

ashwoodnews

September October 2025



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Matt's message

Hello Ashwood News Readers! Welcome to our 5th 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!

Well - there goes the summer! Whether you were away or at home, I hope you managed to take a break from the regular routine for some rest, recharging and enjoying the wonder of God's creation! As a family we took 5 days away to visit a different city. We learnt about the history, took some time to walk in the hot sunshine, time to read and enjoyed many different ice-cream flavours during our time away!

In Ashwood we also have a more relaxed feel over the summer. We pause many of our regular activities and meetings, to allow some of our volunteers and leaders time to take a break and recharge! Of course, not everything stops – Café 22 and Foodbank continued to serve people – what great teams we have! And we love our Summer Sundays! This year, 10 people shared their "Jesus Stories" with us – it's been excellent! I hope you enjoyed it as much as me!! Of course, we couldn't hear everyone's Jesus story – but we have all got one! Why not take time to share your Jesus story with someone else? Either someone in Ashwood or be really

brave and share with a friend, colleague or neighbour!

We always love to hang out together, build relationships and get to make new friendships too. Over 80 people joined us for a picnic in August and then on the Sunday there were over 100 people together at Awaken! We realise it's not practical for everyone to be with us, but as a church we love to be part of something bigger than ourselves, joining with thousands of people to worship Jesus, learn more about Him and also hear what He is doing in other parts of the country and world.

We love re-connecting with friends from other Ground Level Churches and also a great number of people from Ashwood help to make the event happen – people helping on the Setup team, the 0-4's Awaken Kids Team and some people serving on the Prayer Ministry Team! We are blessed! And whilst it's not guaranteed, this year the weather was absolutely wonderful! Which even made camping delightful! (depending on your point of view!) My two highlights of the weekend were,

praying with a man who was in a desperate situation, helping him experience the Peace of Jesus – he told me that he felt the tension in his body leave as we prayed. And the other was seeing a "prodigal" son returning to Jesus and worshipping Him! What a privilege! Thank you, Jesus!



If you're interested in joining us next year for Awaken 2026 – bookings are open and the cheapest price is available now! You can also pay in instalments to spread the cost! Winner! We're already booked in – we'd love you to join us!

As we turn the page into September we look forward to the next season in the life of the church. We will pick-up again our vision for the year.....

SIMPLY JESUS!

We believe this is a vision for all of us, as church, but also believe that it's a vision for **YOU** specifically too! What does Jesus want to do with you and in you in the remainder of 2025? Why not ask Him? We're still praying and believing that you will learn more about Jesus, but even more than that, that you would EXPERIENCE more of Jesus in your daily life. He came to earth, to die on a cross to be your

SAVIOUR and HEALER – but He also wants to be your ROCK, your DELIVERER, your LORD and also your friend!! (*Remember the song I keep singing... *Put Jesus in your everyday life.... He wants to be your very best friend!!* It's True!! Don't live missing out!)

At the time of publication, we'll be in the middle of our season of prayer! Many opportunities to gather across the church at different times to pray together, but arguably the most significant part is, as we pray every day with Jesus. My prayer is that your eyes would be opened to a deeper understanding—not just to know about Jesus, but to truly know Him personally!

I expect we'll be challenged, changed and delighted as we take time each day to be with JESUS. (Encouraging everyone who can, to use the **"PAUSE APP"** with 10 mins devotional everyday based on "EXPERIENCE JESUS" how wonderful!")

In the coming weeks, we're looking forward to baptism Sunday, (if you want to be baptised let us know!) Freedom in Christ Course starting, special guests in our Sunday meetings and an AMAZING opportunity to join together to invest financially into our **NEW HOME!! SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER!! VISION OFFERING!!!** Please pray about what you could give!! EXCITING!! Thanks for reading! Be encouraged!

Matt Bell

Senior Leader Ashwood Church.



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 23rd October
- Thursday 27th November

2. Fasting Thursdays

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



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 – Moving Forward with Purpose

We are delighted to be able to share that our New Home journey is now moving along at a real pace! With planning permission secured, we have been able to take some significant next steps. Over the last few weeks, we have gone out to obtain quotes for the building work, which will not only give us a clearer picture of the costs involved but will also help us shape a realistic timeline for when construction might begin.



The NHFA team are meeting monthly to pray, plan, and oversee the process, ensuring that each decision is made wisely and in line with the vision God has given us. It is encouraging to see momentum building after so many months of preparation and waiting.



Alongside this, we are now stepping out onto the fundraising trail. This is a significant part of the journey ahead, and we'll be drawing on several streams to make it possible, which include our church family, the wider community, and potential grant funders. Each of these will play a vital role in resourcing the building of a space where Ashwood can continue to grow, serve, and bless future generations.



