

The Gathering Place' takes place on the 1st and 3rd Friday in the month, 2-4pm at the Ashwood centre which is a great space to simply connect and be with people, whatever your age/culture/background. 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. Jesus invited people

to come and see (John 1:46).

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

Why not get connected?

Bec Goody

The Gathering Place

FRIDAYS



FRIENDSHIP



FAITH



FUN



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!



Ashwood Church Financial Giving

We are so thankful to everyone who gives financially. We can't do anything without you! With your help, we can play our part in seeing God's Kingdom built and lives transformed for Jesus.

The easiest and most cost effective way to give to Ashwood Church is directly into the church bank account. You can make a one off bank transfer or set up a regular standing order using our bank details:

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

This account can be used for donations for the general work of the church and the New Home for Ashwood project (if making a donation towards the New Home for Ashwood project, please use 'NHFA' as the reference so your gift can be correctly allocated).

Alternatively, you can:

- Donate by cash during the offering on a Sunday morning
- Make a debit / credit card donation via our online **Stewardship** page (visit <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20024077> or scan the QR code)
- Make a debit / credit card donation via our online **Donate** page (visit <https://ashwoodchurch.churchsuite.com/donate> or scan the relevant QR code)
- By debit / credit card on a Sunday morning (please see Becky if you would like to donate this way)

Please note that due to local branch closures and increased banking costs, we can no longer accept cheque donations



Donate - via Stewardship page



Donate - NHFA



Donate - General Fund

	Total Giving	General Offerings	Development (NHFA) Fund*	Building Fund
September 2025	£69,313	£11,688	£56,701	£925
October 2025	£22,286	£10,835	£10,967	£484

Finance Focus: People!

Ashwood is a lively, informal, growing Church with people from a wide variety of backgrounds. We seek to love, serve and follow Jesus Christ. We aim to be a Church that is friendly and accessible for the whole family. Whatever your background, race, colour or history, we want you to know that you are welcome!

At Ashwood we value people and want to invest in them. We are incredibly fortunate to have a brilliant group of volunteers, committed Leaders, a wonderful Core Leadership team and a great Staff Team.

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

Pay all of our **part time staff team** to help facilitate the work of the church in all areas including: Community, Pastoral Care, Children and Young People, Worship, Finance, Administration, Care of the Ashwood Centre and Leadership

Run training, coaching, mentoring & supervision sessions for some of our Staff Team, Leaders and Team Leaders

Access **training sessions & resources** for our Children's Team

Invest in training for our Worship Team including sessions led by Zo Ross-Waddell and Ethan Williams

Access & run Safeguarding training

Facilitate team meetings for our Worship, Kids, Youth and Staff

teams

Support Leaders to attend **Ground Level Events** including National Forums and the Annual Leadership Conference

Contribute towards **training days and retreats** for our Senior Leaders



Your giving has also allowed us to **provide financial support beyond ourselves** - to Links

International (for Links Charity and for Sam Walker), Ground Level (including Awaken), Rural Missions, Linking Lives (for the Two's Company befriending service) and Oxfam in response to the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in April this year.

Thank you so much for the money you give which has enabled all these things to happen.

Everything we do is connected to our mission to help people find and follow Jesus.

Becky Holmes
Financial Administrator



Gift Aid

If you are a UK Tax Payer, there's some really good news! Ashwood Church can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give from the Government, using the Gift Aid scheme. Just email

becky@ashwoodchurch.org.uk for a Gift Aid form.



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 December, 7th January - Details see page 6
- **LifeGroups** meet fortnightly on Monday afternoons or evenings. For more info, see pages 10/11 - to join, talk to Bec Goody
- **Ashwood Youth** meets on Fridays, details see page 25
- **Prayer Opportunities** see pages 6 - 9
- **New Home for Ashwood Prayer** dates see pages 4 & 6
- **Belonging to Ashwood Meetings** see page 26
- **Opportunities to Serve**, see pages 15 - 17

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 15

For Your Diaries:

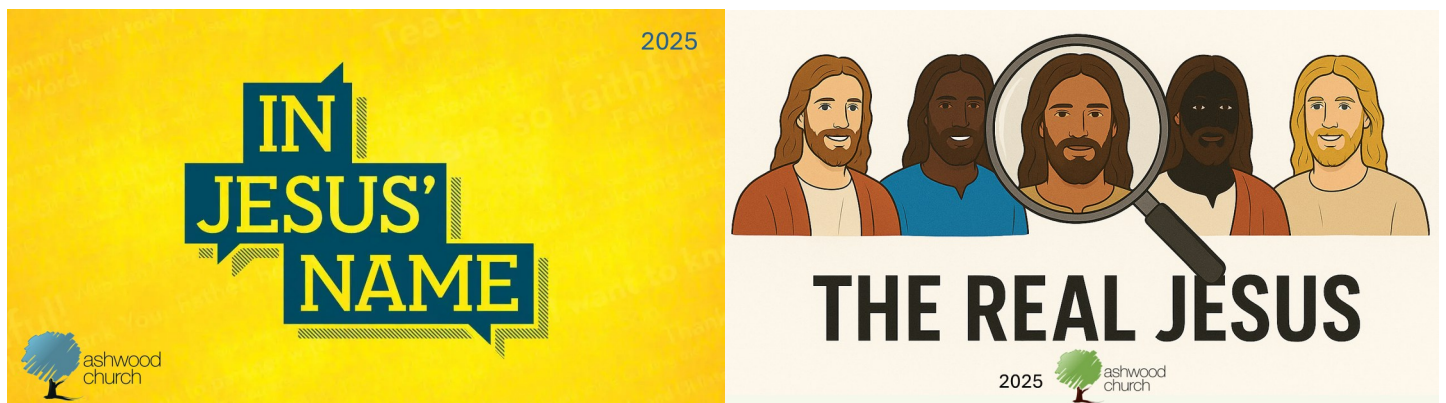
22nd Nov	Craft Event / Proceeds to NHFA	pg 29
23rd Nov	Transformed Worship	pg 6
27th Nov	Kirkby Christmas Festival	pg 20
28th Nov	Friday Night Takeaway	pg 25
30th Nov	Belonging to Ashwood	pg 26
30th Nov	Rural Mission Event with Andy Kind	pg 27
13th Dec	Boots and Baubles Community Christmas Event	pg 21
20th Dec	Carol singing at Morrisons	pg 20
25th Jan	Baptism Sunday	pg 3



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 21st September	<u>In Jesus' Name - Part 1</u> Matt Bell
Sunday 28th September	<u>In Jesus' Name - Part 2</u> Bob Goody
Sunday 5th October	<u>In Jesus' Name - Part 2</u> Bec Goody
Sunday 12th October	<u>Baptism Sunday</u> Matt Bell
Sunday 19th October	<u>God's Amazing Restoring Grace</u> Jonas Eyles
Sunday 26th October	<u>The Real Jesus - Part 1</u> Matt Bell
Sunday 2nd November	<u>The Real Jesus - Part 2</u> Zoe Bell
Sunday 9th November	<u>The Real Jesus - Part 3</u> Bob Goody



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
Company registered in England & Wales Number 6946764
Registered Charity Number 1134945

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

www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk