

ashwoodnews

September October 2026



Awaken

Feedback from our
Groundlevel
conference

Pages 3,5,8

Seesaw Funday

A house packed full
with children, parents,
carers and fun

Pages 10,11

Big Give Weekend

Coming up VERY
soon! Get involved
and find details on

Pages 3,4,7



Helping people find
and follow Jesus



Matt's message

Hello Ashwood News Readers! Welcome to our Sept / October edition of our Ashwood News! 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!

It's September and we're back! Whether you've been away or stayed at home – we hope you've had some time to rest over the rather warm summer that we've experienced. For all the football fans – it was another story of "so close" at the football world cup! (For England!) Although lots of stories of footballers from different nations / teams pausing before or after the games to honour Jesus and even pray together! I loved that!

In Ashwood we take the opportunity during August to take a break from some of our regular gatherings – ready to come back refreshed in September! Instead, we enjoyed a BBQ and also a picnic –



getting to hang out with lots of different people and enjoy simply being together! There's so many wonderful people in Ashwood – there isn't enough time to meet and greet everyone – but it's fun to try!

During August it was our delight to welcome our friends Annie and Francis Mkandawire all the way from Malawi! Annie encouraged us with a long list of projects where our investment over the years has provided sustainable, life changing opportunities for some of the financially poorest people in Africa. Francis spoke as part of our series on being "Planted in the church and Rooted in Christ." We love our ongoing partnership with Annie and Francis, and look forward to sending another team from the church, possibly April next year.



Back in July, we finished our "Healthy Courses" that ran during our "LifeGroup Meeting Pause". We're grateful for the feedback we received from many people, letting us know that the courses had helped people: grow understanding, feel more confident in their faith, feel better equipped in their relationships and developed their relationship with God. (Read some of the feedback later in this issue.)

Someone in our church, told me "My child told me that he had never felt so close to God!" I love that! Bookings are open now for Awaken 2027! Why not consider joining us!

As we move into the Autumn, we have a number of important events and activities in the life of the church that we're hoping everyone can get on board with!

"Small Group Relaunch" – In July we shared our refreshed vision of the importance of our Ashwood Small Groups in the life of the church. As the church continues to grow, our Small Groups become an even more important place for everyone to: Grow Spiritually, Remain Planted, Connect with others and become more like Jesus. The Christian life was never intended to be lived in isolation, we are formed and transformed as we live, pray, laugh, cry and learn together. (Read more about the relaunch later in this issue.)



ashwood church

THE BIG GIVE WEEKEND
2-4 OCTOBER 2026

Building our future. Together.

Three days of community, celebration and generosity as we take another exciting step towards creating a New Home for Church and the Community.

SCAN TO BOOK EVENTS
Book tickets and reserve your place online
ashwoodchurch.org.uk/biggive

Everyone welcome.

BIG GIVE
2nd – 4th October

WHAT'S ON

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

5.00pm The BIG Secure Special
A special fundraising event for the new home for Ashwood with local traders, businesses and supporters. (Invitation only)

12.20pm Special Guests' Lunch
Sharing the vision for the new home for Ashwood with local traders, businesses and supporters. (Invitation only)

1.00pm BIG Quiz Night
• 500 prizes
• Bring your own drinks & snacks
• Family friendly to the max
• Team welcome

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

12.00pm Community Festival
BIG Give of the Year 2026 Challenge
A morning for everyone
Café • Soft Play • Crafts
Activities • Community Fun
(Invitation only)

3.00pm SING IT BOLD
BIG Give of the Year 2026 Challenge
A morning for everyone
Café • Soft Play • Crafts
Activities • Community Fun
(Invitation only)

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

10.30am Vision Sunday
A morning for everyone
Café • Soft Play • Crafts
Activities • Community Fun
(Invitation only)

ashwoodchurch.org.uk/biggive Registered Charity No. 108328

The BIG GIVE Weekend – 2-4 October – We continue to increase our efforts towards raising the necessary funds that we need in order to move our building project forward. Hopefully you have already heard all about our



The weather provided some challenges for **Awaken 2026!** Several tents and awnings were "*disrupted*" during the setup! And a thunderstorm meant that the Big Top had to be evacuated on the Sunday evening – to make sure everyone was safe from lightning! It wasn't ideal – but we still enjoyed an excellent weekend, worshipping together, eating together and learning together. It was great to have some people join us for the day on Sunday too!



BIG GIVE weekend, where we intend to raise the profile in our wider circles, as well as within the community of different people who use the Ashwood Centre. Please check out all the details for all the events across the weekend, and book in nice and early to help us with the planning. We hope to sell out for both of the "Community Choir Concerts" so don't wait too long to get your tickets otherwise you might miss out! And please prayerfully consider what you could give into our Vision Offering on Sunday 4th October. We need God to provide supernaturally, but we also recognise our part in bringing our offering so He can multiply and go above and beyond what we can do on our own. (Please join us in Sept and Oct as we continue to pray together, as well as during our Prayer Season.)

As we move into the Autumn season, I'm excited for all of us to take hold of the promise that we can be **"Fruitful in Every Season"** as we remain rooted and connected to Jesus and our Father in heaven! I'm praying that you would step into all that God has for YOU in the remainder of 2026.



Finally, please join me in celebrating with our family the safe arrival of Baby Elijah Bell! I've become a Grandad! (aka "Pops"!) We're grateful to God for His kindness! If you see me with a big smile on my face, this could be why!

Matt Bell

Senior Leader Ashwood Church

AWAKEN 2026



It is always a bit hectic getting ready for Awaken — camping, packing, organising... and this year, with everything going on with my mum, there were even more challenges.

I'm so grateful for the wonderful people within Ashwood who spent time with my mum and took her out for little outings – they are incredible people. But if I'm honest, I wasn't really that excited about going to Awaken this year. Staying at home would have been so much easier.

I love how God takes hold of everything that is going on in our lives and meets us right in the middle of it.

Friday night, the opening Big Top meeting. Brandi Carrano was speaking, and the title of her talk came up on the big screen: **IN THE WAIT!**

Yes. I sat up. *This is for me.* I felt like the whole talk was speaking directly into my life.

Before you ever WIN, you have to WAIT.

Waiting is not a passive process — it is an active invitation.

She gave four points:



WISDOM in the waiting

WRESTLE in the waiting

WEAPONS in the waiting

WORSHIP in the waiting

God was speaking right at me. He took me back to the time when I had cancer and I had an **ANTHEM OF PRAISE**. I would literally sing through the night. I would speak things over myself — **CHOOSE JOY** — and sing Dave Bell's song, *He Is With Me in the Waiting* — **Hold On!**

Brandi spoke from 2 Chronicles 20:12:

"We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help."

And then in verse 21, the singers were appointed to go ahead of the army,

singing and praising God:

"Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!"

An **ANTHEM OF WORSHIP**. And I realised... I had stopped singing over my mum and her situation. **Where was my Anthem?**

So, I've come home with a RESET. I am prayerfully asking God for a new **ANTHEM OF WORSHIP** — one that I can sing over my mum, over her situation, and over this waiting.

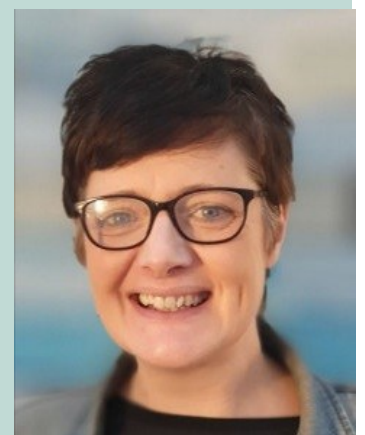
And then, as if that wasn't enough, Brandi came back on stage and said she had a word from God. She spoke

about a pastor who had come to Awaken but really didn't want to be there. Someone who had recently felt like they weren't themselves anymore — stripped of some of the things they were known for.

I'm not even sure what she said after that. I just knew. **It was me.** God saw me that night. He reminded me that He is with me **IN THE WAIT.**

And so I'm choosing to worship while I wait.

Claire Bell
Senior Leader
Ashwood Church



new home for ashwood

A Time to Pray and a Time to Give

Things are really moving with our New Home for Ashwood!

Over recent months, a huge amount of work has been taking place behind the scenes as we continue to turn the vision for our new church and community centre into a reality.

We have always known that a project of this size will require several different sources of funding. Alongside the incredible generosity of our church family, we are approaching charitable trusts and grant funders who could potentially contribute significant amounts towards the project.

And right now, we particularly need you to pray.

Prayer Gatherings:

27th September
25th October
29th November



NHFA Giving

For
donations,
please
scan one
of the QR
codes



Via Stewardship pg



Via ChurchSuite

A number of grant applications have now been submitted, with more being prepared. Some of these could make a really significant difference to what happens next.

There is lots we can do to make our applications as strong as possible, but ultimately we are trusting God for His provision.

So please pray with us:

- Pray for favour with the trustees and decision makers who will read our applications.
- Pray for provision, that the right grants will be awarded at the right time.
- Pray for wisdom as we decide which opportunities to pursue and how best to tell the Ashwood story.
- Pray for faith, that we don't become overwhelmed by the size of the challenge but keep our eyes fixed on the God who has led us this far.
- Pray that God's will is done, and that every pound we need is provided in His way and in His timing.
- And please keep praying at 20:24 each day. Even if it is only for a minute, imagine what it means to have people across our church family regularly bringing our New Home before God.

THE BIG GIVE WEEKEND IS ALMOST HERE!

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October 2026

This is going to be one of the biggest weekends yet in our New Home journey, and we really want the whole Ashwood family to be part of it.

The Big Give Weekend isn't simply about raising money. It's an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing, tell the story of our New Home, involve our wider community and take another big step forward together.

Across the weekend there will be something for everyone.

Friday will include our Seesaw Special, a special lunch for invited guests and our Big Friday Night Quiz.

Saturday is all about our wider community, with Community Together, followed by The Big Sing Choir Concert featuring Sing It Bold Choir in the evening.

And then on Sunday, we'll gather as the Ashwood family for a really significant moment in the life of our church, culminating in our Vision Offering for the New Home for Ashwood.

Please don't treat this as just another weekend in the diary.

Put 2–4 October in your calendar now. Come. Invite people. Get involved. Pray. And begin asking God what part He might be asking you to play.

For some of us, that may mean giving sacrificially. For others, it may mean inviting friends and family, helping at one of the events, telling others about the project or committing to pray. Every one of us can do something.

Our New Home isn't simply about having a bigger or better building. It's about creating a place where people can find friendship, families can receive support, children and young people can flourish, our community can come together, and generations of people can find and follow Jesus.

We've come a long way already.

Now is the time to pray.

Now is the time to give.

And now is the time to take the next step together.

Bob Goody

On behalf of the New Home for Ashwood Team



A BIG THANK YOU ! To our NHFA Fundraisers:

Fundraiser for the
NEW HOME FOR ASHWOOD

Lynne & Barrie's OPEN GARDEN DAY

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER | 1.00 – 4.30 PM

REFRESHMENTS (including home-baked cakes) | PLANTS FOR SALE | PAINTINGS AND CRAFTS FOR SALE

ENTRY: £4.00 / PERSON – CHILDREN GO FREE

160 SOUTHWELL ROAD WEST, MANSFIELD NG18 4HB

Anybody wishing to sell crafts etc. (excluding food), please contact admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk

All proceeds go to New Home for Ashwood

Lynne and Barrie (U3A) raised £1'600 with their open garden day (supported by our crafters)

Zoe raised £316.77 with her cake sale

ashwood church

ZOE'S CAKE BAKE SALE

DELICIOUS HOME BAKED CAKES

Come and pop by and help support the rebuild of The Ashwood Centre on Portland Street

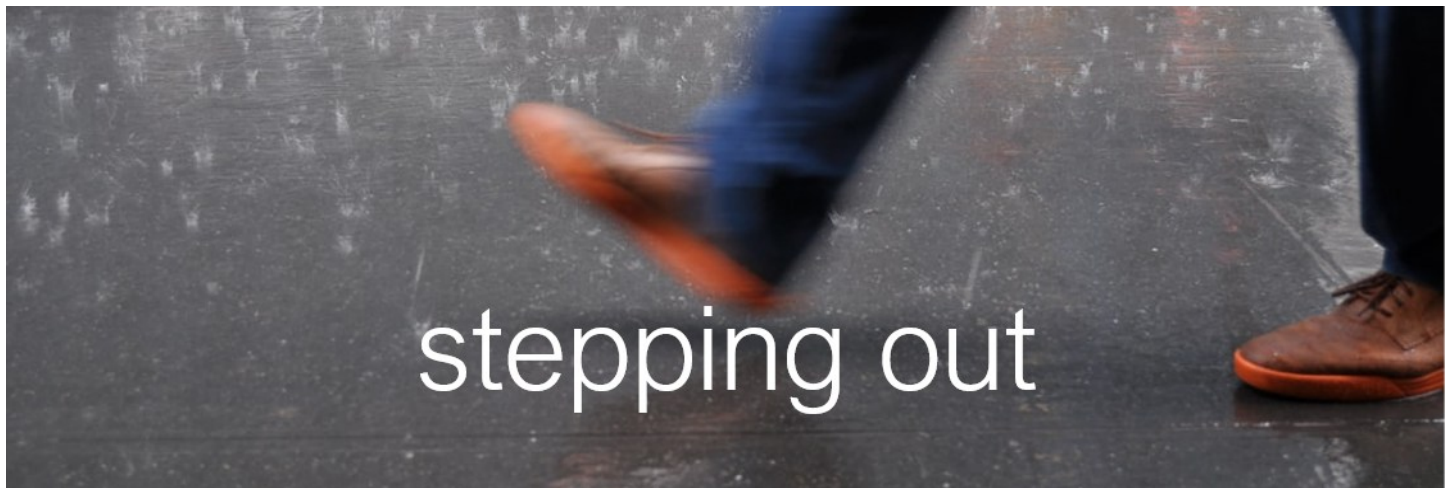
SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2026

2.00PM – 4.00PM

2 OAKTREE CLOSE, SUTTON IN ASHFIELD, NG17 5LJ

EVERY SLICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Charity Registration Number 6896764



stepping out

Awaken

I was feeling rather overwhelmed and not looking forward to being at Awaken this year, not quite sure why. However I couldn't stay away as we were booked in to go, and I was hosting the Sensory Room.



The Sensory Room was open every Big Top meeting and was a space where people could come to watch the Big Top meeting on a live feed in a generally peaceful space. We supplied some simple sensory activities and toys to help people focus, relax and take in the message.

Although I didn't need to stay we

(myself, Dave, Alison and Phil) often did and loved being there. We were free to worship and rest in God's presence. We had a few regulars and many who popped in just for one session. Their ages ranged from 5-ish to 80-ish and everyone who came was able to access the Big Top worship and teaching in a way that suited them. It was a definite refuge on Sunday evening after the Big Top had to be evacuated, the families who were there were so grateful to be there in the storm, and we were still able to hear the message through a very quickly established live feed.

Everyone who visited or popped in to say 'hello', commented on what a lovely atmosphere there was in the room, I am so grateful that Jesus was present in the room all the time, and I loved being able to host it.

Having been a reluctant camper to start off this year I am so glad that I went. Jesus showed me so much, and I was kept in His loving arms over the weekend. I know that choosing to go even though I wanted to stay at home was the best decision I could have made.

Christine Redfern



Grateful

Just wanted to say a big thankyou to my wonderful church family for all the love and support I've received over the past few weeks. Many of you know I had a bit of time off over summer but have resumed work now. I've tried to be really transparent with people, the past few weeks had been some of the hardest of my life.

Sudden intense anxiety/terror gripped me out of the blue and left me feeling incredibly fearful and broken. I think this has been a combination of spiritual attack and burn out from absorbing a lot of the suffering of others.

God has taught me so much in this season, He's shown me that I don't



have to be ok all the time for everyone else, and how much

strength there is in weakness.

He's shown me how to put GOD BOUNDARIES in, not Bec boundaries. God asked me a few weeks ago "are you willing to go to church even if you're full of fear?" and reluctantly I said "ok". The moment I said that, the anxiety began to lift - God's incredible grace.

God told me that He was going to ask me to go forwards for prayer the next day and when Joe Gisby was calling people to come forwards, I heard God say "now". It felt incredibly vulnerable and exposed being at the front as a leader sobbing in front of everyone, displaying my brokenness. But I know

this was significant for me but also for our church. God lifted so much off me that day and is in the process of continually restoring me.

I believe this has been part of our theme to be a "healthy church". I deeply love our church family and see it as an incredible privilege to love and serve, but it has been so empowering to know the core truth - that I'm loved for me and not what I do. I'm so grateful to God for humbling me, for breaking down my pride, for walking with me and for giving me faith and authority to come against fear.

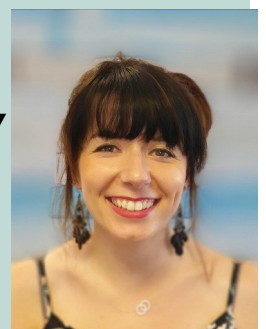
I know there are many people within our church that battle with anxiety and I just want to encourage you that things can change, you can change.

Your past doesn't define your future. As our friend Jo Hargreaves says, our brains are neuroplastic, we can rewire our brains to think differently when we meditate on scripture. Fear is not your future - God is! I've been in the process of training my brain to see God's goodness in the word (gratitude) rather than risk (fear). We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow. I believe we are going to be stepping into a season where we see more and more people freed from fear and anxiety and walking in the fruitfulness God has for them!

"See I am doing a new thing - do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert" Isaiah 43:19

Are we ready?

Bec Goody





toddlers

Seesaw Funday

On our last Seesaw Session in July, we welcomed a large group of parents, carers and their under 5's to celebrate the end of another year together. We added some extra activities for them to explore and enjoy. We found a different bouncy castle which also had a ball pit and soft play area that the children made the most of. We had bubbles outside which the children (and adults!) enjoyed making and popping. There were diggers, there was sand, there were cars and ride on toys – giving the children plenty to keep them busy.

We welcomed White Post Farm who brought a number of their smaller animals for the children to look at, talk about and to touch. Geoff and Simon joined the team for the morning to



provide some jacket potatoes and hot dogs for those who stayed over lunch time. And of course plenty of crafty activities to

encourage some creativity.



As well as plenty of playing going on there was also lots of conversations inside and outside – adults and children!. The team love watching parents and children growing in confidence, making friends, supporting each other in the Seesaw atmosphere. It really is a place where everyone is welcome and where everyone grows.



Play in the Park

Seesaw was out in Kingsway Park in August, offering a place for parents and carers to meet up with a few activities to keep the children busy.

We had less people and it was a little windy but we still enjoyed doing a treasure hunt around the band stand, creating and popping bubbles (of course!), making pictures with chalk and lots of playing and chatting that marks Seesaw as a great place to be.

Autumn Sessions

Our Autumn sessions started on Tuesday 8th September and Friday 11th September, 9.30-11.15am each week during term time. We look forward to welcoming back some of our families but also new ones too. Do join us if you have an under 5 and let us know if you are interested in being part of the team. Please pray for the team and all the families, we know Seesaw is a safe place for many of our families, a place



they find welcome, encouragement, friendship and we would love it to be a place where they find Jesus.

A big thank you to all the team - both those who are there each week and those who come and help out on our busy days. We love you all.

Cheryl, Janet and the Seesaw Team.





REFRESH: RADICAL — MORE THAN JUST A WEEKEND!

WOW... what a weekend!