We deeply value your ongoing prayers - please pray for wisdom in the decisions being made, for unity and creativity in our team, and for favour with funders as we begin this crucial stage. Above all, pray that we continue to walk faithfully in step with God, trusting Him for His provision and timing.

With gratitude and expectation,
Bob Goody
On behalf of the NHFA Team





Freedom in Christ



In the summer we heard a couple of stories from people who's

lives have been impacted through doing the Freedom in Christ (FIC) course.

We know that this course has been instrumental in helping people to identify negative thought patterns, to help take our thoughts captive and renew our minds. We've seen people develop amazing connections and friendships through mixing with other people across church and being vulnerable in a safe space.

Each year it's been amazing to see what God has done, the way He's brought revelation and healing and the different people He's brought onto the course each year. **In a year of 'Simply Jesus' - this is another way that we can draw closer to Jesus and allow Him to transform us-so we can be more like Him!**

The course started Thursday 11th Sept 7.30-



9.30pm at the Ashwood Centre.

If you've not already

signed up-why not let Bec know at: bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Baptism Sunday – 12th October

If you've never been baptised, please speak to someone, and find out more. And also join us on Sunday 28th September for our Baptism Information Session – after the meeting. 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@ashwoodchurch.org.uk or bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk to register your interest or if you would like to have a conversation.



community



A safe space

Cafe22 is a safe space for all of our customers. It is so lovely to look around at each session and observe people who

have walked in looking tired, apprehensive or simply sad, change as the morning has gone on and leave with smiles on their faces, looking at peace and ready to start the day. It warms my heart to know that the vision of the cafe continues through the years as God enables us to welcome everyone into the room. The team is wonderful and they always work well together, supporting each other and encouraging new team members as they join us.

Now we are in September and the Autumn season is upon us, look out for some slight changes being introduced into the cafe towards the end of September. I am excited about what is to come, and hopefully you will like it too

As always we welcome our new team members, however we still need a few more, especially in the kitchen as we get busier (you don't have to be able to cook or make coffee, if you are great at washing pots you would be VERY welcome.)

Looking forward to seeing you there on Monday morning between 9.30 and 12.30.

Christine Redfern




“Belonging to Ashwood” – Next Sessions

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

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

Next Date: 23rd Nov



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:**
1st Oct, 5th Nov

“Prayer for the New Home for Ashwood”

Thursdays 23rd Oct, 27th Nov, no meeting in December

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

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

Right now we're in the middle of our Season of prayer. If you have a story, or something you think would encourage other people, please send to admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk We'd love to hear from you!



TRANSFORMED WORSHIP NIGHTS 2025

Sunday Evenings 7pm.

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

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

Future Dates: 21st Sept / 23rd Nov

God wants your Attention!



I sat down at the beginning of our season of prayer to enjoy a moment intentionally enjoying Jesus' presence. I was

looking out of the window as I often do and I saw a cloud shaped like a star (sorry I didn't get a photo, the one you see is from the internet), it felt like Jesus was sending me a kiss, a reminder that he loves me and is thinking of me.

It made me think about how God speaks to me, how He gets my attention. How does he get your attention?

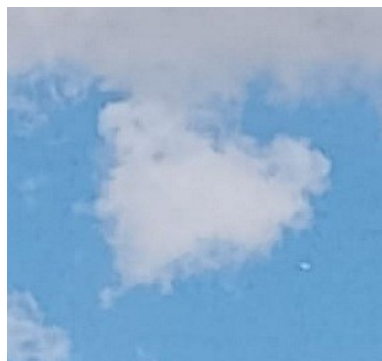
We often talk about God Jesus speaking to us, but to be honest there haven't been many times when I've heard an audible voice speaking to me. I could tell you a few stories of audible voices, but I could tell you many more about the times Jesus has spoken to me through nature – like the cloud this morning, seeing a rainbow time after time, hearing bird song in the trees and so much more. I could share scriptures with you that have come alive to me and 'spoken' to me that have been as clear as an audible voice might be.

I've had many other occasions when Jesus has got my attention (and therefore spoken to me) through a sermon, someone's testimony, a song, a radio programme, a conversation with a friend, a dream, a picture that comes to mind, hearing someone else praying and even while watching TV! Sometimes it's been clear but

many more times it's felt like a nudge or a whisper that's left me wondering if Jesus was speaking or wondering if God was trying to get my attention. In those moments I've asked him to say it again and he does.

Perhaps you who feel God, Jesus, Holy Spirit doesn't speak, or you haven't heard him if he has spoken to you. If that's you stop focusing on hearing a physical voice and start looking/listening for God's voice – the one that comes in many different ways and comes in ways you will be able to hear.

Jesus says "I am the Good Shepherd and my sheep know my voice". He is speaking and he wants you to hear. Can I encourage you to take note of what's going on around you, ask Jesus to give you ears to hear what he is saying (spiritual ears particularly!) ask him to open your spiritual eyes to see what he is showing you. I often find he speaks a few different ways to help me to recognise him. Jesus has so much



for us to hear, see, know and discover – let's not get so distracted by the world around us that we miss the things he is showing us.

Then when you begin to hear what he is saying share it with someone to encourage them too. Our faith is encouraged but it encourages others too. Have fun.

Janet Wright





prayer local and global

ACT justly, **LOVE** mercy, **WALK** humbly

Micah 6:8 *'God has shown you what is good and what He requires: to ACT justly, LOVE mercy, WALK humbly with your God.'* I've been reminded of this verse several times recently and we see it fulfilled in and throughout the life of JESUS bringing about Community Transformation.

It's good news that Community Transformation is happening today and now through the super-*natural* work of the Holy Spirit, creating God's Word and advancing God's Kingdom everywhere. God is calling ALL of us, yes each one of us, to play our part in His Community Transformation and bring an end to extreme poverty and injustice. We're IN IT TOGETHER.

I believe we're still in a season of AWAKENING in the Church. A call to wake up to ALL God is doing in His World. We pray for the spiritual AWAKENING in our community and in our nation as more people are awakened to find and follow Simply JESUS!

Here are a few organisations that we know are doing a great job close to how and further afield who would value your prayers as they serve God in their different ways.

tearfund

are bringing community transformation through strong relational connections in local Churches in over 50 countries worldwide. We pray for the work of Tearfund, particularly at this time in the Middle East and Afghanistan crisis.



You can read the latest news updates on the LINKS website Blog page. Sam our Africa Region Director has recently visited a project in east Kenya: 'Love your neighbour', with Isaac from Links Africa Hub, to lead practical training in agriculture, first aid and disability empowerment.

Let's pray for their ongoing work to be fruitful and multiply across Africa and beyond.

We praise God for Sam's story of the wonderful provision of a Landrover in Kenya after much prayer and patient perseverance.

Sam Walker says:

Prayers from Ashwood are so important to what God is doing through Links and the team here in Kenya. God is being both our provider and protector in so many areas.

Look forward to seeing Ashwood in October.





In John 10:10, Jesus talks about the thief 'who comes only to kill and destroy'.

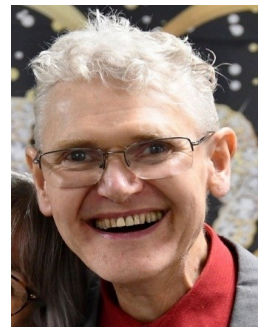


We praise God for the AWAKEN weekend. A time to gather together with

our family of Churches in worship and friendship to honour and glorify JESUS. We pray for the ongoing and growing work of Groundlevel Network of Churches through strong relational connections to flourish in friendships and greater fruitfulness.



connections to flourish in friendships and greater fruitfulness.



Dave Redfern

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT -

This Fairtrade Fortnight will be taking place 22nd September – 05th October 2025. Over these fourteen days we'll be asking each one of us to Do it Fair. We'll be celebrating the difference we can all make when we choose Fairtrade and campaign as part of a UK-wide movement calling for a fairer system behind the things we consume every day.

With the world in a tailspin, fairness isn't a given. But the power to get there is in our hands. Yes! We're in it together.



Speak to Dave & Christine about the valuable difference 'Direct trade' and 'Fair trade' is making through businesses like: **True Origin**, **ChooseLiberation** and **Ethical Superstore**. Thank you.





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.

We've had some great feedback about the Bible Course! At this point we're half way through! During the Autumn we'll finish 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



Being part of a LifeGroup is a great way to deepen your faith and do life 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 such a brilliant place to share, develop and learn together, supporting one another in the highs and lows of life.

Becca shares this month.

Why I joined a LifeGroup: I wanted to expand my faith and grow as a Christian and do this by meeting others in my church community outside of church.

How I find my LifeGroup: LifeGroup happens bi-weekly on Monday and since joining I find that LifeGroup gives me clarity for the week ahead and **helps me to carry God with me every single day.** It has opened my eyes up to praying and becoming one of God's children truly.

Why I would encourage others to join a LifeGroup: I feel that since joining LifeGroup I have grown into a fuller Christian and that I am powered to do God's work. If you are wanting to expand your faith I would recommend joining a life group.

