

ashwoodnews

November December 2023



50 YEARS ASHWOOD

What a celebration
it was! See more
details and pictures
on pgs 2-5

Christmas

See the inlay for
Christmas Events
And there are even
more dates not to
miss on pg 50

Leadership

Find details of the
new Leadership
Structure and the
people behind it
on pgs 6&7



Helping people find
and follow Jesus



Matt's message

Hello Ashwood News Readers!

Hello Ashwood News Readers! Thanks for picking up our bi-monthly collection of information and news! You picked a good one! You can read all about our 50 year celebration as well as all the good things happening as we begin the Christmas Season. Hopefully you can find what you're looking for! If not, please get in touch with us and we'll try and help you. As you'll see, these pages are packed with updates, information, stories and what we believe God is saying. Thanks for reading.

What an amazing time we had celebrating our 50 year anniversary!

A special moment in our history, looking back at our history and thanking God for



His faithfulness and kindness over the last 5 decades. Over the two weekends we were joined by over 300 people who came to participate in our 50 years events. The Open Day had fun for all the family, the Café 22 Team serving some delicious food and drink and we opened the exhibition with photos and memories from the 50 years. Then the following weekend – during our “formal” service, many of us were inspired to hear some of the earliest members – Steve and Kathy Coupe with Molly Bell describe how the origins of the church were a few people coming together in a lounge, in

obedience to what they felt God was calling them to do and to explore what church should be like. They came from some traditional denominations, not with a sense of rebellion but looking to respond to a

move of the Holy Spirit, who had impacted their lives and they wanted more.

We honoured everyone who had played a part in the church's history, some who were able to join us and many who couldn't be with us. We specifically remembered the very few people who have been part of Ashwood for nearly all of the 50 years - Martin and Mandy Walker, Simon and Janet Wright, Molly Bell and John Hallett. Faithful servants, who have given sacrificially and invested much of their lives to enable the church to

become who we are today. We also remembered those people who are no longer with us including Michael and Maureen Coupe, Ron and Coreen Brookes, Cecily Hallett (John's wife) and Graham Bell who were all instrumental in the early stages of the church (and for Graham leading for the longest time in the church's history) and together pioneered something new. Our hearts were filled with gratitude for all that God has done through his people, and the role models we have for living and leading well. Some other great interviews, an encouraging message from Stuart Bell and the fabulous 50 years Medley we sang together! In the evening we partied! Delicious food, Ceilidh dancing and entertainment from Paul, Education from some of our African Families and a 50 year poem from Molly! A great night! Thank you to all our wonderful teams, serving so wonderfully across all the events! You are amazing!



ahead to the next 50 years! Our future is bright! We continue to welcome all that God wants to do in a year of Jubilee with more freedom, breakthrough and stepping out. (If you missed either the 50 years Celebration

Service OR the Sunday morning you can watch the recording again)

On the same Sunday morning, Claire and I were taken by surprise – as Elaine and Janet took the microphone to mark and celebrate 10

years of the two of us leading Ashwood. We were given an amazing tapestry that Janet had created and a book with pictures and lovely encouraging messages from many people in the church. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this – it was so thoughtful and kind. It's been our honour and privilege to lead the church over the last 10 years, and whilst the world is an increasingly difficult place – we believe the future of the church of Jesus (including Ashwood) is still incredibly bright!

As we look ahead – we look forward with hope and joy! In this edition of Ashwood News you'll be able to read more about our New Leadership Core Team that we announced in September and commissioned in October, and some dates for you, and anyone you might like to invite to some of our special events over Christmas and much, much more!

With huge thanks, appreciation and love!

Matt Bell
Senior Leader



Then, on Sunday morning we looked ahead. Woody the Ashwood Bear joined us, and we had two special messages from our great friend Duane White in Texas on video and Joe Gisbey (Links Charity CEO) Looking



Feedback from Steve and Kathy

Hi Matt ... and everyone else at Ashwood Church.

Kathy & I just want to thank you for inviting us to the church for the weekend, and for the honouring that we both felt as a part of the original crew that launched out all those years ago. Looking back, we were rather like Abram (as he was then) when God called him to leave Haran - he didn't know where he was going, nor what the ups and downs would be, But he obeyed, just as we did together. In that sense, It was all very simple. Hear, trust, obey.



We also want to say that we really enjoyed the whole time. As I said on the Saturday afternoon, we are so blessed to see that a seed planted back then has grown into a lovely vibrant tree. Like the mustard seed that I was reading about this morning - a very small seed planted from which a large tree grew, which provided a home for many birds. And you folk are clearly providing a spiritual home for many 'birds'.

So may the Lord truly bless you all now and on into the future.

With our love and prayers,

Steve & Kathy

50 years Matt Bell!

In December Matt (Bell) will celebrate his 50th birthday!

After the service on Sunday 10th December 12-1pm – Matt is inviting anyone who would like to join him in the meeting room (Ashwood Centre) for a piece of cake and a chuckle at some photo's of him during his 50 years! If you know Matt, please feel free to pop in! He would love to see you!





50 Year Celebration – Open Day (23rd Sept)

It was wonderful to see so many people “drop-in” and help us celebrate 50 years of Ashwood.

Many people joined us from the community as well as people from our Ashwood Church Family! Thank you to all the teams who made the day a huge success! Here are a few of the photo’s we loved!



50 Year Celebration - Ceilidh Dance (30th Sept)

A house full of joy and celebration! So many people joined in the dancing, and those who didn’t enjoyed the watching!





Leadership Core Team

In September we announced our plans for a new structure for our leadership team going forward.

After Zoe and Dave stepped down over the last 14 months, we've been praying about what the church needs for the next season. After conversations and seeking wise counsel, we are delighted to create a new Leadership Core Team.

Matt and Claire will continue as our Senior Leaders with support from this new team: Andy Beighton, Bec Goody, Helen Tomlinson, Gill Isterling and Bob Goody. We are grateful for team and know that as Ashwood continues to grow (numerically and spiritually) and diversify, we want to be more and more equipped to serve and lead the church well.

We hope you are as excited as we are about this change! We pray that this next season of our church will be really fruitful.



Please be praying for our new leadership core team, for peace and protection, wisdom and guidance as we seek to be a spiritually healthy church of all ages that helps people to find and follow Jesus.

MEET THE TEAM:



Matt loves riding his mountain bike, eating with friends and building star wars lego!



Claire loves to have people over for dinner, going to the cinema and travel.





Gill loves having fun with family and friends and all things Liverpool (You'll never walk alone)



Bec loves eating different cuisines, walks in nature, holidays and spending time with people!



Helen loves spending time with her family, eating out with friends, walking the dog in Derbyshire (with coffee and cake en route) and all things Jane Austen.



Bob loves good coffee (no instant coffee please), good food, and good company. The occasional night of gaming is also a bonus, despite his competitive streak.

Andy loves playing music, eating, travelling and spending quality time with family and friends.





At the moment we're continuing our Sunday Series "The church I see...." In the introduction to the series Matt shared 50 different descriptions of the church we see. Of course there are more, but here's the full list! As we look to the future, these are some of the things that we aspire to! All requiring God's power, patience and resilience! A bright future! Let's pray!

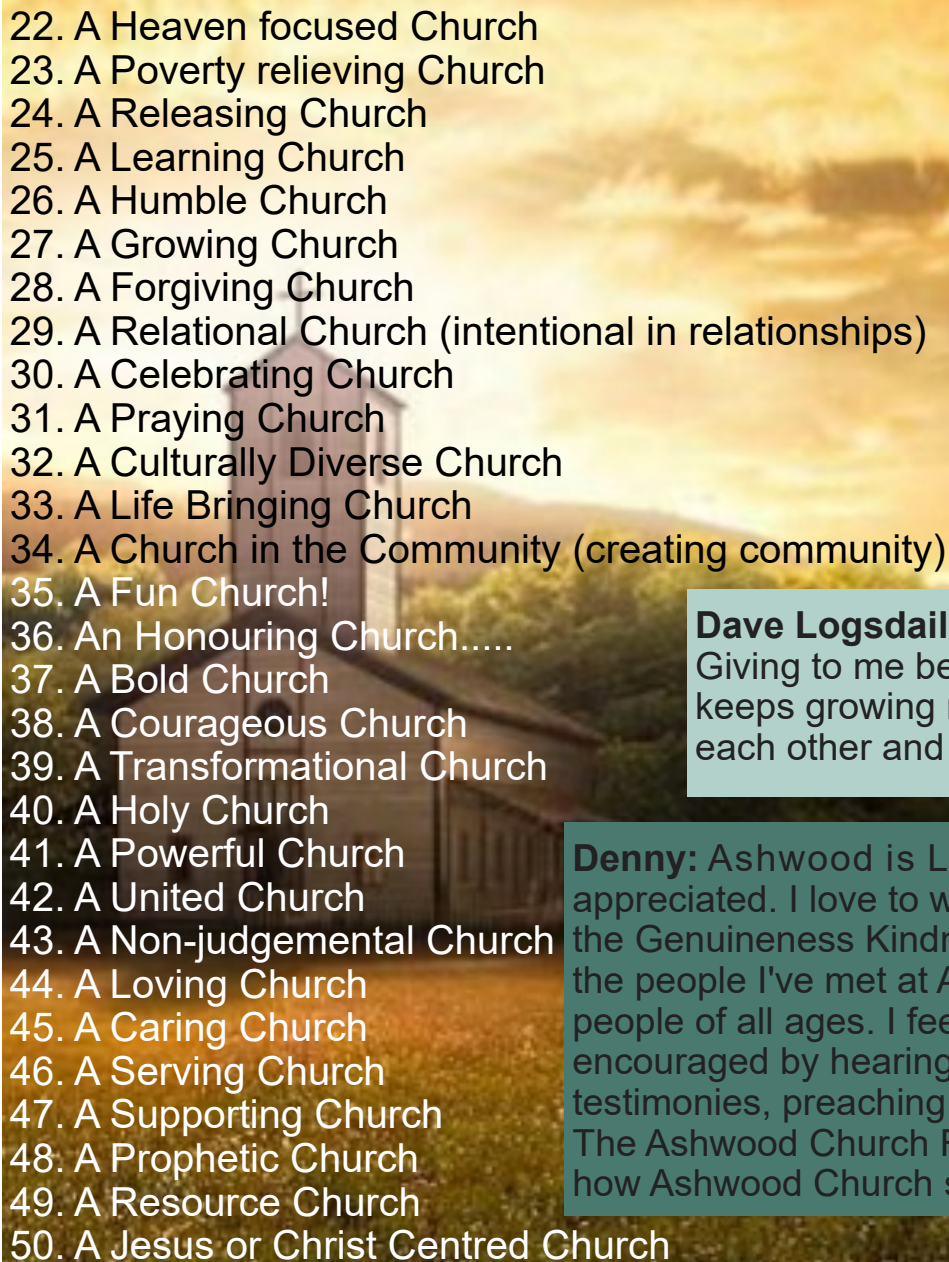
1. A Generous Church
2. A Grateful Church (or Thankful Church)
3. A Compassionate Church.
4. A Passionate Church
5. A Worshipping Church
6. A Spirit filled Church (A charismatic Church)
7. A Welcoming Church
8. A Hospitable Church
9. A Kind Church
10. A Faithful Church and
11. A Faith filled Church
12. A Family Church and a Church that IS family
13. A Joyful Church
14. A Kingdom building Church
15. A Battling but not striving Church
16. A Bible based Church
17. A Responsible Church
18. An Eco Church
19. A Missional Church
20. An Outreaching church
21. An Encouraging Church



Ashwood is Life Giving to me because I can come and be in God's presence, receive his encouragement and be surrounded by his people.

Abby Clark: Ashwood is Life Giving to me because as we gather together as church, there is often a sense for me of the breath of God filling me once again. The world can often leave us struggling to breathe, but church helps us to draw breath, and breathe deeply.



- 
22. A Heaven focused Church
 23. A Poverty relieving Church
 24. A Releasing Church
 25. A Learning Church
 26. A Humble Church
 27. A Growing Church
 28. A Forgiving Church
 29. A Relational Church (intentional in relationships)
 30. A Celebrating Church
 31. A Praying Church
 32. A Culturally Diverse Church
 33. A Life Bringing Church
 34. A Church in the Community (creating community)
 35. A Fun Church!
 36. An Honouring Church.....
 37. A Bold Church
 38. A Courageous Church
 39. A Transformational Church
 40. A Holy Church
 41. A Powerful Church
 42. A United Church
 43. A Non-judgemental Church
 44. A Loving Church
 45. A Caring Church
 46. A Serving Church
 47. A Supporting Church
 48. A Prophetic Church
 49. A Resource Church
 50. A Jesus or Christ Centred Church

Janet: I see and hear God at work in those around me. As we worship and pray together, I step into the presence of God and have discovered how much I'm loved by God and those around me. Being a church family encourages me to press in to more of God's promises and take hold of the truth of who I am in Christ.

Dave Logsdail: Ashwood Church is Life Giving to me because it is a family that keeps growing reflecting the love of Jesus to each other and every person we ever meet.

Denny: Ashwood is Life Giving because I feel appreciated. I love to worship and fellowship. I love the Genuineness Kindness Friendliness of many of the people I've met at Ashwood. I love speaking to people of all ages. I feel very empowered and encouraged by hearing the worship songs, testimonies, preaching and teaching. Being a part of The Ashwood Church Family and I personally love how Ashwood Church serves the local community.

Gisela: Ashwood is Life Giving for me because I experience the Ashwood culture as a biblical one, one that sees people first and foremost as loved brothers and sisters in Christ and therefore includes people from all backgrounds and heritages. For me, Ashwood is that cosy, fitting square hole where I as a square peg sit comfortably and supported.

Martin: Ashwood Church is Life Giving to me because I have found the source of life and the reason for living it!

Michael: Ashwood Church is Life Giving to me because it's centred on Jesus and Love - Everything we do is founded on Jesus or flows from Jesus. It's an inspirational church where I worship with other people. It has a culture of care and love, gives my family a sense of belonging, heartfelt worship, caring leadership and transformational teaching. Ashwood impacts the community through several outreach programs like Cafe 22 and the Bike Project. Ashwood Church encourages everyone in their physical and spiritual wellbeing and development with practical approaches. It creates a Safe Space (LifeGroup) for members to interact, do life together and pray.



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, do 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 LifeGroup's 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 “do 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.



Matt Bell

During the Autumn we've been considering how we “Shine Brightly” as part of our 2023 Vision / Theme for the year.

Lifegroups-Jesus centred

Being part of a lifegroup is a great way to deepen your faith and do life with others. At Ashwood we aim for our LifeGroups to be: Welcoming, Relational, Jesus Centred and a Place to Grow! Michael joined a lifegroup about a year ago and is sharing this month:



I've learnt a lot, about spiritual matters and about the people there, how they approach life through Christianity, and it's far from dull: there's a lot of fun conversations - I didn't expect that!

I go to learn, and I have! I go to learn, because I'm flawed and I want to be a better person.

I often joke my knowledge of Christianity comes from television and film, and as good as some of these are, and I do think most of them were well

I'm a comparative newcomer to LifeGroup, I've been going maybe about a year or so.

I'm a comparative newcomer to church as well: I think the first service I attended was Christmas 2019.

I was invited to join a Lifegroup a few times, but I always put it off. I was reluctant, not knowing what to expect, and I'm an expert at procrastination. After the first meeting I was pleasantly surprised.

I'm not sure what I wanted from it before I started, I think I found out its value after the first few meetings: it's a friendly and interesting group of people.

The discussions can be quite deep and



made, I'm not sure it's the ideal way to learn, I think it's far better to talk to people who know far more about this subject than me, I suppose you could call it a "deeper dive".

If you asked me about joining a group, if you wanted to know if I would recommend it? My answer would be: "yes!"

Michael Griffiths





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!

Anton shares his experience of welcome....

Hello, I came to Ashwood just over a year ago and have now made it my 'home'. I certainly remember being welcomed with a smile and a cheery voice which made me feel so much at ease. The sweets and other goodies were sometimes an added bonus - except when the chocolaty sweets melted in my pocket – ugh!! It's often been said that when people come to church for the first time, going through the main door can be a very daunting experience – that's where a warm, friendly welcome can go a long way in helping to settle any concerns people might have.

As I believed my God given gift is to have a care and love for people, I knew that being in the Welcome Team was something I would really like to be part of. So when the offer came up I jumped at the chance of joining. One of my drawbacks is that I can't always

remember the names of people but I try my best!



Being involved in the Welcome Team means arriving early for Worship on Sunday Morning and preparing the room prior to people arriving.

There are banners to put up and the welcome table to set up in the main room, also the entrance to prepare.

But there are always other people around to help out.

As people start to arrive, we welcome them at the door. If it's their first time we can accompany them down the passage into the main room - pointing out the seating and refreshment areas then handing them over to the welcome team in the room. At the end of the service there is an opportunity to chat with people as they leave.

It's then time to clear everything in the room away. If this strikes a chord in your heart and you feel a calling to be part of the Welcome Team please see Janet Wright. All you need is a love for people, a warm smile, an encouraging word and a friendly face – it can 'break down' concerns people may have about coming into Church.

Just Think -- our warm welcome can create a wonderful positive response, and who knows, it could lead to visitors wanting to know more about the 'Jesus' we know.

Anton Beighton



A Great Ashwood Welcome!

We have an amazing team of people (of all ages) who are committed to welcoming people on a Sunday morning. They welcome in the car park, with a smile on the door, with a hot cuppa and a bit of a conversation. The welcome is there for all of us: to those who are part of the Ashwood family and those who are visiting, whether as a one off or with a view to making Ashwood their home church. We often get feedback that our welcome is good, so thank you to each and every person on this team.

Over the last few weeks our Sunday morning gatherings have been growing – on two Sundays we had over 200 chairs out. Not only did we almost run out of chairs but our welcome team were stretched and I know many of you



stepped up and welcomed our visitors which was a big blessing. Thank you to all who did that.

As we continue to grow it would be lovely to grow our welcome and hospitality team. Could you be a part of that?

There are a variety of ways to get involved: welcoming on the door or in the main hall, being a child/youth welcomer – we

have an adult and a couple of younger people to welcome children, young people and their families, serving refreshments or being a car park welcomer and helping to get as many cars parked in the car park as is safe to do so! We also set up banners and information and help pack down at the end of the morning. The commitment is being part of team that serves every 4 weeks and to arrive 9.30/9.45 if possible.

Please talk to Janet or one of the Welcome and Hospitality team if you would like to get involved or would like to know more. We would love to hear from you.

Janet Wright

janet@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

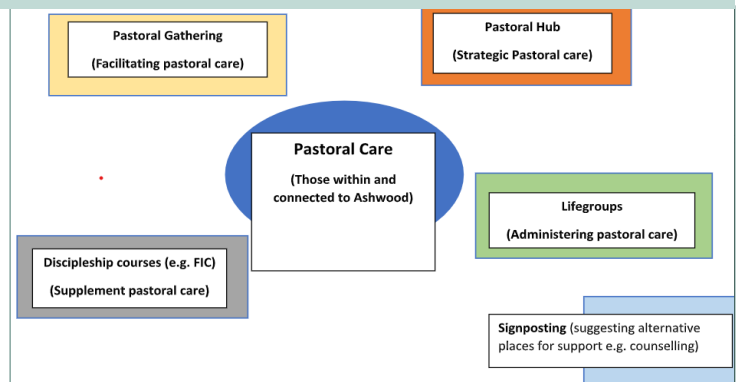


pastoral care

We're blessed to be such a pastorally minded church. One of our culture goals is that we continue to grow a "Culture of Care" in Ashwood. We believe that every person can have a part to play in pastoral care for one another. Jesus has called us all to love our neighbours and to treat people with compassion - this is something that is at the heart of what we do as church.

However, we recognise that some people are particularly gifted/have a particular calling to serve in this area and we have different areas within church that provide different types of support.

- **LifeGroups** are important in administering pastoral care, aiming to be Jesus centred, places of growth, welcome and relationship, where people feel cared for and can also care for others.
- **The Pastoral Hub** looks strategically across Ashwood for areas we can develop our pastoral care and tends to be involved in providing additional support to those within Ashwood.
- **The Pastoral Gathering** is involved in helping to facilitate pastoral care, each person within it is connected to different spheres within Ashwood and helps to facilitate further pastoral care.
- **Discipleship Courses** such as Freedom in Christ, are a place for learning and growing and they also help to supplement our pastoral care, providing opportunities for relationships to deepen and for additional pastoral support.



- **Signposting** We recognise that from time to time people may also need professional or specialist support. We as church do not have all the expertise/skill to support people in every area. We seek to therefore signpost people to external organisations that can help people with specific pastoral needs e.g. counsellors, crisis helplines, debt advice etc.

Bec Goody oversees our pastoral care across Ashwood for those within and connected to Ashwood, if you have any questions about this area please don't hesitate to get in touch with her!

Bec Goody

Pastoral care is really important to us as a church, we're always exploring how we can care for people more effectively, how we can help to cultivate support networks and signpost people to those that may be able to support further. Debby is part of one of our pastoral teams - "the Pastoral Gathering", she explains why pastoral care is important to her.



The Pastoral Gathering in Ashwood church was created by Bec Goody, who invited a

group of people with diverse backgrounds, abilities, and skills to come together for one goal: to care for people and for each other. We are a group of people who dedicate our gifts, time, resources to connect with people by giving support and having fun while doing it, as enjoying what a person does will bring great result!

Personally, I am very social, I care and love people, I love to meet people, make new friends everywhere I go. I enjoy having a chat and helping people in anyway I can, I have a caring heart and I have been very lucky to have met lots of people who have added positively to my life, and I am always willing to share all I have with others. Being a member of the pastoral team has enabled me to continue to connect with people in a more advanced level.

We connect with people, give support, pray, advice and most importantly listen. I have realised that communication is the key to life and using several types of communication is essential; the common types are the verbal, and nonverbal type of communication but to me the most important type of communication is the ACTIVE LISTENING. Listening to

people brings about the act of kindness.

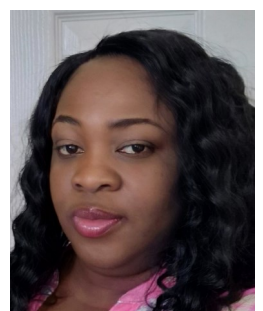
Please allow me to share a practical story with you about kindness; I went for shopping at Aldi

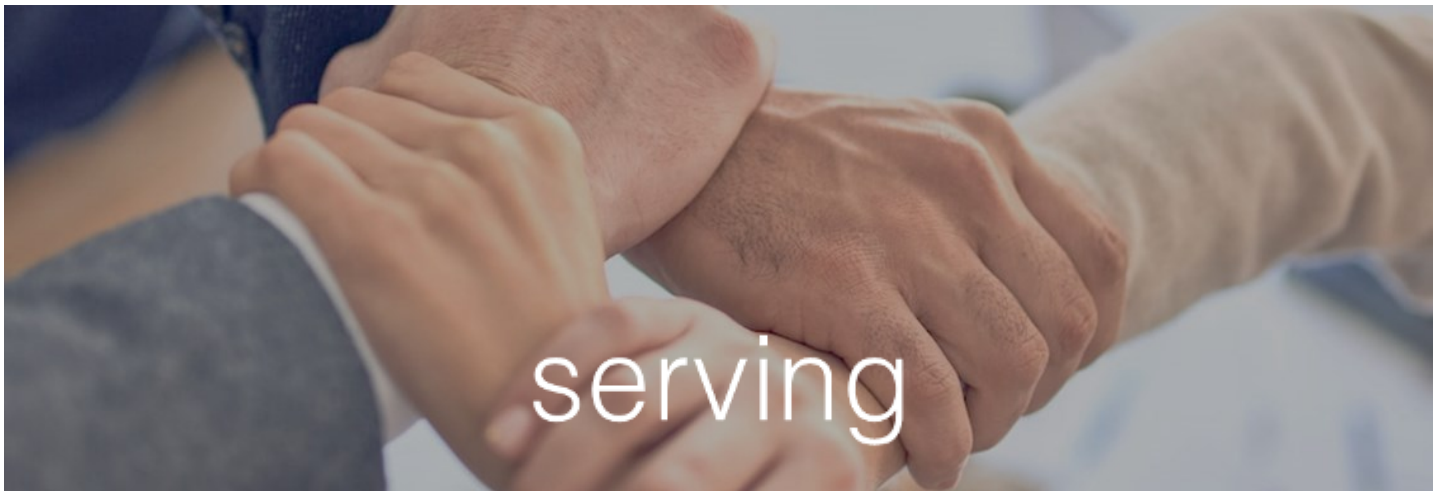
some days ago, and while in the queue I realised the person behind me

had only one item and was also using a walking stick. I encouraged him to come in front of me in the queue, I also asked if the person in front of me if he could let him go before him, as I could see he was struggling - but the person said "no". I was not angry at the situation, I just felt people needed to be nicer, so I offered to pay for the man's item. He said I should not bother but I insisted and told him that would make me happy for the day, then he allowed me. After the man left, the attendant said to me "that was very nice of you" and I told her it is good to be nice and we smiled, only to go out of Aldi and behold, the man was waiting to say thank you to me, I told him he was welcome and said God blessed him. He turned back and smiled at me. Showing kindness goes a long way.



Debby Oladimeji





serving

Serving is so important to us as a church, it helps us to give something back, to experience community and to use our gifting and talents for God.

There are many ways to get involved in serving at Ashwood, one of the ways is through serving out community.

Helen shares her experience of serving at foodbank



When I'm asked why I volunteer at foodbank I always respond, because I've been there. Thirty years ago we had four small children and were fresh out of the military. It was tough and an enormous reality check. Had foodbanks been around at that time I would certainly have had to turn to one on occasion. So over the years I've had a growing desire to reach out to others that find themselves in similar circumstances.

When Kirkby Storehouse started up I jumped at the chance to help and I love it. So many people come through the door, so many needs, just the opportunity to help in any way at all is a

privilege and a joy.

When it comes down to it the scripture that comes to mind is Matthew 25: *Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you?* and later: *whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you did for me.*



What other reason do we need really? So for anyone with a few hours to spare once a week, once a month, why not come along and see for yourself. It's a great team to work with and the rewards are far greater than you can imagine.

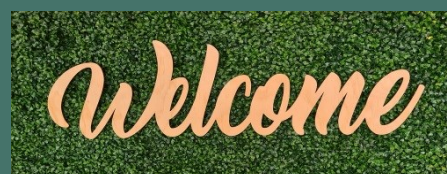
Helen Sankey

Please get in touch with Gill if you're interested in serving in this are:
gill@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

If you're new to Ashwood (or even if you're not) you may be wondering "How can I get involved? How can I serve and help out?" Serving in church is an amazing way to get to know people better, to be involved in the life of the church and **to give something back!** Jesus gave us an incredible example to follow by serving those around Him. There are so many different areas you can get involved in serving. The rest of the newsletter will give you some more details on some of the logos below.



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





Harvest and Christmas at the Foodbank



We have had a fantastic Harvest Time thanks to all the local schools for donations.

We were out and about in many

local primary schools this year. Gill was at West Park Academy and Greenwood Primary, and Rich helped Morven Park with their Harvest Festival at St Thomas'. Thanks also to Orchard Primary and Martin Roe Church of England School in Ravenshead. Our community has so blessed us.

We are now turning our attention to Christmas, and this year, we would love to give a 'Bag of Blessings' to every family using our foodbank. If you would like to donate to that, we need everything you find on a good Christmas dinner table and a few extras. Think Stuffing and Apple Sauce, Christmas Pudding, chocolate, and little gifts for children and adults.

I really appreciate any help you can provide.

Lunches!



Big thank you to everyone who has encouraged us, sampled our new lunches and come back for more!

Some weeks, we have run out of meals! And some weeks, we had loads left

over. However slowly, but definitely surely, we are getting there!

It's been a steep learning curve for the volunteers, who have been amazing! We have a few new volunteers, making life much easier on the rota. One more volunteer for the kitchen would make it extra comfortable. If you think you can serve up a meal between 11.45am and 1pm, you are welcome to come and help - see me for an application form.

We intend to continue until Christmas and then, in the new year, tweak some things we've learned and come back with a winter menu.

PS We have a super menu for our Christmas Special with lots of little surprises (see picture overleaf).

Gill Isterling
Community Co-Ordinator





CAFE
TWENTY TWO

A Warm Space
where everyone is
welcome

Bringing Community
Together

Christmas Special

18th December 2023

9.30am - 1pm



Turkey & Stuffing Rolls
Mince Pies
Festive Fun

All Free: Donation
Welcome!



treeapp

Bob's App Tip

A couple of years
ago I was
challenged as I
often am, through
the faithful work of

Ashwood Church as we strive to be
more responsible in the way that we
treat the world around us.

Now I know there are big changes that
people often make, but I was certainly
more inclined by something little I could
do, that could make a huge difference.
It was in that moment of challenge I
was recommended to download the
TREEAPP, now that is a simple thing to
do, go on my phone, head to apps, and
search and download it. That wasn't
the end of the story, don't worry.

Once I downloaded it, I was asked if I
would like to plant a tree, I clicked it,
then went through a short advert
recommending an eco-friendly product,
and voila 30 seconds later, I had

planted a tree. Since then, I go back
onto TREEAPP every single day, scroll
through an advert

(you can get good
discounts on eco-
friendly products
too) and I plant
another tree. It

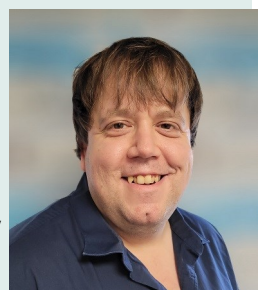
takes me one
minute or less of
my day, and to
date I have offset

my carbon
footprint, planted
900+ trees, and
used my little

adjustment to make a huge impact.
Come and join me and many others,
there is a leader board and everything
to compare with friends (Jono Wright is
beating me).

1 minute every day, plant
a tree, and a make a
difference. Download
TREEAPP.

Bob Goody



treeapp

Bob's impact from
supporting 918 trees!



238.13
Flights absorbed



1386 m²
Land reforested



298.09 m²
Marine habitat created



13
Countries

@treeapp



elevate youth

This is Essential...

Since returning to our regular rhythm in September we've gone back to basics as part of our Elevate Sunday evening program by focusing on some of the essentials to our Christian faith.

Refresh weekend 2024

Our annual youth weekend is back for 2024! Refresh is our annual youth weekend and an exciting opportunity for young people in year 6+ and their mates. Refresh is packed with faith, energy, fun, excitement, relationships and plenty of activities.

Together we're going to be focusing on areas like worshipping, hearing, praying, and giving. It's an essential part of our faith to have core fundamental foundations in place if we're going to have a strong faith.

We believe that there's something for all young people who will be joining us on our Refresh weekend, and they'll have an amazing weekend together.

You can book in and find all the details that you need by



scanning the QR Code.



Upcoming Elevate Dates

November 12th CoGroups 6-7pm
November 5th 6-7.30pm
November 19th 6-7.30pm
December 3rd 6-7.30pm
December 17th 6-7.30pm Christmas Themed Social
January 7th 6-7.30pm

All sessions and evenings are 6 - 7.30pm at the Ashwood centre and open for all young people in year 6 – age 18.

If you're interested in supporting or volunteering as part of the elevate youth team and making a difference in the lives of young people in church and in the community or you would like to connect with Elevate youth or any of the events then please get in touch with Rich
(rich@ashwoodchurch.org.uk)

New Initiatives

This September saw the launch of two exciting new initiatives,

The first one is our Elevate.Yth CoGroups.

Our CoGroups will operate like our main church lifegroup's but for young people. The aims are to create time and space where young people can grow and develop friendships, explore more about the Christian faith, get to know Jesus, have opportunities for spiritual and personal growth, explore their gifts and talents together. We believe that our CoGroups are a place where young people from all different walks of life and backgrounds can connect and spend time together.

The second session for our CoGroups is 12th November 6-7pm

Our second new initiative is the introduction of social evenings into our events calendar.

Historically we have conducted social events mainly during the summer months over recent years which have been great opportunities for young people to interact and invite their friends. This year we're running several themed social evenings where the young people will go head-to-head against the leaders in a series of

challenges to see who the winner will be.



Each evening will have a different theme and for our first social evening it was "Are you smarter than a 10- year-old". Which saw the young people take on the leaders in 8 head-to-head rounds including, sport, history, science and mystery rounds. The overall winners of the evening were the leaders! It was a close encounter, but the leaders just came out on top in the end.

Our next social will be happening on December 17th 6-7.30 where it will be Christmas themed.

Rich Reason
*Children and Youth
Teams Leader*





kids from the community

ACE KIDS Friday Night Takeaway.

Friday Night Takeaway was back in October for our penultimate instalment in our AWESOME series for 2023 and our focus for the evening was all about our AWESOME Father!

We are children of God, one great big family with one Awesome Father!!

Our aim was for the children to know that God is their Awesome Father, he loves them with a never ending love,

Join us for our next AWESOME Friday Night Takeaways which is happening on Friday 1st December 6-730pm, where we will have another evening full of Faith, Fun and Friendship!

Come along and learn how, when God gave us his son Jesus Christ, he gave us everything we could ever need. Jesus is our King who came to pray for us and help us be friends with God and our Rescuer setting us free from the things that separate us from Him.



He is perfect and doesn't have favourites, he loves them all. To help explore and unpack this we went with a superhero theme for the evening with everyone creating their own super dad and we used the story of Jonah.

One key verse that we used was this from Jonah 4:2: *'You are a kind and merciful God, and you are very patient. You always show love, and you don't like to punish anyone, not even foreigners.'*

This verse really shows just how awesome our father in heaven is.

Food and Refreshments provided. Craft, Games, Songs, Dancing, Story. FREE and available for all children in school years 1-6 (Key Stage 1 and 2)

Book on by Wednesday 29th November to reserve your spot!.

Please book your place on our TicketTailor page: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ashwoodchurch> or scan this QR code.



Keep an eye out on our website and main meeting updates for all our ACE Kids events and you can follow Ashwood Church on TicketTailor and subscribe to get a notification for all our events.

if you would like to be involved in the work involving children as part of our Sunday morning Earthshakers or A C E Kids team, please contact Rich
rich@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

ACE KIDS Holiday Club: SHREK!



WOW... What an A-MA-ZING 3 days we enjoyed together! Firstly, a BIG thanks must go to Rich and

and kind of overwhelmed and by day 2 and 3 they were joining in with songs, dancing, some crazy games (like eye ball bobbing and slop drop!), making friends, looking and sounding happier! This was all evidence of God's fun loving presence with us and in us bringing the good news of His great LOVE for us as



Claire! They did a lot of behind the scenes planning, preparing resources and fronting the holiday club to make it all go so smoothly. Also, A BIG Thanks to the team including our Elevate young leaders, some who were on team for the first time.

It was a privilege for us to be part of the team and see the way children responded and grew in confidence over the 3 days. Some children arrived on their own on day 1, feeling shy, anxious



we learned that God sees us differently to the way people see us... *'People look at the outside of a person BUT the LORD looks at the heart.'*
1.Samuel 16:7 ICB

ALL IS FOR HIS GLORY!

A BIG thanks to all of you who prayed for the Holiday Club... many prayers were answered.

Dave and Christine Redfern



ashwood in house

“Belonging to Ashwood” – Next Session

"Belonging to Ashwood"

If you'd like to find out what it means to be part of Ashwood, please join us for this short session.



You can just turn up or let us know you're coming admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Sunday

26th Nov.

12-12.45pm

Sunday 26th 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

Baptism Sunday – Provisional Date 4th February tbc

What a special day! Our October Baptism Sunday saw us baptising Zoe, Prosper, Alice and Kimberley.

Great to hear their stories and declarations too.



If you've never been

baptised, please speak to someone, and find out more. Please contact your LifeGroup Leader or Youth Leader or email admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Our provisional date for the start of next year is 4th February with a baptism preparation / awareness session on Sunday 21st January. Why not speak to someone now and plan ahead?

christmas

Ashwood Christmas Giving 2023



We're so excited each Christmas to be able to give to organisations who we can partner with to make a difference in our world. Last year our offering was given to Hope Missions (via Links Charity) and also Safe Families who support families in need in our area.

This year we're exploring what we should do and more details will follow, but we expect to continue our support

for Hope Missions (via Link Charity) in Malawi and potentially "100 Homes" in line with our heart as a church to enable more children in Nottingham to be supported through the care system.

We will take offerings in a number of our special Christmas Services - look out for more information shortly.



Kirkby Christmas Festival – Thursday 30th November



For the last number of years, we have joined with other Churches in Kirkby and taken part in the Council's Christmas Event, including the "Turning on of the lights" in the centre of the town.

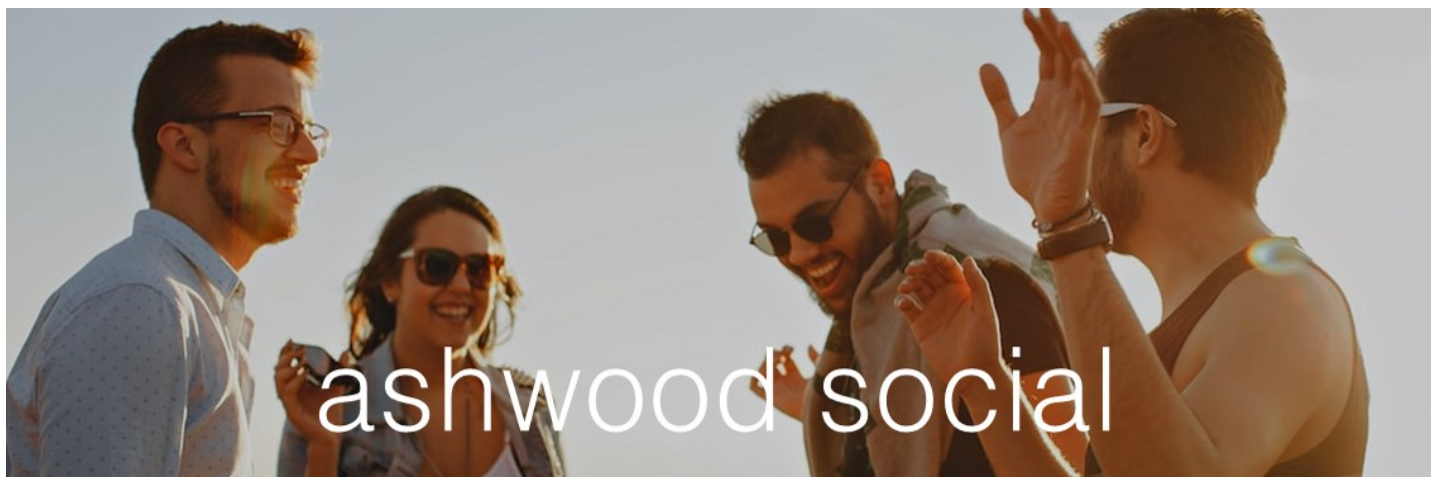
We're still waiting to confirm the arrangements for this year, but we're likely to be involved again – either on

the main stage or potentially another venue.

If you enjoy singing Christmas Carols and Songs – please mark this date in your diary and we'll let you know the details as they become available.

It's always lots of fun! And an amazing opportunity to "SHINE BRIGHT" and share the Good News of the Christmas Story to the hundreds of people who come to the Event each year.

Matt Bell



Carer Support Group



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 e.g. elderly parents, spouses with complex health needs, those supporting relatives with dementia etc. We're aware that this takes a toll and can be emotionally and physically draining and that chatting with others who are in a similar position can be really helpful/encouraging and can share the load. We have set up a WhatsApp group for those involved in caring for loved ones, so we can pray/support each other and have occasional social get togethers. If you would like to be a part of it please get in touch with me
bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk



Ashwood Ladies



ashwood church

ashwood ladies

friday 24 november
6.30pm – 9.00pm

COFFEE CAKE & CHAT



costa coffee
opposite kings mill hospital

TEXT Helen Tomlinson if you are going 07754 983382

Ashwood Ladies - reserve the date of Friday 24th November to get together at Costa Coffee (opposite Kings Mill Hospital) for Coffee, Cake and Chat.

All welcome, please let Helen Tomlinson know that you are going, so that she can reserve a space for you (07754 983382)

Ashwood Men

MEN'S BREAKFAST **SATURDAY 25th November 8.30am**

**The Regent,
(Wetherspoons)
Kirkby-in-
Ashfield**

Please
contact Vic
07496 889904



An invitation for all men! A wider opportunity for men to meet socially and support one another. All men welcome and why not invite a friend too?
Please contact Vic so he can book our large table! 07496 889904

**Every
Thursday
09.30-11.00**



**Men's
Breakfast**

**at The Regency
Wetherspoon's
Kirkby-in Ashfield**

Contacts: Robin Isterling,
Dave Logsdaile, Eric
Cattermer and Mike
Tomlinson



Don't forget our Men's Breakfast on Thursday mornings at Wetherspoons in Kirkby, from 9.30am. All men welcome – discussion, prayer and great conversations! Speak to Robin Isterling to find out more.



friday 15 december
6.30pm – 9.00pm
drinks and desserts

Have you a talent to showcase
– singing, dancing, poetry, tricks
& skills– to get involved, sign up
with Alice Bates.



BOOKINGS

Let us know you are coming –
TEXT CLAIRE on 07801 949373

ASHWOOD'S GOT TALENT

Breakfast with Woody

PLUS FROZEN SING-A-LONG

Saturday 23 December 2023

10.00am – 12noon
Free Family Event

Fun and games with sing along music
Breakfast baps and continental buffet
Booking essential – use link to book your places!



Seesaw Christmas Party

Tuesday 12th December
and Friday 15th December
9.30–11.15am

Please put your name down for
one day only

Games, crafts,
food, singing and
lots more



For more information, please see Cheryl



Christmas in Ashwood

Sunday 10 December

10.30am Family Christmas Service

Saturday 16 December

10.00am Carol Singing at Morrisons

Sunday 17 December

10.30am Carol Service

Monday 18 December

9.30am Cafe22 Christmas Special

Saturday 23 December

10.00am Breakfast with Woody

Free Family Event – Booking Required

CHRISTMAS EVE

10.30am Special Christmas Eve Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday 31 December – NO SERVICE

10.00am Breakfast Baps followed by walk

Venue: The Ashwood Centre, Kirkby in Ashfield
www.ashwoodchurch.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICE
REFRESHMENTS
from 10.00am



ashwood
church

How can we make this Christmas - A Fairtrade Christmas?



First - **What is Fairtrade and what does it mean?**

Just a reminder that Fairtrade businesses always seek to put **People and Planet before**

profit, making the world a better, more sustainable place for everyone to live, especially for some of the world's poorest communities around the world.

I did an online search looking at: 'How many people in the world live in poverty?' Over half the world [62%] lives on less than \$10/day and 85% of the world lives below the global poverty line of \$30/day (source: Max Roser 2021)

Global poverty in an unequal world:

Who is considered poor in a rich country? And what does this mean for our understanding of global poverty?". Read more about it on: '<https://ourworldindata.org/higher-poverty-global-line>'

Fairtrade seeks to address some of the root causes of global and relational poverty by paying a Fairtrade premium above markets prices and provide good standards for welfare and human rights. Investing in producers and their communities towards improved sustainability and care for the environment.

When we shop and choose to buy

products with the Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance certification marks that's what we're investing in.

Better still when we buy from the businesses, like those listed below, they believe in and prioritise 'direct relational trade' and 'transparent trade' who aim to build long term relationships with farmers, artisans and producers. We're playing our part in making the world a better, more sustainable place to live for everyone... Especially some of the world's poorest people. We like to call it: "WIN WIN shopping"!

Yes, it may cost more but when we read the stories of transformed lives, families and communities, it's got to be worth it! As Christians we believe Jesus is worth it as we seek to love our neighbours as ourselves. These are a couple of trusted companies we buy from:



True Origins, Just Trading Scotland and Transform Trade

Please get in touch or come and talk to us as we journey together: 'Stepping Out' and 'Shining Bright in a broken world'



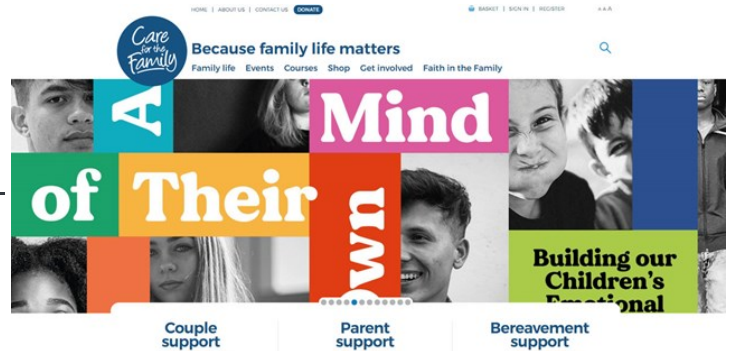
Dave and Christine Redfern



A Mind of their Own: Understanding our children and young people

A few of us from Ashwood went to a brilliant training event run by Care for the Family-all about understanding how our children and young people's mind's work. How we build emotional resilience in children, the building blocks for wellbeing, managing emotions and wellbeing in the digital age. I loved the concept of "BLUE to TRUE" thinking, encouraging children to write down truthful positive things about themselves that they can read when they're feeling low,.

How can WE be the best models of emotional wellbeing and resilience to the children and young people in our lives, whether you're a parent, a relative or working with children/young people? They suggest you can model emotional wellbeing by looking at



these four questions when we feel worried or stressed:

- What can I control?
- What is real?
- What am I really worried about?
- Who can I ask for help?

When we communicate with children/young people, we can NAME our feelings (I'm feeling sad today) EXPLAIN why we're feeling them (because I found out a good friend is quite poorly) and FRAME them (but we're going to make sure we support them whatever happens).

Bec Goody

Lucy said....



I liked the emphasis on praising character and effort as well as achievement and the reminder of the proverb about our words having the power of life.

The section around managing emotions was interesting and I liked the analogy of our emotions being like smoke alarms. They give us an important signal but it's also important to be aware that they aren't always reliable i.e. the alarm can go off when burning the toast!

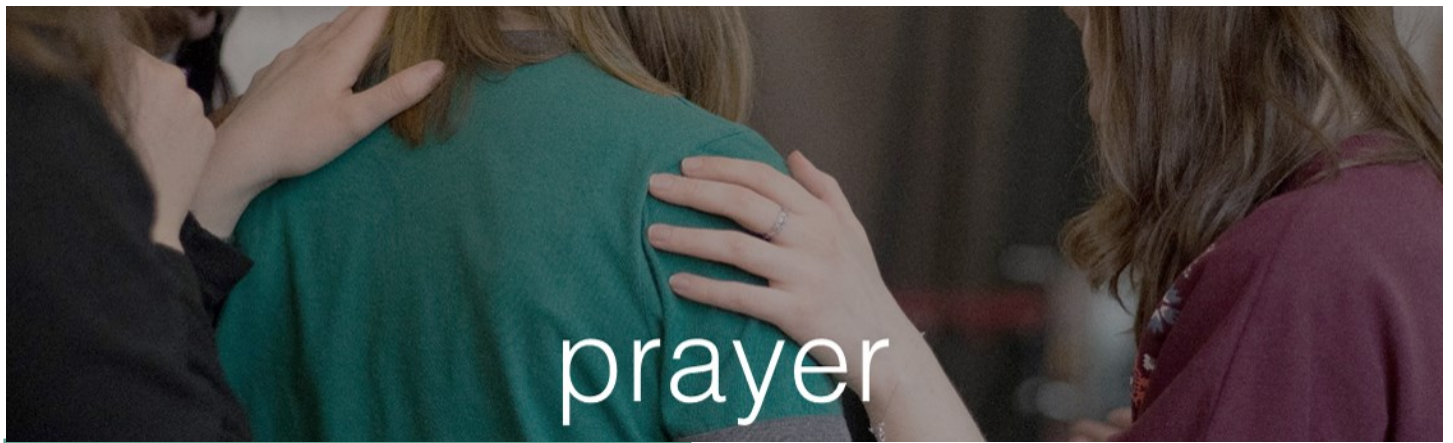
The role of the parent in how we model the management of our emotions too

is important. We can acknowledge negative emotions without needing to paper over the cracks and can chat to our children about our feelings and model effective strategies.

As my children are getting older and will be getting phones in the coming years, I appreciated the input around well-being in the digital age. I liked the practical suggestions on how to navigate this well i.e. family media agreement, having times or areas that are no phone zones, and modelling phone use - what messages are our children picking up from us? I was reminded that having an open dialogue around what they've seen is so important.

Lucy Gell





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 09.30 -10.30am on Zoom

“Touching Heaven”

Wednesdays 7.30pm

6th December at the Ashwood Centre

Please join us! Everyone welcome!

“The people of God in the Presence of God.”

“**Prayer for the New Home for Ashwood**” Our next prayer meeting will be in person.

Please join us on Tuesday 21st November 8 – 9pm at The Ashwood Centre.

We believe it will be significant to pray together over the land.

Future Date: Tuesday 19th Dec.

For Zoom meetings, find details on your weekly email.

TRANSFORMED WORSHIP NIGHT

Sunday 19th November 7pm.

We can't wait for our final Transformed Worship Night of 2023. A night when we gather together to worship Jesus and invite Him to



come and transform us in His presence. We often end up praying for a fresh in-filling of the Holy Spirit and praying for those who need a touch from God.

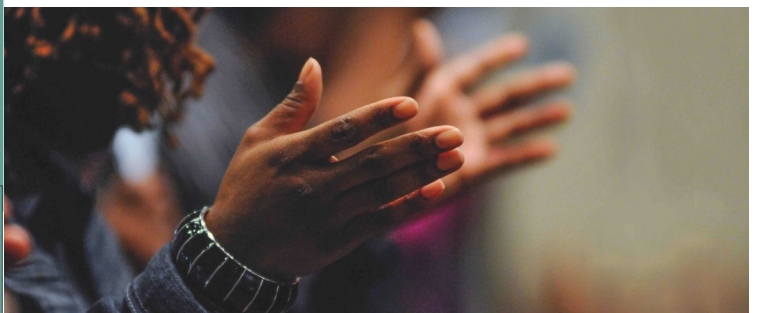
Don't miss it!

Prayer

Prayer is a fundamental part of our walk with Jesus and as a church we are passionate about prayer and helping others to cultivate healthy prayer lives.

There are loads of different ways to get involved in prayer here at Ashwood...

One of the things we are praying for is our New Home for Ashwood.



New Home for Ashwood Prayer

Every month there is an opportunity to invest in prayer for the new building for Ashwood Church, mostly online. We gather, usually online, for around one hour to lift our requests to God.

Revelation 5:8 tells us that our prayers are held in gold bowls filled with incense. So, as we meet and follow the Holy Spirit's lead, we are adding to the many fragrant requests already raised to God. We are praying specifically for many things including: God's favour on Kirkby, wisdom for Ashfield District

Council and for God to open doors so we can get the building project underway.

As well as praying, we can give money and many people do so monthly to build up a deposit for the project. Then, as soon as God gives us the 'green light', we have the money to get 'spades in the ground'.

The next prayer meeting in November (Tues 21st) will be in person at the Ashwood Centre, so why not join us?

Simon Wright



New Home for Ashwood Update – ITS TIME TO GATHER AND PRAY!

Over the last few months, we have shared some encouraging things alongside some frustrations with regards to our "New Home for Ashwood" Project. We believe it is time to increase PRAYER – we believe this is POWERFUL and ESSENTIAL. In Psalm 5, David wrote, "In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly" (Psalm 5:3). We believe it is time to WAIT EXPECTANTLY together, so that

hopefully we don't have to wait much longer to see some action! So, we have planned for our next prayer meeting to be IN PERSON on

Tuesday 21st November 8 – 9pm

at The Ashwood Centre. We would love to gather a big crowd to pray. (NEXT DATE Tuesday 19th December 8-9pm)

We will share an update and the latest news on the project.

Together - hope grows, faith rises as we seek God for His plans, purposes and timing. We're praying for the next breakthrough! Please join us and put the date in your diary now!

Claire Bell

We're grateful for the group of people who also give financially either monthly or on a "one-off" basis. If you would like to give financially – please simply contact becky@ashwoodchurch.org.uk and she will help you!

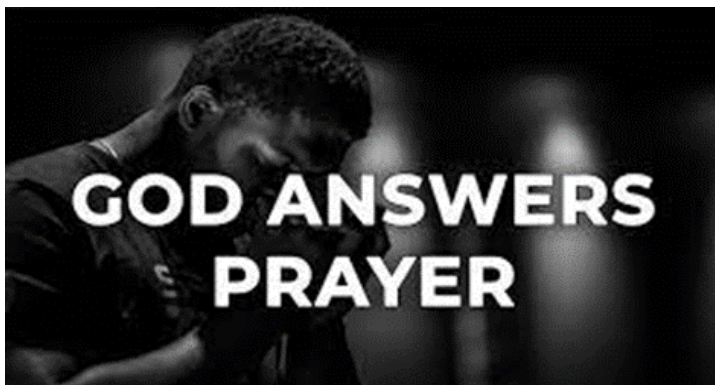


Answered Prayer

It's always great to hear good news stories about answered prayer.

We as a church have been praying for Michelle particularly when she had to return to Hong Kong for a season. Michelle shares her story.

In January of 2021, Jane and I arrived in the UK. It was only meant to be a short visit, but after a few months, I applied for a resident visa. In April of 2021 I submitted a visa application, but we waited for a year and four months before we finally received an answer. In September 2022, we received a letter from the Home Office stating our application had been denied. Even after an appeal and an administrative review our visas were denied a second time.



During this time, Ashwood was praying for our visa and even as we travelled back to Hong Kong to re-apply a second time for our visa, the church continued to uphold us with their prayers.

Returning to Hong Kong in May of 2023 was very stressful and challenging for us. We battled on physical, emotional, financial and spiritual fronts. I continued to ask for

prayer from our life-group and from church family, and felt as if the prayer, support and care through Ashwood was a lifeline during that very challenging time.



At the same time, while awaiting the outcome of our application, it was both humbling and inspiring to see how God was answering prayers and was working. I spoke at a church in Hong Kong for Filipina domestic helpers, shared my personal faith testimony and gave an introductory workshop to healing from trauma.

A travel document for Jane was unexpectedly issued that allowed us to travel from Hong Kong to China. I reconnected to close friends and acquaintances from when I lived there several years ago and spent time with underground church family sharing uplifting, strengthening times together.

Finally, at the end of July, we received the good news from our solicitor that our visa applications had been approved. Jane and I returned to Hong Kong to pick up our newly issued visas and return to the UK to be reunited as a family with Lee (my husband).

I want to express my deep gratitude to Ashwood church and each person who

has prayed for us these past three years. Please know that no matter how long it takes, or how challenging or impossible the circumstances seem, as a dear church sister said to me one Sunday morning in Ashwood as I was in tears and she held me, "God has got it all in hand, Michelle. God has got it all in hand."

I have learned God takes His perfect time in all things, even when it goes against our expected or desired timeline. Even as it seems He is saying "No," to our explicit prayers, He is saying "Yes," to the hidden, implicit pleas of our heart. He answers the cries of our soul, not only so we can live the life we hope or wish for, but so



In the past three years as I have waited for an answer to our visa situation, God has never stopped doing His beautiful work in my life. He has healed me from 28 years of cultic abuse, complex post-traumatic stress disorder and religious trauma syndrome; He has protected me and Jane through some incredibly uncertain, heartbreaking, treacherous times; and He has given Jane and me a new home and life with a loving husband to me, and a wonderful father to Jane. He has provided a new church home and family for us – where Jane has been dedicated to God, where I have been baptised, and where Lee has begun his relationship with God.

we can be in deeper, richer and more beautiful relationship with Him and each other.



Thank you, dear Ashwood, for being my church family, for being my brothers and sisters in Christ who have upheld me when I had no more strength.

You've held my face, my heart and my tears in your hands.

Dear Ashwood Church, you love, you pray and you hold so well. My family and I are forever grateful to you all.

Michelle Doggett-Clarke



TESTIMONIES

It's like I've had a heart transplant!

I heard this song for the first time at Awaken, and I shouted the words so loud in Worship because it truly reflects the work that

'From now 'til I walk the streets of gold
I'll sing of how You saved my soul
This wayward son has found his way back home
He picked me up, He turned me around
He placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the master, I thank the saviour
Because He healed my heart, He changed my name
Forever free, I am not the same
I thank the master, I thank the saviour, I Thank God!'

of God I have been transformed to live freely in Christ.

I was raised in a Christian home, was brought up going to church and asked Jesus into my heart at the age of 5.

Throughout my childhood I was heavily involved in church life but felt like I was living through someone else's faith. As much as I loved going to church, it felt like I was just ticking a box and there was a detachment between the way I was presenting myself in church, the life I was living, and my relationship with Jesus. When Covid came along, I used it as an opportunity to step away and focus on other things.

God always makes a way, He is patient, and He reveals things to us when we need to hear them and in ways which we can respond to.

I was invited to a worship and prayer evening here at Ashwood, after a very

God has done in my heart and how my life has been transformed!

A few weeks ago I got Baptised at Ashwood as a declaration of my commitment to Christ and shared my testimony for my friends and family, including church family, to hear. Here is a glimpse into my life now truly knowing Jesus and how by the grace

difficult day, and during the meeting I had an encounter with God. It was like everything I had ever been told about Jesus, I knew in my heart was true. I couldn't change myself, but the Holy Spirit transformed my life and my heart in that moment. I felt completely free and renewed and the only way I can



truly describe how it felt is saying it's like I've had a heart transplant.

Since this I have just chosen to seek Jesus first, and trust that everything else will follow. What I have given up is nothing compared to what I receive!

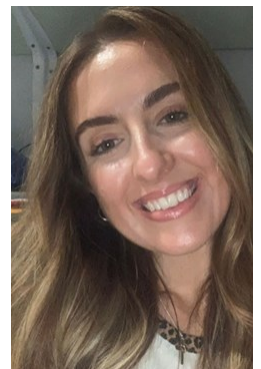
And I know that the cost of not becoming a Christian and following Jesus is far greater than the cost of having Jesus in your heart. I love an adventure and I am so excited for my journey with Jesus!

At the end of August, I went to Awaken, and it was evident to me that I was born for so much more than just living, and I am here to share the message of Jesus. I can't possibly keep it to myself, and I want to help others find him and have their lives transformed by him. In Matthew 28 verse 19 it says "*Go and make disciples of all nations*"

Sharing our faith isn't just a suggestion, it's a command. And God is with us when we obey Him.

And finally, a word of encouragement - No matter how far off track we may feel, Jesus is always there, ready to guide us back to Him.

Alice Bates



**23rd Aug
26th 2024** | **Lincolnshire
Showground**

Awaken is our Ground Level Annual Celebration with Worship, Fellowship and Camping.

Family - Awaken is about being together

At the very heart of Awaken is a desire to be together, united as one church family in pursuit of God

Faith - Awaken is about going deeper

We want Awaken to spur you on in your Christian walk, empowering you to live out a God filled life in your own context. Awaken is a space to encounter God together

Fun - Awaken is about enjoying the gift of life

Life is meant to be enjoyed. Awaken is a space to have fun and express yourself with other like minded people.

To book **Awaken 2024**, (23.-26. August) please follow this link:

[https://
groundlevel.yeahtickets
.com/awaken-2024/
tickets](https://groundlevel.yeahtickets.com/awaken-2024/tickets)



touching heaven

I remember when.....

At a recent Touching Heaven Abby Clark shared: "I was feeling quite frustrated, hurt and guilty after being criticised at work, when I received a message from my Dad with a video of my baptism from when I was 17. I never knew this video existed, had never seen it before but in that moment, I felt like God said

"Remember your baptism, remember what that means. My grace is sufficient for you."

Remembering my baptism was really helpful in that moment of hurt and frustration."

This story reminded Claire of her baptism. She had a skin condition at the time and someone said to her that following her baptism she would have "skin like peaches and cream." This opened a door to healing and is a word she holds still. Claire then encouraged us to think about what God has done and invited us to share the "I remember when's....."

Quite a number of people shared a variety of stories :

"I remember when someone paid my

mortgage when a redundancy happened".

"I remember when my husband had felt God wanting them to work in a particular project in a company but couldn't find out who to talk to. On the way to the airport we gave it to God, saying, "I've done all I can, you'll have to do the rest!" In the queue at the boarding gate we chatted to two ladies

in front, and guess what one of them worked in that company and in that very project. On the plane she was sat behind and gave him her business card saying get in touch when you get back from holiday. Result a job in that project".

The result of this sharing was lots of celebrating as we saw God at work, but also I could feel our faith being strengthened and renewed in places, as we remembered what God had done!

Since then I keep thinking of other things: *I remember when* I made the decision to forgive someone and a few



days later found myself defending them – not something I would have done before I made that decision! And it was a decision that has helped me continue to forgive when I need to.

"I remember when my friend came and said she hadn't any bread and not enough money to buy any. I had no money and no extra bread but did have some bread flour and she had enough money to buy yeast, so bread was provided."

The Bible is full of reminders to remember: The 10 Commandments, the Israelites flight out of Egypt, Jesus' life, death and resurrection as we take communion and God's goodness, provision and healing power. Remembering what God has done helps us to remember what God can do today or tomorrow.

But then I recall all you have done, O LORD; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago. They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works. Ps 77:11-12

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. Lam 3:21-23.

I could go on. I wonder what comes to your mind. Can I encourage you to take a moment to remember (maybe share it with someone), to celebrate and be encouraged? Who knows when you or someone near you might need you to share that moment to encourage them.

Janet Wright



God gave me a parachute

I remember when God gave me a parachute! My work life can be very busy and sometimes it feels overwhelming. But when it's all things you want to say "Yes" to, it can be hard to know what to let go.



I found myself in a predicament when the parachute I had ordered for an event that day failed to arrive, and the success

of the event hinged on it. I had more important things to think about, so I gave my "Yes's"; to God and then, out

of the blue, I received a call from someone I rarely speak with, offering to bring a parachute to the event.

That same week, God knew I needed rest, and when I arrived to deliver a children's workshop, no one had turned up and the organisers asked me if I wanted to learn origami!

It reinforced the truth that by offering your smallest of needs to God, He will create opportunities, give you time and navigate you through life's obstacles. Philippians 4:6-7 says *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

God will give you your parachute!

Alice Bates





courses

Freedom in Christ



Many of you know we've been running the Freedom In Christ (FIC) course over the past few weeks which has been a brilliant opportunity to explore the obstacles that get in the way of us experiencing full freedom in our walk with Jesus. We've had a brilliant group of 25 sign up. Over the past few weeks we've been exploring what strongholds hold us back and declaring our true identity in Christ.

Susan shares her story...

There are so many areas we touched on in the Freedom In Christ course.

The one that stands out for me is how the things we have gone through in our life, and are still holding on to, maybe years later that have a negative impact on us today, not only affecting our spiritual growth and our relationships with God, but also the affects it may have in relationships with people around us today. It's about learning to forgive yourself and others, to free your mind from the turmoil of life and negative thoughts that we may be unaware we are still holding onto and carrying around with us.

It explores your faith and helps you

increase your fruitfulness in Christ. It's a great course, I would encourage everyone to do it. It can challenge our thoughts at times and highlight things

we thought long forgotten. We are given all the support, love and encouragement from our amazing FIC team and leaders, who all work so hard for us.



Throughout the course we have had some laughs, we've sung some songs and made some new friendships, it's been great.

I look forward to joining you all again next year.

Susan Ogilvie



Jo shares her story...

I completed the Freedom in Christ Keys to Fruitfulness, Healing and Wholeness course earlier this year and am now on the current Freedom in Christ Course.

I have found both courses very helpful and I believe that I have grown in my faith and understanding of who I am in Christ, as a result.