17–19 July saw 35 young people and an amazing team head to Edale for REFRESH: RADICAL—a weekend packed with epic games, plenty of laughter, powerful worship, late-night conversations, new friendships, great food and memories that will stick with us!



But while there was plenty of fun,

REFRESH was always about something much bigger.

Our theme this year was RADICAL — An unfiltered encounter with Jesus. Throughout the weekend, we challenged our young people to think about what it really means to live with a faith that isn't shaped by the world around us, but is deeply rooted in Jesus.

Across three sessions, we explored the stories of Daniel, Moses and the woman at the well.



Through Daniel, we were challenged to choose who we are before pressure chooses for us, make God our daily anchor and realise that we don't have to blend in to make a difference.

Through Moses, we were reminded that God meets ordinary people, knows us by name and can change our identity and direction through an encounter with Him. God isn't looking for perfect people—He's looking for willing people.

And through the woman at the well, we discovered that Jesus really is the Game Changer! We all have a deep thirst to be known, accepted and loved, but the things we often turn to for satisfaction—approval, popularity, achievement, image and social media—will always run dry. Jesus offers something different: Living Water that truly satisfies.

Perhaps one of the most encouraging things about the weekend was seeing our young people so willing to engage. They asked big questions, joined in wholeheartedly, supported one another, worshipped together and

created space to hear what God might be saying to them.

There were stories shared, prayers prayed and moments where we saw young people respond to Jesus in really meaningful ways.

And that's what we're praying REFRESH will become—a starting point, not a finishing point.

The weekend may have finished, but we believe the seeds planted don't have to stop growing. Our prayer is that what God started at REFRESH will continue throughout the summer and into the new term, as our young people keep discovering what it means to find and follow Jesus.

A huge THANK YOU to every member of our incredible team who gave their time, energy and love to make REFRESH possible, and to all the parents and carers who trusted us with their young people.

And to our young people... REFRESH might be over, but Jesus hasn't finished!

**Keep seeking Him.
Keep choosing Him.
Keep living RADICAL.
The best is still ahead!**

Rich Reason



Refresh for the first time!

This was my first time experiencing Refresh, as someone who longs for the joy and glory of what God can provide and is seeking Him. I also want to help the youth of my church community experience it too.

This weekend had so many beautiful moments of faith, friendship and an experience you can't gain anywhere else. One thing that really spoke to me was Katie's talk on Moses and the burning bush, and how God doesn't want perfection but can find us in the ordinary. God simply wants us to seek Him and trust in Him.

This spoke to many of the youth, and several stepped into God's presence and asked for prayer. That truly is what the weekend is about. Those small moments showed the power of Jesus and all He's able to do.

So, if you're a young person and can come in 2027, don't miss out on the fun, laughter and, most importantly, a relationship with the Lord. You will never be the same once you open your heart to Him.

Rebecca Bustard



YTH Happenings

REFRESH may be over... but the journey is only just getting started!

Don't let what God did at Refresh become just another memory. Keep showing up, keep leaning in, keep asking questions, keep worshipping, keep reading your Bible, and keep chasing after Jesus.

We're so excited for everything that's still to come at Elevate.YTH, and we

can't wait to be back together! Stay connected, keep an eye on our socials and WhatsApp, and we'll let you know everything that's coming up

**25th Sept
9th Oct
23rd Oct
13th Nov
27th Nov**



Ashwood Summer Sundays

We loved our Summer Sundays this year! We listened to 8 different stories of how they had stayed planted and rooted in their lives! Thank you to everyone who encouraged us and spoke so well!



Sunday Morning Guest Speaker 2026

15th November

Ness Wilson – Open Heaven Church Loughborough / Pioneer Network Leader

Our NEXT Baptism Sunday: 11th October

If you've never been baptised, please speak to someone! We would love to talk to you about it!

Please contact your Small Group 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.



“Belonging to Ashwood” – Next Session

Sunday 20th Sept / 22nd Nov

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 Small Group 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





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:** 2nd Sept, 7th Oct (no TH in Aug)

“Prayer for the New Home for Ashwood”

See separate section, [page 6](#).

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

TRANSFORMED WORSHIP NIGHTS 2026 – 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 other dates for 2026! 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.

20th Sept / 22nd Nov



Prayer Season September 2026

Look out for information about our **PRAYER SEASON:**
7th – 27th September
(leaflet, emails, Facebook)



prayer local and global



As part of our Prayer Season we pray for our local church and community using the helpful resources in the Ashwood leaflet and daily emails. There's a wealth of resources available to help us pray with knowledge and understanding for our world.

Open Doors

Arise Africa:

Click on [this link](#) to visit their website and learn more about the difference we can make through our prayers and action.

We pray for Christian families in Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where many people have had to flee their homes following attacks by extremists. Churches and homes have been destroyed and millions live in IDP - camps [Internally Displaced People] having lost everything including close family members who were killed in the attacks. Open Doors provide Trauma Care programmes and help with essential provisions.

Sunday 1st November is [International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church](#). This link will tell you more.