Becca Bustard



Grace

Grace is endless, vast,
open, unmerited.
It has been given to me on a plate,
a platter in fact
To take and eat.
I longed to receive it
but felt unworthy.
But there it is as
free as a bird hovering.
There it is again,
I see it, oh I see it.
I grasp it, oh I grasp it.
Tight. Really tight.
For you, for me, for eternity.
No conditions, simple.
Exclusively mine, yours, ours.
It's never ending, bountiful,
overflowing,
I like it, oh I like it.
I say ".....Thank you
Jesus"
for my God given
Grace.

Zoe Jones



Pastoral Care

care for the carers

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

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

support each other and have social get togethers (about every few months). We last met in early September.

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 and want to find out more-why not get in touch with:

Bec@ashwoodchurch.org.uk



Serving lonely people in care homes

In connection with her new job, Gail has been approached by several people asking if she knew anybody who would be willing to go into care homes on a regular basis to offer a short time of meditation / song / prayer with the elderly people. If you feel called to be either leading or being part of such a group of volunteers, please get in touch with her.



Gail Rowe



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

Helen Tomlinson

The Gathering Place: Come and See



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).

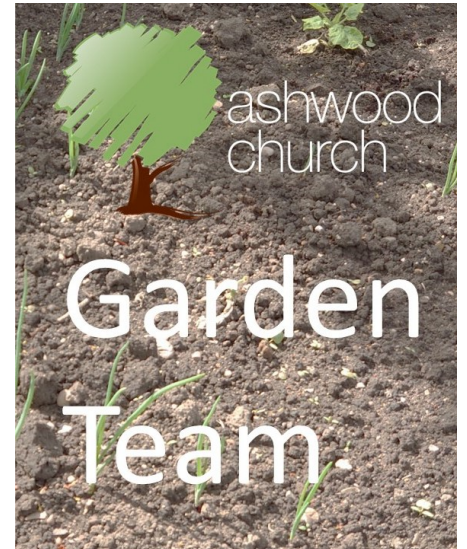
You may be thinking is The Gathering Place for me? Why not come

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.

Come and see.

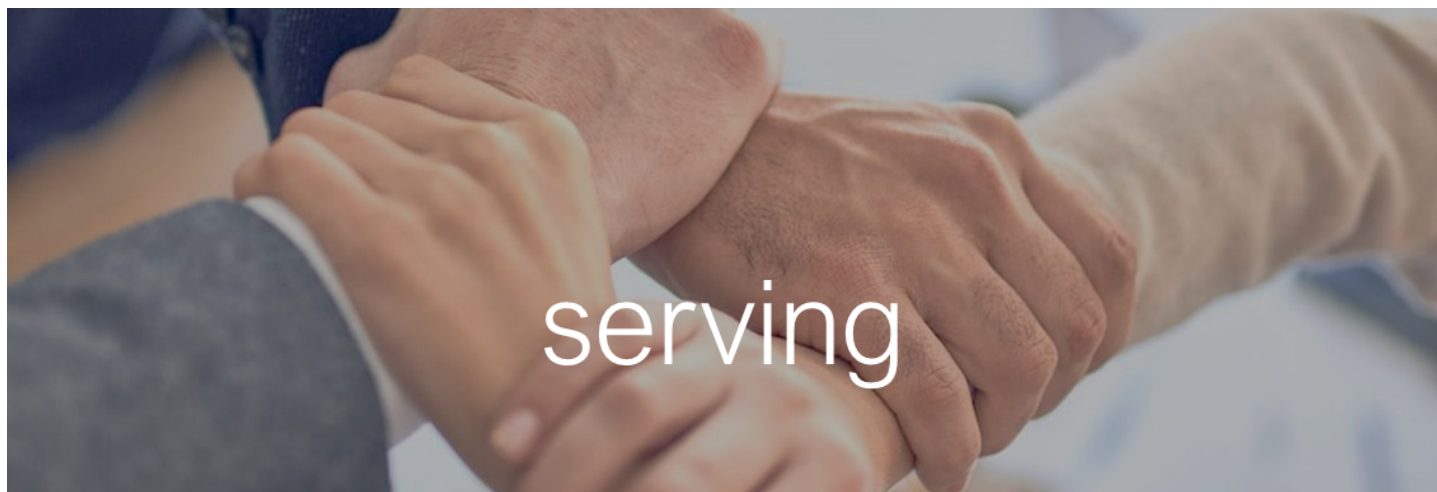


Bec Goody



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





Serving in Ashwood

We sometimes mention areas you can serve in Ashwood; the page opposite shows some of the places you could make a difference.

The benefits of serving may seem obvious when you think about the team you are serving:

- you make the load lighter
- you add your personality and skill to the team.

But there are also **benefits for you**:

- you feel involved, the feeling of belonging deepens
- you invest into the church family
- you also often invest into the community
- you'll get to know other people, both in your team(s) and the people (big or small) you volunteer for
- you will grow in confidence
- often you grow in skills too

I wonder if you have given much thought to what it takes to make all the various activities, events, meetings, etc. happen and why we think that your time, your skill and your presence would make a difference?

Perhaps you think that there are so many people in Ashwood that your help is not needed? Let me just say that every bit of help is welcome and you

might discover that you have more to offer than you thought!

You may look at our Sunday morning and think "I could never lead a meeting, sing or play in the band" - There are far more roles available in Ashwood than the ones visible at the front:

Perhaps you could be part of **the Welcome Team**, greeting people or helping with refreshments or simply chatting with people before or after the meeting?

Have you got a bit of skill, are ready to grow it and get involved in the **Tech Team**?

Don't forget helping to pack down on a Sunday after the meeting, setting up for the next event and hoovering is always appreciated.

Ashwood continues to be very active outside of our Sunday mornings too. There are lots of places you could get involved:

Caring for our Centre: We have a small team of cleaners supporting Dave our caretaker. If you have 1-2 hours every 4 weeks to



offer you would make a massive difference to this team!

From time to time Dave has bigger jobs that need tackling – like our summer clean and taking care of the outside of the building – getting involved with this blesses Dave more than you know.

Helping people to feel welcome and cared for in **Cafe22** on Monday's or **The Gathering Place** on a Friday afternoon are further opportunities – whether serving, chatting, making cakes or washing up, all these things are important and need to be done.

Foodbank is there to help people when they are in a really difficult space.

Preparing food parcels and talking with people are things many of us can do, and don't forget: bringing food for the team to give out is so important.

If you have a heart for **children or young people**, you could get involved in **Earthshakers** on a Sunday morning, or our **Friday Night Take Away** which happens about twice a term and

Holiday Club (twice per year) . And of course we also always need people to serve in **Seesaw**, our parent and toddler group and **Elevate**, our youth group.

If **administration** is your thing, here are often tasks to be done behind the scenes that will take the pressure off someone else's workload – just tell someone you'd like to help.

I'm sure I've missed other opportunities we have around the Ashwood family where you could add your skill, energy, support, bring some encouragement or where you could learn something new. Like any family, there is always lots to do and picking up one small thing makes someone else's job a little lighter.

Janet Wright



A BIG THANKS -

... for all the volunteers who came and helped with Ashwood Centre gardening maintenance and the summer clean in July. Teamwork IS the dreamwork!

Together we're able to continue to make the Ashwood Centre a welcoming, clean and safe place for people to come to both in our current old building and as we pray and work towards our all new purpose built building.

We're in it together!

Dave Redfern

WELCOME

**WE'RE
SO
GLAD
YOU'RE
HERE**

SCHOOLPOSTERS.COM

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!

It's been so encouraging hearing some of the lovely comments from people who have joined church in the past year. It's a credit to our wonderful Welcome and Hospitality Team but also to us as a church - as everyone helps play a part in making people feel seen and heard.

"People are just so caring, I don't know where I'd be this year if it wasn't for the church"

"I've been simply blown away by the welcome at church. It's just so friendly"

"It's a real credit to you as a church, I just felt SAFE when I came to Ashwood. You should feed that back, and I was just amazed by how friendly everyone was, and how HEALTHY the church seemed to be"

"I've never known anything like it, nowhere else can you go in the world and have so many people genuinely interested in who you are and how you are"

"Oh I've definitely felt welcome. It's felt like coming home to a family"

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!

janet@ashwoodchurch.org.uk



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

Bec Goody
Pastoral Care Team Leader



Faith in Later Life



Faith in later life - is a great charity that works to share faith and support those in later life. They have some brilliant resources on: loneliness, 'dying well', how to find purpose in retirement etc. And some great ideas about how you can share faith in your community. <https://faithinlaterlife.org/resource-hub/>



After Work Net - is a Christian charity that works to support those approaching or new to retirement. They have some great resources and information about how to embrace retirement and make the most of it!

<https://www.afterworknet.com/>



'The word retirement is not even in the Bible. What is taught in scripture is transition'.

Rick Warren



Mental Health



Insight - if you're struggling and need to talk to someone - you can self refer through **Insight** through the NHS - who can offer help to anyone struggling with common mental health problems. 0300 555 5582.

east.midlands@insighthealthcare.org



Shout

SHOUT to 85258 in the UK to text with a trained Crisis Volunteer with crisistextline.uk.

They also have some really useful bits about understanding anxiety and other mental health issues

Struggling at work?



Able Futures - support those who employed in the UK and are struggling with their mental health. They offer free coaching and could give you nine months' advice and guidance from a mental health specialist who can help you learn coping mechanisms, build resilience, access therapy or work with your employer to make adjustments to help your mental health at work. It's worth looking at their website to find out more:

<https://able-futures.co.uk/individuals>



To book, go to: <https://ashwoodchurch.churchsuite.com/events/1luhxlvn>

To book, get in touch with Helen T., by phone: 07754 983382 or email: helen@ashwoodchurch.org.uk



TOP TIPS

Scams

Recently we've had a number of people who have said they have been either scammed or nearly scammed financially.

Sadly, we live in a broken world where people can sometimes be untrustworthy and manipulate others.

Fraud – of which scams make up a significant part – happens to be the most common crime in the UK.

It results in people losing a staggering £7 billion a year. As someone who has been scammed myself recently, it can be easy to think that it wouldn't happen to us and that we would see it coming but that is not always the case- scams are becoming much more sophisticated.

Jesus tell us to be as **shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves** (Matthew

10:16), in other words - to be trusting of people and to see the positive in others (holding back from being ruled by scepticism) but also being wise and discerning and alert to dangers.

Here's some top tips from things other people have voiced:



- If your bank calls/messages you and you're ever uncertain - put the phone down/don't reply to the message and **call the bank directly** People can be incredibly convincing and reassuring on the phone (often they have trained themselves to understand how to read people/ reassure them)
- Your bank will NEVER email or text you asking for your PIN or password
- The council will never call asking for your bank details
- Beware bad spelling/grammatical errors in messages/emails-and **avoid clicking any links** that you're unsure of!
- **Antivirus software** is so important in preventing scams
- Be mindful about where you store your **passwords**/use ones that are hard to guess
- **QR codes** can be scams - always check the URL looks accurate (e.g. no spelling mistakes)
- If you're unsure if something is a scam - use **Citizens Advice's**



online scams checker tool

[https://
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/
consumer/scams/check-if-
something-might-be-a-scam/](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/)

- For more info why not look at money saving experts insights!

[https://
www.moneysavingexpert.com/
shopping/stop-scams/](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/stop-scams/)

Let's look out for one another.

Bec Goody



Rural Missions Update

The past few months have been a season of growth and encouragement for Rural Missions, and we are so grateful for your ongoing prayers and support.

We've had some wonderful opportunities in the media to share the story of rural mission more widely. Radio interviews, podcasts, and articles have opened new doors for us to highlight both the challenges and the incredible opportunities that rural churches have to share the love of Jesus in their communities. Each opportunity has not only raised awareness but also connected us with more churches and leaders who are hungry to see God move where they are.

Another big highlight has been the launch of our brand-new *Missional Toolkits*.

These are practical, down-to-earth resources designed to help churches and individuals think creatively and prayerfully about mission. They can be used in PCC meetings, small groups, or even for personal reflection. The toolkits provide ideas, questions, and encouragement to take simple next steps in sharing faith and serving the community. We've already received encouraging feedback - churches have been using them to spark conversations, generate action plans, and dream bigger about what God might want to do next.

The best part is that these toolkits are completely free. We believe in resourcing rural churches at no cost, thanks to the generosity of others who share our vision. You can order your copy online at www.ruralmissions.org.uk/toolkits – and we'd encourage every household to get hold of one.

Please continue to pray for us as we keep building relationships, creating resources, and standing alongside rural churches across the country. Together, we long to see small places making a big impact for God's Kingdom.



Bob Goody





Elevate.YTH: A New Season Begins!

As the new academic year begins, we're excited to launch a brand-new season in Elevate.YTH - a year full of fresh opportunities, deeper faith, and stronger connections.

New Night, Same Mission

Starting this September, **Elevate.YTH nights are moving to Friday evenings at 7:00 PM**. This change comes after a powerful time of prayer, reflection, and discernment by our youth team before the summer break. We believe this new time slot will better serve our young people and open the door to new initiatives.

While some things are changing, our mission remains the same:

To help young people find and follow Jesus.

And we remain committed to our vision:

To equip young people for life's challenges by helping them build a deep-rooted faith and an unshakable confidence in their identity in Christ.

What's Coming Up This Year?

This year, we're stepping into exciting new rhythms:

- **Alpha Youth Series – Starting September**, we're launching the **Alpha Youth** course - an engaging series designed to help young people explore life's big questions and the Christian faith in a relaxed and relatable way. It's the perfect opportunity to invite friends and start meaningful conversations about Jesus.

- **IGNITE – Spirit and Word Nights.** Once every half term, we'll gather for **IGNITE**, a night dedicated to encountering God through worship, teaching, and ministry. These evenings are about going deeper together.