The teaching is enjoyable, Bible-based and easy to understand and the

discussion groups are a safe place to honestly question and debate what we have heard. Having completed the steps day and a couple of stronghold busters after the first course, I can say that I have been worrying less and praying more. I also have a sense that fear and despair are slowly being

replaced with more faith and hope. For example, I find myself recently having the courage to pray for things which I could not bring myself to hope or pray for in the past and I am expectant that God will answer these prayers in His time and that, *"I will see your goodness Lord, in the land I'm living in."*

Another benefit of the course, is the opportunity to get to know different people in church, on a deeper level and to be able to share with and encourage each other in our faith journey. This is not always easy to do in a large, growing church on a Sunday morning and I am grateful that the Freedom in Christ course has given me this opportunity. I am the first to admit that I have a long way to go, but I believe that the Freedom in Christ course has really helped me to make positive steps on my faith journey.

Jo Castledine

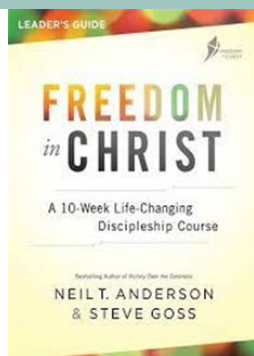


Andy shares his story...

One word to describe this course would be "comprehensive" It focusses on removing every obstacle in the way of a closer walk with Christ.

The expectation is that we fully participate, involving our pasts. This is where it fans out, some pasts may be addictions, others childhoods, others occult, others unforgiveness, no two people are the same.

You get a book saying "renounce everything possible that might be in the way", and reading through some of

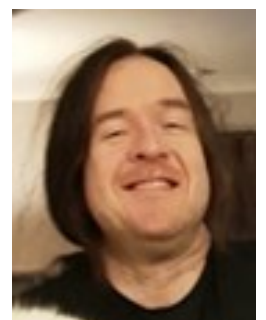


it I'm thinking "how long has the guy got?"

For me it's a process, some of us have opened doors to things we don't want in our lives, and some of us have talked to God about them before now. I want to find what I haven't cleared yet. I need to ask questions first that start with "please show me what..." rather than travelling blind on a journey through the past. I think it's really good to ask for discernment first.

One thing I am coming away with is a better perspective of how big grace really is.

Andy Wood



Zoe shares her story...

It is with great delight that I get to share a little bit on my part of what Freedom in Christ has brought to me personally.

There are ten sessions in total and we are currently half way through. The topics we explore each week

allow us to really delve deep into some of the most effective ways we can uncover deception in our thinking and resolve personal spiritual conflicts that can hold us back from living the life we were chosen to live. Sounds heavy, but its so simple and once its been grasped it's the key to opening many doors that can set us free.

It has been a real blessing listening to the different life stories within the group and how God works in and through each person.



The course covers steps to forgiveness and this was really relevant for me: learning to let go of the past and move forward free of the overhanging effects it can have.

Thoughts that crowd our thinking and strongholds that bind us are explored and how to demolish them by repeating a declaration out loud for 40 days. It really helps and is revelational. The cards that we

were given to assist in reaffirming our faith ("The 20 cans of Success", "Who am I in Christ" and "My Father God") have been so helpful.

Each time I do this course I feel I explore and uncover something new to unpack and deal with.

I recommend that you get yourself booked on for the next one. *You will be blessed by it.*

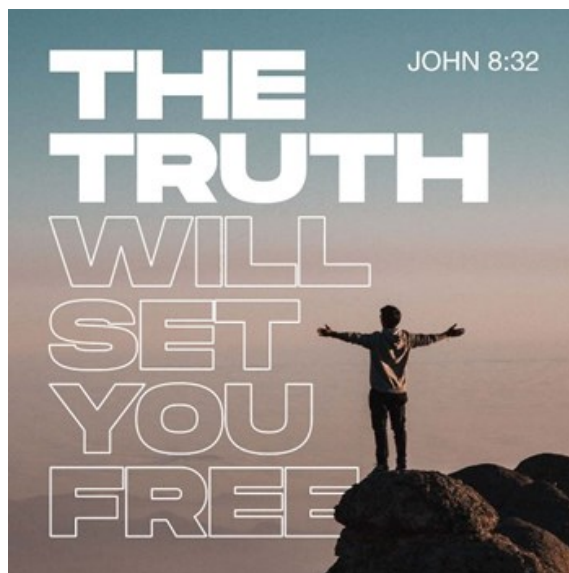
Zoe Jones



Dave shares his story...

This is the third occasion I have done this outstanding course.

The FIC course is for every Christian, for those who have been Christians for a long time to those who have only



just made that decision, from those who are progressing steadily to those who feel stuck'. It's designed to help you :

- break through to a greater level of spiritual maturity
- uncover any areas of deception holding you back
- resolve personal and spiritual conflicts
- learn strategies to renew your mind

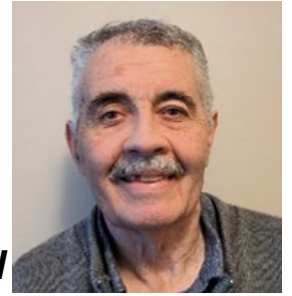
and break free from negative thinking and unhelpful patterns of behaviour.

The reason I chose to do it is simply because it give me the opportunity to relate to and share life with other Ashwood folk in a confidential environment and it reinforces the counselling model I trained in as the video and book resources are simply superb. It really is life changing stuff for

myself and for everyone involved and as Jesus said, *"I've come that they're might have life , and have it to the full."* (John 10 v 10).

I would really encourage everyone to 'Step Out " and change their lives for the better and the effect we also have on others .

Dave Logsdail



Alpha

Alpha

Alpha 2024

It's that time of year again when we start to think about Alpha. Alpha is a 12 week course designed to give people a opportunity to explore the Christian Faith, ask questions and share their point of view, no matter what they believe themselves. Each week centres around a specific topic, giving people a safe space to share their views and listen to others', whilst sharing food and building relationships.

We are really excited to announce that there will be a new course starting on **Tuesday, 23rd January 2024**, here at the Ashwood Centre with a



full day in March to learn more about the Holy Spirit.

For those of you who are new to church or faith and want to know more, this is a great place to start. Even if you have been around for a while, I would encourage you to consider attending. I have lost count how many Alpha's I have been on (either as a participant, host or leader) and I still take something away from it, every week. Think about who you could invite, or better still, bring them along!

For more information on Alpha, what it is, or how you could support, or to book your place, please email alpha@ashwoodchurch.org.uk or speak to

Sallie Bates, Alpha Leader.



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



WELLBEING



NHS Moodzone website-offers practical advice, interactive tools, videos and audio guides to help you feel mentally and emotionally better.

Whatever you need to know about coping with stress, anxiety or depression, or just the normal emotional

ups and downs of life, the NHS Moodzone is here to help.

Health Hero - Struggling in your workplace? Depending on where you work, you may be entitled to wellbeing support.

The Validium Group offer a free phone call service available 24/7, free advice about health and wellbeing and can offer free counselling sessions for service users. Many workplaces are linked with these, why not check out their website or ask at your workplace?

<https://www.healthhero.com/services/assist>



Feeling lonely?

The Silver Line Helpline (In addition to Two's Company)

If you or someone you know could do with a chat, "The Silver Line Helpline" is a free, confidential telephone service just for older people. They provide people with friendship, conversation and support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - just ring 08004708090



Age UK-Nottinghamshire also offer befriending services-whereby trained volunteers can come to visit those who could use someone to talk to (they cannot offer personal care/tenancy support/domestic help).

If you or someone you know could benefit from this, do get in touch: call: 0115 8440011 or email: info@ageuknotts.org.uk

Need Transport?



Our Centre is a registered charity that is based in Kirkby offering transportation for the elderly. They offer wheelchair hire and can transport individuals or groups. If you're struggling to get out and about why not look on their website:

www.ourcentre.org.uk, and contact them to see how they can help either call: 01623 753192 or email: ourcentre@hotmail.co.uk



Looking for care for someone?

Premier community

(founded by our lovely Gill Isterling) is a brilliant charity that provides a range of services of care (personal care, home help, companionship care,

overnight stays etc and has a range of mobility aids available to purchase).

Why not check out their website- <https://www.premiercommunity.co.uk/> to find out more?



**Premier
Community**
Caring for your independence



Ashwood Church Financial 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 do 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



SCAN ME

• 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 or cheque (made payable to 'Ashwood Church') during the offering on a Sunday morning

Becky Holmes

Financial Administrator



	Total Giving	General Offerings	Development Fund	Building Fund
August 2023	£11,222	£9,903	£501	£818
September 2023	£11,389	£10,056	£1,091	£242



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 new 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 and mentoring sessions for some of our Leaders and Team Leaders
- Access training sessions for those involved in pastoral care

- Invest in our Worship Team so they can attend the 'Encounter Conference'
- Access Safeguarding training for those designated as New Safeguarding Leads
- Run Safeguarding training for those working with children and / or vulnerable adults
- 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 retreat days for Senior Leaders

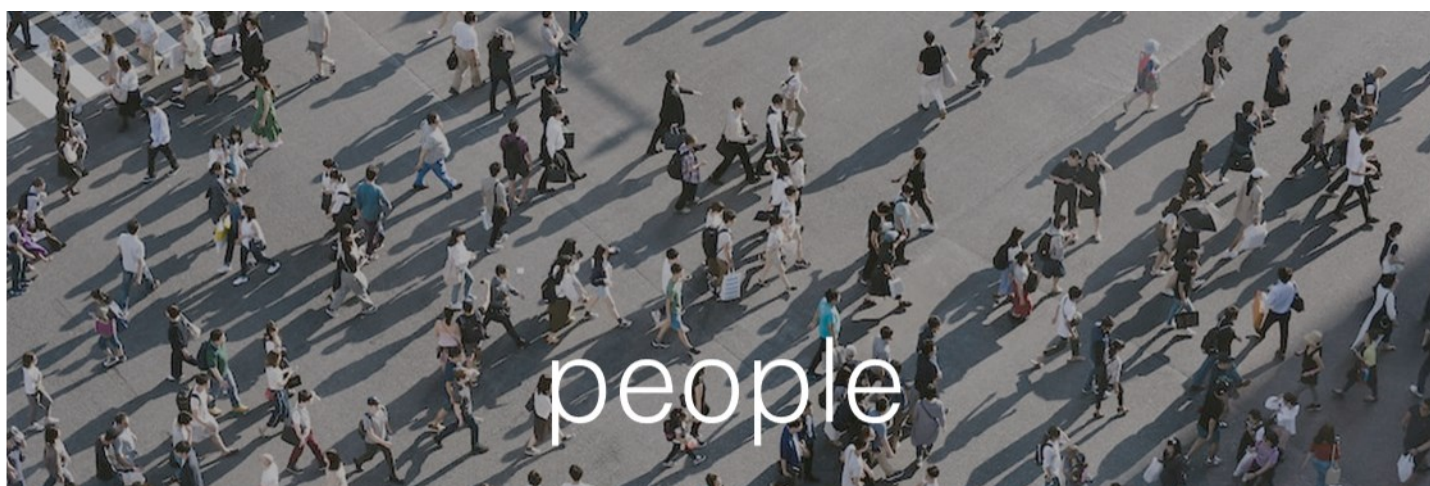
Your giving has also allowed us to provide financial support to Christian Aid (in response to the floods in Libya), Oxfam (in response to the earthquake in Morocco), Hope Missions for their continued work in Malawi, Youth for Christ (Bob Goody), Links International (for Sam Walker) and Ground Level.

