

Welcome – Bienvenue - Croeso - Witajcie -

hardwick evangelical church

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December 2018

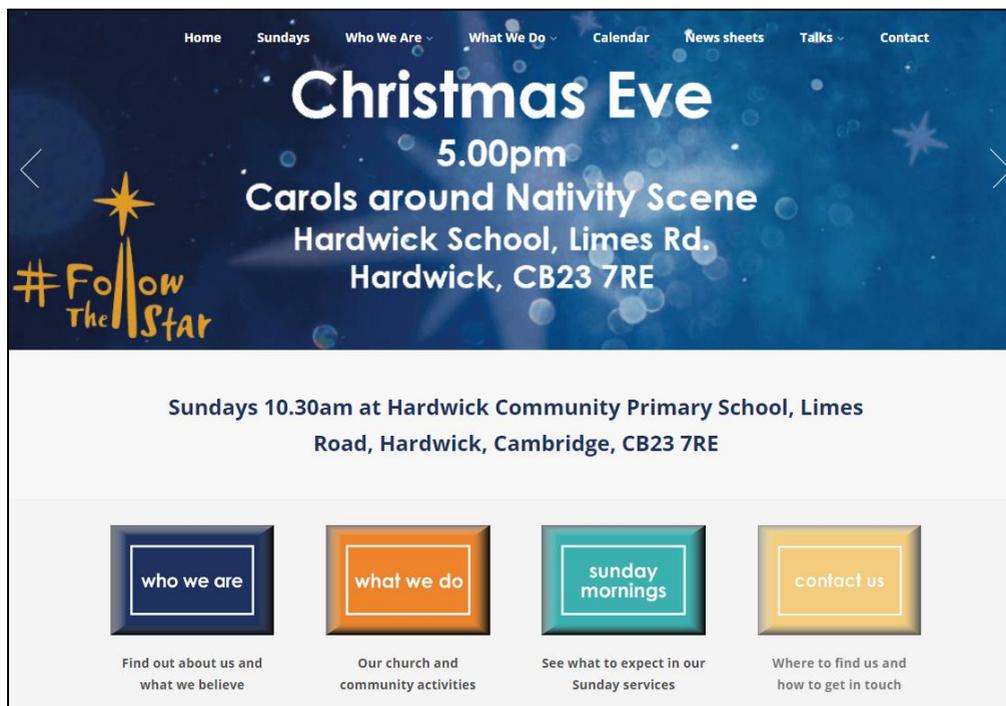
Whatever your background or faith, you're very welcome to come to any of the events listed in this news-sheet, whether on Sunday mornings or other occasions during the week. If you're new to this church, please take a welcome pack that contains more information about us.

On **Sunday mornings**, the church service starts with everyone together in the main school hall, with songs, prayers and some form of Bible reading or story. The first part of the service is pretty informal - it's difficult not to be when there are young children involved, and we welcome them. Most Sundays, the children then leave for Young Church which continues in the Community Room, while the rest of the congregation stay in the main school hall. This enables us to explore a similar theme but in more age-appropriate ways. Over Christmas we will have some services where we stay as all-ages throughout the morning service to worship, pray and learn together. Please see the calendar inside for what's happening on specific Sundays.



Drinks and biscuits are served after the service, so there is plenty of time to meet and chat with people, or to ask for prayer.

We have a new website!



Before Clare Cronin left us for her new job with St Andrew's Church, Histon, she spent some time working on the setting up and design of a new website for our church. We're in an age where people are as likely to view websites on a smart phone as on a computer, and the new design reflects this and has to satisfy two very different ways of moving around. Enid and Susie have picked up with this work and we are very pleased that the new website has now gone "live" at:

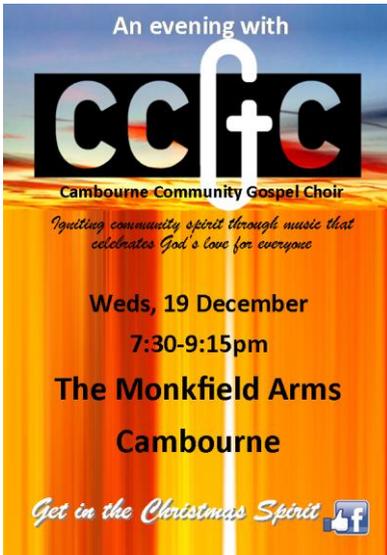
<http://hardwickevangicalchurch.co.uk/>

Please have a poke around and try to break it! If things don't work, look wrong or if there is incorrect information (or typos) please let Enid know.