- **CoGroups – Community and Discipleship.** Our small groups also known as **CoGroups** will continue to be a vital part of Elevate.YTH, providing safe spaces for young people to grow in discipleship, ask honest questions, and build lasting friendships.

We're committed to creating the best experience possible for every young person who connects with Elevate.YTH. Thank you for praying, supporting and encouraging our young people - we're excited for all that God has in store this year through Elevate.YTH!

Here's a reminder of the ways young people and parents can stay connected with Elevate.YTH

Want to stay in the loop?

- Join our **WhatsApp groups** for parents and *young people (*Young people in year 7 upwards)

Young people can follow us on **Instagram @elevateyouthashwood** for updates, inspiration, and event info.

If you have any questions, need more information, or would like to get connected, feel free to reach out to **Rich**: rich@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

Key Dates This Term

September

12th · 19th · 26th

October

10th · 17th

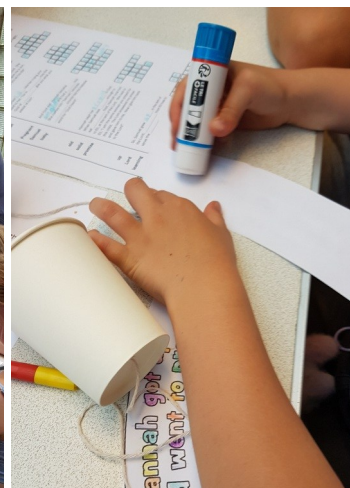
November

7th · 14th · 21st

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.



Friday Night Takeaway in July Impressions



Rich Reason
Children and Youth
Team Leader



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



AWAKEN 2025 - A Multi-Sensory Experience

Dave enjoyed being on Set Up team again with a wonderful team of 16 this year! Twas great to be joined by Helen Humphries for her first time on the team.

Wow... after the storms of 2024 the weather this year was wonderful and beautiful and so good to enjoy friendship time together. We loved welcoming Ashwood day visitors and enjoyed a beautiful Sunday tea together.

Christine organised the Sensory Space for people who prefer a quieter and more creative environment to watch the live stream from the Big Top meetings and join in the worship experience. Twas appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended this venue. Christine received some encouraging feedback.

Be inspired by watching the
[AWAKEN 2025 highlights video](#)

Dave's takeaway: Let's not MIMO:
Miss It and Miss Out!

God LOVES you and me... and the World soooo much that He wants each one of us to experience His Love and Goodness! Through Jesus we can experience God's LOVE here and now... today and everyday! As we go through troubled, messy, tough and painful times we can know the Truth of God with us and for us, working all things for good, making all things new.

We're living in a spiritual AWAKENING in our nation... let's not MIMO. Let's jump in and receive all that our good good Father in Heaven wants to give us by His Holy Spirit. Come and drink... there's forgiveness and healing in the new wine of the Kingdom... and there's plenty to go round for everyone to enjoy! Jesus says, "There's a party in heaven every time someone turns their life around to find and follow me." Come on in and join the Party!

It'll be great if you can join us for AWAKEN 2026!

Dave Redfern



My Awaken Testimony

This year I went to **Awaken** with the intention of just camping, as last year I had only come for the Sunday. But after booking in, I felt God speaking to me about joining the **set-up team**.

I sensed He wanted me to step out of my comfort zone, overcome my anxiety about meeting new people, and trust Him in new ways. It took me a few weeks, but I eventually sent an email to Ground Level asking to be part of the crew - a big step for me.

When I arrived at Awaken, I felt really anxious and unsure if I could cope. But during one of the meetings, as I started to raise my hands in worship, I felt God encouraging me to go down to the front and respond to Him. That was another huge step for me, and I truly sensed His support and presence as I obeyed.

On the Monday, while packing down my tent, I did experience a panic attack because of the heat, which worried a few people. But even in that moment, I knew God was reminding me of how far I had come.

I had pushed through my fears, stepped out in faith, and said "yes" to Him in ways I never thought I could.

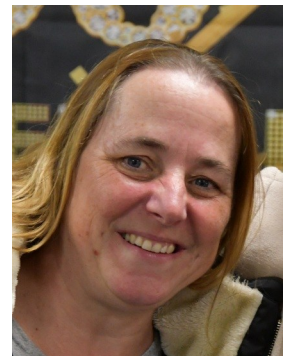
I believe God was showing me that coming to Awaken and being part of the team was a **breakthrough moment** - a declaration that anxiety doesn't have the final say



in my life.

I'm already looking forward to coming back next year, trusting that He will continue to strengthen me and lead me into even greater freedom.