LINKS.charity

Here's an edited excerpt from their latest newsletter. [Click on this link to read more:](#)

Hope Missions Ministries & Ashwood Church

At Links, we love connecting the Church around the world. One of our longest Church Connect partnerships is between Hope Missions Ministries (HMM) in Malawi and Ashwood Church in the UK.

In August, Annie and Francis Mkandawire, founders of HMM, visited the UK and were invited to share their amazing work and bring a message to Ashwood. Their visit was a great reminder of how this partnership continues to grow and strengthen both churches, growing as a family together.

The Church Connect has worked particularly well in the areas of education, business and faith leadership. HMM has now planted eight churches and is developing leaders to run them effectively through a training programme that Ashwood teams have contributed to over the years.

Ashwood is planning another team visit to Malawi to support HMM's new

vocational programme and continue leadership development. Annie shared honestly about the long-term impact of this partnership - how its consistency and encouragement have stood alongside the vision God has given them for Malawi. We were also privileged to receive a message of encouragement from Francis.

Hand Up Appeal: Building Sustainable Futures

At Links, we believe business can be a powerful force for good.

That's why we're launching the [Hand Up Appeal: Building Sustainable](#)

[Futures](#) - an appeal focused on helping people access the skills, resources and opportunities they need to build sustainable livelihoods and move beyond poverty.

We continue to pray for Sam Walker and the LINKS Africa Hub in Kenya, for their ongoing work and partnerships. We praise God for all that he has empowered them to be and do. Becoming planted, rooted and fruitful in every season.

Dave Redfern



Ashwood and Hope Missions Trip 2027



It was great to have Annie and Francis with us at Ashwood from Malawi in August. They shared the ongoing ministries

they are continuing to do with their communities and plant and disciple more church communities.

Our partnership with them through Links International continues to connect us through; prayer, resourcing and going, where we send teams to Malawi.

We have set another opportunity to support Hope Missions with training and projects with an Ashwood team around Easter 2027.

We always aim to serve the needs of Hope Mission. They have highlighted a few areas that would be good to input

into this time; which includes leadership empowerment, community healthcare and vocational training programmes, like tailoring and bricklaying.

If you are interested to know more about the trip and maybe support someone to go or be a team member talk to Janet Wright or Mandy Walker.

Links International will support organising our schedule, flights, transport and accommodation along with Hope Missions.

Key Information:

- **Dates:** *Easter 2027* (between 26th March and 10th April)
- **Duration:** *8-10 days*
- **Location:** *Lilongwe and Nkhotakota* (Lakeside community)
- **Volunteer total cost per member:** *£2,000-2,200*.
- **Confirm Place:** before the end December 2026 and pay for flight £1,000 before end of January 2027.

Sam Walker





Ashwood Small Groups (NEW NAME)



Ashwood Small Groups help us to:
 Grow Spiritually, (Personal Relationship with Jesus)
 Remain Planted, (in God's Church) Connect with People (Fellowship) and Become more like Jesus (Mature Followers)

They are also an important place of care and support in the church. Small Groups are a place where we can receive from other people, but importantly also a place where we can all be involved in giving. We love the analogy that the

Apostle Paul makes in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 – where he says the church is like a body. Lots of different parts, some seen and some unseen, but all important for the body to be healthy and also to grow.

In Ashwood we aim for our Small Groups to be: Welcoming, relational, Jesus centred and a place to grow!

If you'd like to find out more about joining one of our Small Groups come along to our next "Belonging to Ashwood" session or email us at admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk .



ASHWOOD SMALL GROUP RELAUNCH SEPTEMBER

After taking a LifeGroup Meeting pause – we have now relaunched meeting together in September!

We've changed the name from

LifeGroup to Ashwood Small Groups – and we're delighted to be meeting together again. We currently have 11 groups with over 160 people connected! We believe that Healthy things grow – so we're constantly reviewing and looking for when we need to plant / create a new small group.

On Sunday 26th July Matt spoke about the vision of our Small Groups. He talked about the picture in Acts Chapter 2 and that our vision for our small groups has many of the similar qualities!

They are places to Give and Receive, Share and Care and also Learn and Grow! Just like the early church. They sit right alongside our Sunday gatherings when we ALL come together for worship, prayer, teaching and "Fellowship"

ACTS CHAPTER 2

"They devoted themselves to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread, and to praising God, all the time, and all the believers were **together** and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to **anyone who had need**. Every day they **continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread **in their homes** and **ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people....."

Fellowship (From the Greek word *koinōnia*, signifies a deep spiritual partnership, shared participation, and communion with people.

believers were **together** and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to **anyone who had need**. Every day they **continued to meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread **in their homes** and **ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people....."

Giving and Receiving / Sharing and Caring / Learning and Growing

***Vision**



If you'd like to rewatch Matt's explanation go back to [27th July on YouTube](#) and watch again!