At the moment the old website is still available but there is a redirection notice on the home page directing visitors to the new website.

There is still work to do in adding photos to the site, this can be done over time. There may also be things on the old site that you remember that should be added to the new site. Please let Enid know, kindly!

Cambourne Community Gospel Choir at Christmas



The Gospel Choir will be singing in the Monkfield Arms, Cambourne, on the evening of Wednesday, 19 December. The evening will be a mixture of performance and community carol sing along, with time for a drink and conversation. Why not invite a friend to join you at the pub that evening? You can always sit down the far end of the pub if you would rather talk with your mate than listen to the choir.

Please do pray for the choir at as they take on events like this, and explore other opportunities that arise. For example, they've been invited to sing at The Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, in the lead up to Christmas.

Mission link

As a church, we give some of the money we receive to other charities in the UK and overseas. One charity that we have had personal links with since very near the beginning of this church is Christians in Sport. Graham Daniels, who is now the Director of Christians in Sport was, for many years, on the leadership here at Hardwick Evangelical Church. Over the years we have had various members of the congregation who have been, and some still are (eg Liz Pamplin), actively engaged in sport and have very much appreciated the ministry of Christians in Sport.



Christians in Sport are there to support Christians involved in the world of sport and to give sportspeople the opportunity to explore the Christian faith for themselves. They work with young people, students, and adults, at all levels from casual participation through to elite professional athletes. You can find out more about them at their website: christiansinsport.org.uk from where there are links to all sorts of resources – or chat with Liz Pamplin.

Church finances and giving

It costs money to pay people, rent meeting and office space, buy insurance, equipment and resources, and give practical, emotional and spiritual support to those in need. Nearly all our income is through the giving of people in the church. Thank you very much to everyone who gives. We don't publicise what people give as individuals. In fact the only person who might know what people give is our treasurer, Dave Sage. We do this on purpose so as to avoid the possibility of treating people differently based on how much they give, or don't give.

If you don't yet give, please consider giving a regular proportion of your income to the church. A common target for people in churches is to give 10% of their income,

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sometimes called a "tithe".

If you're a tax payer that money can attract Gift Aid.

Through *Easy Fundraising* it is also possible to give as you shop online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Hardwick Evangelical Church. There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!



1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hardwickevangelicalchurch/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever! The donation is typically 0.5-3% of your spend.

You might also like to consider leaving some money to the church in a legacy. A legacy made some years ago has helped us considerably over the past few years.

Please pray about what you could give, and talk to Dave Sage (our treasurer) for more information. We would like to continue to be a generous church with our money, as well as our time.

Some of the Christmas events in Hardwick

Thanks very much to everyone who has helped distribute the Christmas leaflet that summarises most of the Christmas events in Hardwick that are initiated by ourselves at St Mary's Church. There are plenty of these still available if you want to take some, find out about the events and invite people. Please do pray for these events; invite people to them; and get involved yourself – as appropriate. Events that we are particularly involved in include:

Sat, 15 Dec - Build the Life Size Nativity Scene outside the Primary School. (See Wil, Robbie or Enid for more info).

Weds, 19 Dec - Christmas Assembly in the Primary School. Steve Gaze and Liz Wadsworth, together with Alison Myers from St Mary's, will be leading this assembly which will also include songs Steve and Liz have been teaching in singing assemblies this half-term.

Sun, 23 Dec – All Age Carol Service as our Sunday morning service in the school.

Mon, 24 Dec – Carol Singing at the Nativity Scene. This is probably the best attended event in the year that we organise, and has become something of a fixture in the village calendar. Please do join us, bring family and friends, and see Enid if you would like to help. This is a great opportunity to share something of the Christmas story with our village community, family and friends.

Tues, 25 Dec – All Age Christmas Morning service in the school.

Fri, 28 Dec – Help dismantle the Nativity Scene. The hardest part of organising an event is clearing up at the end. Please do book in to help if you're around, if only it's your moral support being there and encouraging those who have worked so hard.