Helen Humphrey



SIMPLY





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



Donate - via Stewardship page



Donate - NHFA



Donate - General Fund

	Total Giving	General Offerings	Development (NHFA) Fund*	Building Fund
June 2025	£12,982	£11,272	£936	£775
July 2025	£13,062	£11,373	£1,214	£475
August 2025	£12,835	£11,059	£1,132	£645

Finance Focus:

Sunday Services and Worship

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, age, colour or history, we want you to know that you are welcome!

Ashwood believes that human beings are created to worship. For us, the object of our worship is the creator God Himself! Our 'worship' in its broadest sense is all about the way we live our lives every day. We are also incredibly fortunate to have a wonderful 'Worship Team' who do an amazing job of facilitating our expressions of worship at different times when we are together including Touching Heaven, Transformed Worship nights and our Sunday Meetings.

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

- Provide refreshments for our Sunday morning meetings and special events (including
- Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day & Baptism Sundays)
- Honour and thank our Guest Speakers - including Roger Bretherton (October 2024), Sam
- Walker (March 2025) & Rachael Heffer (June 2025)
- Subsidise the costs of our 2025 Mini Conference 'Wild Jesus' held on 3rd and 4th May (including thanking our Speakers, Paul & Perianne Brownback, and the

- Children's Work Team from IKON)
- Purchase banners, magnets and other materials including 'give-aways' for our Christingle, Mother's Day and Father's Day services
- Invest in teaching materials for our Sundays series
- Purchase items to go in our Welcome Bags for visitors
- Ensure compliance with Safeguarding and arrange DBS checks for Staff Workers and volunteers
- Upgrade equipment where necessary (audio and visual) for our Sunday Worship Services
- Maintain our live streaming technology so we can live stream our Sunday Services
- Run weekly prayer meetings via Zoom, making them accessible for many people!

Thank you so much for the money you give which has enabled us to do this and much more!

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

Becky Holmes
Financial Administrator



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: 1st October, 5th November, 3rd December, Details see page 8
- **LifeGroups** meet fortnightly on Monday afternoons or evenings.
For more info, see page 12, to join, talk to Bec Goody
- **Ashwood Youth** meets on Fridays, details see page 24
- **Prayer Opportunities** see pages 8, 10 & 11
- **New Home for Ashwood Prayer** dates see pages 4
- **Belonging to Ashwood Meetings** see page 7
- **Opportunities to Serve**, see pages 16 - 18

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:

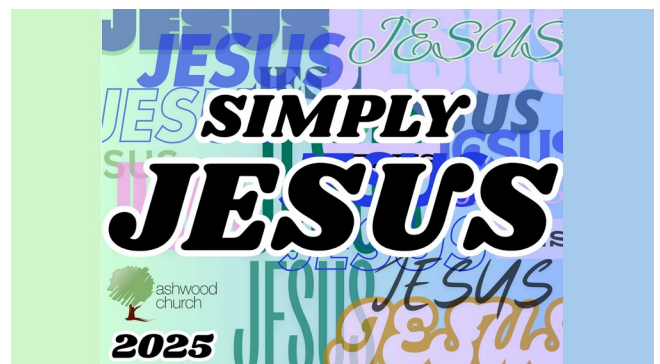
8th - 28th Sept	Experience Jesus / Prayer season	pg 8
28th Sept	Vision Sunday for NHFA	pg 5
Sunday 21st Sept	Transformed Worship Night	pg 8
Tuesday 23rd Sept	Men's social night	pg 21
22nd Sept - 5th Oct	Fairtrade Fortnight	pg 11
3rd Oct	Friday Night Takeaway	pg 23
12th Oct	Baptism Sunday	pg 6
Friday 17th Oct	Ladie's social night	pg 21
Mon 27th - Wed 29th Oct	Holiday Club	pg 25



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 20th July	Eco Sunday Jono Wright and Abby Clark
Sunday 27th July	Summer Sundays - Jesus Stories Part 1 Mandy Walker and Matt Sutherland
Sunday 3rd August	Summer Sundays - Jesus Stories Part 2 Maisy Bell and Michael Olajide
Sunday 10th August	Summer Sundays - Jesus Stories Part 3 Dom Torr and Amy Shaw
Sunday 17th August	Summer Sundays - Jesus Stories Part 4 Esther Bell and David Logsdale
Sunday 24th August	Awaken Groundlevel Network
Sunday 31st August	Summer Sundays - Jesus Stories Part 5 Dave Redfern and Abby Clark
Sunday 7th September	Vision Relaunch - Simply Jesus Matt Bell
Sunday 14th September	Simply Jesus - Who do you say I am? Joe Gisbey



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.

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

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

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