And if you'd like to be involved in a small group please contact admin@ashwoodchurch.or.uk

MEN'S MONTHLY MEAL

AT

SANDY'S BAR (STAGS)

ONE CALL STADIUM, QUARRY LANE,
MANSFIELD NG18 5DA



10th September



**SECOND
THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH**



7.00PM – 9.30PM



**NO BOOKING REQUIRED • ALL MEN WELCOME
JUST SHOW UP • BRING A FRIEND**





Ashwood Church Financial Giving

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

The easiest and most cost effective way to give to Ashwood Church is directly into the church bank account.

You can make a one off bank transfer or set up a regular standing order using our bank details:

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

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

Alternatively, you can:

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

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



Donate - via Stewardship page



Donate - NHFA



Donate - General Fund

	Total Giving	General Offerings	Development (NHFA) Fund*	Building Fund
July 2026	£16,978	£11,092	£5,041	£845
August 2026	£13,070	£10,832	£1,563	£675

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!

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.

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 **catering items, refreshments & treats** for our:
 - Sunday morning meetings
 - Christmas services
 - Volunteer Appreciation celebration
 - Mother's Day service
 - Easter services
 - Father's Day service

- Lifegroup lunches
- Baptism Sundays
- Summer BBQ

- Provide **catering** for our **worship team** at their annual team night and summer BBQ
- Purchase **equipment** for our Sunday services
- **Honour and thank our Guest Speakers** – including Joe Gisbey (September 2025 & July 2026), Jonas Eyles (October 2025), Sim Dendy (November 2025), Alex Stibbard (April 2026) and Paul Blundell (July 2026)
- Send cards to **thank our amazing Volunteers**
- Provide **baptism boxes** for those being baptised
- **Purchase banners and magnets** for our theme for the year
- 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 & volunteers
- Upgrade (where necessary) and maintain **equipment** (audio & 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!

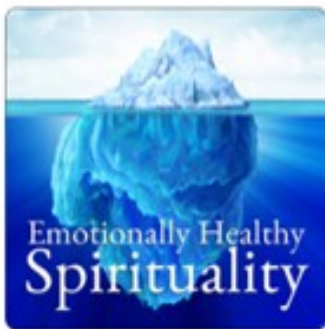
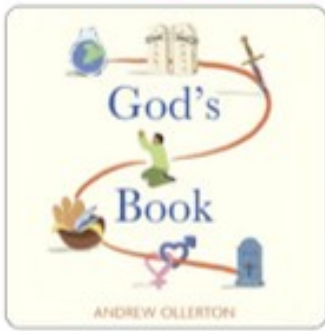
Thank you so much for the money you give which has enabled us to do this and much more!

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

Becky Holmes
Financial Administrator



Healthy Church Courses 2026



Feedback

- A great experience to know that God is our ultimate stronghold buster, that we can overcome all if we trust in him. James Crossland (Keys to health wholeness & Fruitfulness)
- Having been on the fast lane for too long, I'm now getting used to the idea of stopping and allowing God take control. I'm also now accountable to God and consciously spend time in his presence Daily. I feel more peace as a result and I'm happy with my progress. Paul Dureke (Emotionally Healthy Spirituality)
- Good to talk openly about the tricky subjects and hear Andrew's thinking on them. Good to look at the Bible in its cultural context and then apply

the principles today. Jo Castledine (God's Book)

- My experience was awesome; I really learnt a lot about myself and the ways to become more emotionally healthy and to truly put God at the centre of my life. Maisy Bell (Emotionally Healthy Spirituality)
- The seven topics covered in the God's Book course have equipped me with more information when having these challenging conversations with people who want answers. It's been a great help. Matt Tomlinson (God's Book)
- "It has enriched our marriage and rekindled the romance in our marriage." Christine & Dave Redfern (Marriage Course)
- "Good to do as I have retired and we are reassessing how we do marriage in this season." Simon & Janet Wright (Marriage Course)



Photo: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course (not all participants)



Fairtrade Fortnight

21st September – 4th October

Find out more about Fairtrade Fortnight

Fair to people. Fair on the planet. Fair pay.

Fairtrade Foundation



We celebrate the **Fairtrade and Justice movement** and all the good that has been, and continues to be, achieved through doing life **FAIR**.

Let's stop and think:

How can I do it FAIR?

By making changes to the things I buy...

By thinking ahead and planning how I can make this Christmas a **Fairtrade Christmas** – one that benefits the people, planet and pay of producers, as well as those who receive our gifts.

Fair & Ethical Shopping

True Origin Foods

A great range of fairly and ethically traded goods, focusing on direct relational trade.

We Are Fairtrade

Set up by a team from Traidcraft to continue their vision and mission.

A Prayer for Justice, Dignity and Care for Creation

In 2026, the Fairtrade Foundation continues to campaign for fairer incomes and wages, safer working conditions, and practical climate support for farmers and workers

globally.

Written by Revd Michael Harrison, Fairtrade Campaigner, and Eleanor Harrison OBE, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation, this prayer reflects on our shared responsibility to build a fairer world for people and planet.

A Prayer

Lord,

You have created a world for our use in which everyone is equal in your eyes. Help us to recognise the many ways in which we have forgotten or ignored your generosity to us and the equality which is part of your plan.

Help us to be courageous in building a more socially just world.