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



It's been over a year since Annette started working for Good News Family Care charity, which provides amazing support

to those struggling with addiction and coming from domestic abuse backgrounds.

Annette runs the therapeutic farm in Whaley Bridge, where they grow fruit and vegetables, look after animals and support ladies who have had 6 months rehabilitation from alcohol/drugs. A big change since Annette previously worked as a GP!

Annette shares how the past year has been..

This Christian charity runs a refuge in Buxton and has a Recovery centre on a farm in the hills near Whaley Bridge. Dave Ransome is an advisor on the farm most Fridays.

I started work as a volunteer last summer painting windows and other DIY jobs and then started working as a manager of the Recovery Centre in October.

We opened the Centre taking ladies needing recovery from alcoholism and substance misuse in July. So far we only have one in but 5 are trying to get funding to support their time in Recovery.

I would be grateful for prayer as every step is a spiritual battle and the farmhouse is 200+ years old and has many problems that need fixing. We have had no hot water for 3 weeks but a new boiler is being fitted on Monday with a donation of money that came into the account this week.

1 Please pray for funding to come through soon for more ladies to come to the centre.



2 Please pray against any spiritual or physical blocks stopping us doing the Recovery course with these ladies. (One support workers application never came to us through the post and was returned to her 3 weeks later! My internet at home stopped working on Sunday afternoon, for no reason just when I was finishing a report for a meeting 9am Monday morning to give permission for us to open.)



3 Please pray for physical health for us support workers, for our families and the ladies here and God's protection from demonic attack.

4 Please pray for wisdom as we run the Recovery centre and small farm, for the farm staff and us as we are often doing jobs outside our normal skills and experience. (We had rats overrunning the hen house and eating the hens at one time, but it is now sorted!)

5 Pray for funds for the charity to carry on doing the courses and support we give to the ladies and the children as

well at the refuge centre.

6. Pray for me it has been stepping out this year. Saying I am a manager of a centre not yet open again with no other support workers at the time and limited funds to run it, yet I

believed that God was calling me to do it and He did not want the centre to close and the work of changing these ladies' lives to stop. Many become Christians at the Centre and have their lives changed so they have the skills to go out again free from addiction and its effects in their lives. Many go on to help their friends and spread the good news that Jesus can help them change their lives too.

Annette Horsfield



Let's be praying for Annette as she continues to step out in faith - such an amazing ministry to have.

Open house for coffee and mince pies

Eric and Margaret Cattermer invite you to their house on Saturday 9th December from 10am until 10pm to pop in for mince pies and coffee.

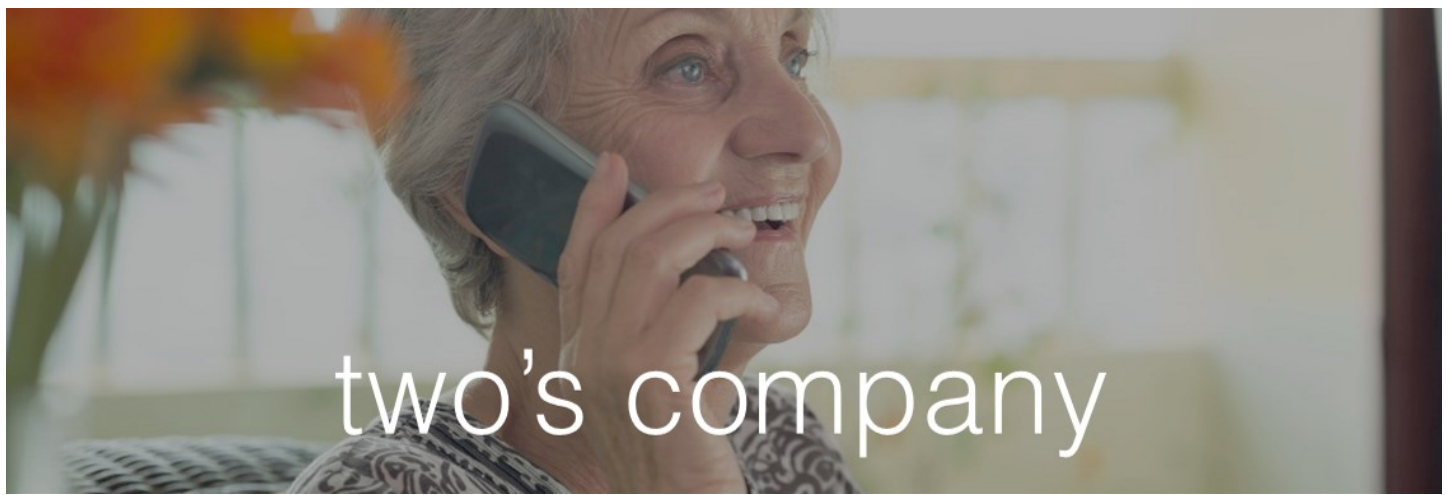
Everybody is welcome!



To book your slot, please phone Margaret on 07748842438

Eric and Margaret Cattermer





Pearl is 95 years old. Her husband died a few years back

Two's Company:

Could you help someone like Pearl or Tony by becoming a Two's Company volunteer and ringing once a week/ fortnight to have a chat?

and she has severe arthritis which makes it very difficult to get out. She has a dog Toby and loves bird watching. She and her husband used to love exploring new places in the caravan. Sadly Pearl sees hardly anyone these days as many of her friends have died and is really lonely.



Two's Company is our telephone befriending service to the community, we currently have 16

faithful volunteers who chat to older people who struggle to get out and about and could really benefit from a chat. Both of these people's names have been changed but these are similar profiles to one's we have

Tony is 76 years old, he has two children and one grandchild. One child lives in Germany and the other in Sweden, so he rarely sees anyone. Tony was an engineer and loved fixing things, he's also interested in motorbikes. Sadly Tony struggles with social anxiety since he had a colostomy bag complications and so he rarely gets out.



received through referrals from social prescribers. You could make such a difference to an older person in the community.

Please let Bec Goody know if you are interested in finding out more about this.

One of our amazing volunteers Jane shares her story:

Having retired from my career as a senior Biomedical Scientist early (on health grounds and being limited in my mobility), I am unfortunately not able to do much in the way of volunteering physically. Therefore, when I heard of this chance to help improve an isolated, lonely persons quality of life simply by making a regular phone call to them, I was immediately interested and made enquiries as to what was involved in doing this type of volunteering.

When the decision was made by the Ashwood leaders to actually be part of "Two's Company" outreach, everyone who agreed to be a volunteer had to take part in a basic training session. I attended online training which gave information and instruction on things such as data protection and safeguarding as the work involves being in contact (albeit, only over the phone) with vulnerable people.

Because the news of the phone befriending scheme at Ashwood had to be relayed to GP practices and social care providers, there was an initial delay in getting the details of people to the first batch of volunteers. Now however, there is a waiting list of people who would love for someone to call them.

There are no set rules about times, length of or frequency of calls, but "Two's Company" hope that most

volunteers will be in contact with their partner at least once a fortnight and that they aim to speak with them for about 20 minutes.

With mine and my paired telephone we have now, after some initial hiccups, established a friendly, jokey relationship. She has told Bec that she looks forward to me calling her. In fact, she has had her 75th birthday in June, so I got her a birthday card because I realised she probably wouldn't receive that many.

I get real satisfaction from the fact that this is one form of volunteering that I am able to get involved in, despite my health restrictions. It is also very rewarding to know that I am helping to ease the sense of loneliness and isolation that my friend must feel living alone and having some very, serious health issues.

I'd definitely recommend this, to anyone who has some time to spare and enjoys talking and listening to people. Bec Goody would love to hear from you if you think that being a volunteer with Two's Company is something you could get involved in.

Jane Gull





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: 6th Dec, 3rd Jan, 7th Feb and 6th March
- **LifeGroups** meet fortnightly on Sunday or Monday evenings.
If you would like to be a part of a LifeGroup please speak to one of our LifeGroup coordinators: Molly Bell or Bec Goody
- **Ashwood Youth** Fortnightly on Sundays details, see page 20
- **Prayer Opportunities** see page 32 for more details

Ashwood in the Community @ Ashwood Centre

- **Café 22:** Mondays except Bank Holidays 9.30am – 12pm
- **Foodbank:** Tuesdays 2.00pm-3.00pm except 26th December
- **Seesaw (toddlers):** Tuesdays & Fridays term time 9.30am – 11.15am
- **Detached / Bike Project:** Thursday evenings in the Coxmoor estate

For Your Diaries:

Sun 19th Nov	Transformed Worship	pg 30
Fri 24th Nov	Ladies Night	pg 26
Sat 25th Nov	Men's Breakfast	pg 27
Sun 26th Nov	Belonging to Ashwood	pg 24
Thu 30th Nov	Kirkby Christmas Festival	pg 25
Fri 1st Dec	Friday Night Takeaway	pg 22
Sat 9th Dec	Cattermer Open House	pg 47
Sun 10th Dec	50 years Matt Bell	pg 4
Mon 18th Dec	Christmas Special Café 22	pg 19
Tue 23rd Jan	Start of Alpha	pg 41
Sun 4th Feb	Baptism Sunday	pg 24
Fri 22nd to Sun 24th March	Elevate Youth Refresh Weekend	pg 20
Fri 23rd - Mon 26th Aug	2024 Awaken	pg 35
Christmas Events 2023		Inlay



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 reminder of what has been preached over the last few weeks

Sunday 10th September	Ashwood Vision and Values Matt Bell
Sunday 17th September	Guardians of the Culture Matt Bell
Sunday 24th September	My story, Your story, Our story - Together Sam Walker
Sunday 2nd October	50 Years of Ashwood Church Joe Gisbey
Sunday 9th October	The Church I See - Setting the scene Matt Bell
Sunday 15th October	The Church I See - Part 1 Bob Goody
Sunday 22nd October	Baptism Sunday Matt Bell
Sunday 29th October	The Church I see - Part 2 Claire Bell
Sunday 5th November	The Church I see - Part 3 Helen Tomlinson
Sunday 12th November	The Church I see - Part 4 Gill Isterling



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 01623 237749

matt@ashwoodchurch.org /
claire@ashwoodchurch.org

Associate Leader

Molly Bell

molly@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Administrator

Gisela Beighton

admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Youth Work

Richard Reason 07852 915270

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

Molly Bell

molly@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

and Bec Goody

bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Ashwood Centre

Claire Bell 01623 758974

Church email

info@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