Lord,

You have created a world for our use in which the natural world is pivotal for our sustenance, shelter, wellbeing and joy. Help us to respect and care for the planet you have given us.

Help us to be courageous in taking accountability and making changes to our daily lives, work and play, so that future generations may enjoy it too.

Lord,

You have given us agency and power in this beautiful world you have created for our use. Help us to unlock and use this agency and power with thought and grace.

Help us to use our **voices, our purchases and our gifts** to enable fairer pay, safer working conditions and ensure we are fairer to the planet.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Dave Redfern



PASSION LED US HERE

community

Cafe22

I LOVE my team, I say it often to myself

and to the team. I've been pondering on what it is about the Cafe22 team that makes them so special. (I know that all Ashwood teams are special but I can't write about them).

I think it's because they are all so caring and want the best for our customers. This means that everyone feels welcome when they arrive. They receive high quality food, care and service. The team also look out for each other and make sure that we are all cared for too, modelling our ethos of prayer and care to all who are in the cafe.

There is always fun, laughter and great conversation. I know personally that even when I arrive feeling a bit off, by the end of the session I am always feeling much better, I hope that the customers and other staff feel the same way.

I am so grateful for each and every member of my team and for the way God is moving within Cafe 22, amongst the staff and also our customers. We regularly see the fruit of the Holy Spirit at work and growing.

I LOVE my team, and I LOVE Jesus and all He does every week

Christine Redfern



Cafe22 – My Thoughts

I help out at Cafe22 from time to time, which is held every Monday morning – apart from Bank Holidays.

Before Cafe22 opens, we share a time of prayer for those who are about to come through the door, that we can be Christ-like and a blessing to them in all we say and do.

I believe Cafe22 to be a great way of getting to know people, bringing a 'listening ear' and some joy into their lives.

At Cafe22, we meet people where they are and share God's love with them in a 'serving' capacity.

Also, I generally manage to cause a certain amount of chaos too – and, in a nice way, I do it quite well!!!

I am known for 'occasionally' speaking a bit too long with the customers, so much so that the kitchen staff have a 'hand bell' which they ring to alert me to the fact that I'm needed – much to the amusement of everyone else in the room.

I thank all the team who make Cafe22 enjoyable and possible.

Finally, it really warms my heart to see some of those I've come to know at Cafe22 regularly sharing in our Sunday worship and other activities.

I thank God that I am able to be a part of the Café 22 Team!

Anton Beighton



Eco Tips

Month: September

Big Impact: Eat less meat, and if you do eat meat, eat local.

Little Stuff: Ditch the plastic/single use wet wipes!

Easy: Turn it off - Save energy and money

Month: October

Big Impact: Switch to LED light bulbs.

Little Stuff: Buy or sell unwanted

clothes to save them going to landfill and save yourself some money. Go to Vinted.

Easy: Make sure your boiler is serviced, turn the thermostat down 1 degree to save energy and money. Make sure your radiators are bled and balanced, talk to your plumber or someone you know who is handy.

Jono Wright





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: 7th October , 4th November. Details see page 15
- **Small Groups** meet fortnightly, details see pages 18,19
- **Ashwood Youth** meets on Fridays 25th September, 9th and 23rd October, 13th and 27th November, details on page 13
- **Prayer Opportunities** see pages 6 ,15, 16, 17
- **New Home for Ashwood Prayer** dates: page 6
- **Belonging to Ashwood Meetings** see page 14
- **Transformed Worship Nights**, dates and details see page 15

Ashwood in the Community

- **Ashwood Men:** Weekly Breakfast on Thursdays 9.30 am and monthly meal out at the Stags (page 19)
- **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

For Your Diaries:

21st Sept - 4th Oct	Fairtrade Forthight	pg 23
2nd-4th October	NHFA Big Give Weekend	pg 4+7
11th October	Baptism Sunday	pg 16
15th November	Guest Speaker Ness Wilson	pg 14
27th November	Kirkby Christmas Lights switch on	pg 25
Easter 2027	Ashwood - Hope Mission trip Malawi	pg 17





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 19th July	<u>Rooted - Part 10 - The Prattice of Presence</u> Paul Blundell
Sunday 26th July	<u>Summer Sundays - Week 1</u> Debby Oladimeji and Anthony James
Sunday 2nd August	<u>Summer Sundays - Week 2</u> Christine Redfern and Emmeline Bingham
Sunday 9th August	<u>Summer Sundays - Week 3</u> Matt Sutherland and Denny Brown
Sunday 16th August	<u>Summer Sundays - Week 4</u> Francis from Malawi
Sunday 23rd August	<u>Summer Sundays - Week 5</u> Kimberly Okojie and David Castledine
Sunday 30th August	Awaken Lincoln Showground
Sunday 6th September	<u>Rooted - Part 11 - Summary</u> Matt Bell
Sunday 13th September	<u>Healthy Church</u> Stuart Bell



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 come along to our next "Belonging to Ashwood" Session (pg 17) or for more information, email admin@ashwoodchurch.org.uk.

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