

Welcome – Bienvenue - Croeso - Witajcie -

hardwick evangelical church

Bemvindo - Karibu - Willkommen - Bienvenidos

January 2019

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. About once a month 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.

Thanks!

Huge thank yous to everyone who helped with the Christmas celebrations within the church congregation and wider community.



The re-worked outdoor nativity received many favourable comments. More than 150 people gathered to sing carols on Christmas Eve, and throughout the 2 weeks the scene was up people would stop by themselves, or with their children, to look and talk about the story of the birth of Jesus. Fewer people will have seen the

view from behind the stable, shown in in this photo with the full moon rising shortly after most people had left on Christmas Eve. The shadows of the silhouette characters are projected onto the stable hession “roof”.

An indoor nativity scene was built in the school hall as part of our carol service, and we were able to leave it up for the week over Christmas. Again, thank you to everyone involved in planning and delivering this service – helping us from all ages and backgrounds re-tell the story of the birth of Jesus, Saviour, Imm-anu-el (with us, God), Christ.



Steve Gaze and Liz Wadsworth, together with Rev Alison Myers, also led a Christmas assembly at Hardwick Primary School on the last day of term. And Hardwick Pre-School came with their children to install baby Jesus (complete in his pre-school jumper) in the outdoor nativity scene, and retell the Christmas story together.

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 personal

links with as a church is Tyndale House, Cambridge. Tyndale House is a dynamic academic hub that specialises in the languages, history and cultural context of the Bible, and David Instone-Brewer is one of their Senior Research Fellows.

Tyndale House brings together outstanding Christian researchers from around the world with the aim of developing Bible literacy in the Church and beyond. We want to enable all those who read the Bible to understand and appreciate it more.

They also present and publish material to help people engage with the Bible. Two particular resources that may be of interest are:

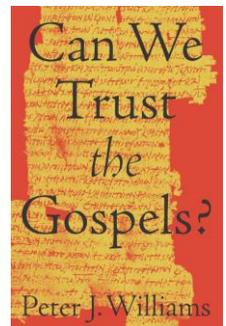
Thurs, 17 Jan, 1:30-2:30pm at Tyndale House, Cambridge

Responding to Bible Scepticism. As Christians, we place an extremely high value on Scripture, but how much do we understand about who wrote it, where it came from and how it made the journey from the ancient world to present day? At this event, Tyndale House Principal, Dr Peter J Williams will explain how a solid grasp of these issues can help us to engage better with those who question the reliability of the Bible. The event is free but you need register in advance (see Steve Gaze for more info).

Can We Trust the Gospels? is an accessible introduction to the historical and theological reliability of the four Gospels, by Tyndale House scholar Peter J Williams.

Written for the sceptic, the scholar, and everyone in between, *Can We Trust the Gospels?* is for anyone interested in the historicity of the Gospel accounts, regardless of prior knowledge or experience of reading the Gospels.

Peter J Williams presents evidence from a variety of non-Christian sources, assessing how accurately the four accounts reflect the cultural context of their time and comparing the different accounts of crucial events to uncover how these texts were handed down throughout the centuries.



Everyone has questions...



Alpha is a 10 week course based around eating together, chatting together and discussing the big questions of life together.

The next Alpha course in Hardwick will start on 24th April, and will run on Wednesday evenings at a house in Hardwick. For more information visit our website at hardwickevangelicalchurch.co.uk or email hardwickalpha@gmail.com

Exploring is good.

We're built for it.

Explore more about life, faith
and meaning with Alpha

New building developments

Whether we like it or not, there are likely to be 1000s of houses built within a few miles of Hardwick in the next 10-20 years, with about 3000 planned for Bourn Airfield. There are also nearly 300 houses to be built across 2 development sites in Hardwick, with construction having already started behind Grace Crescent. What, if anything, might God be asking us to do as local churches to give the people who move into these developments the opportunity to know the love of God as revealed in Jesus? Steve and Kate will be meeting with other local Baptist ministers on 11 Jan to start praying and discussing this question together. We're also in conversation with the Anglicans about they are planning.

Please do pray for these developments and all involved in planning and delivering them. It is a great challenge and opportunity.

WCCYM (West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries)

WCCYM is a partnership of local churches and individual Christians working together to support youth work in villages west of Cambridge. Hardwick Evangelical Church has actively supported WCCYM since it was started in 1992. Some of things coming up with WCCYM this term include:



Thirst is WCCYM's monthly youth service held at Comberton Baptist Church on the second Sunday of the month – an opportunity to meet together, have a meal, worship, hear someone share about something from the Bible or an aspect of faith (this could be a young person or adult sharing), and have time to pray. The purpose is to encourage you in your faith. All are welcome. We meet at 6pm for the meal, and finish by 8.30pm.



This year's WCCYM Weekend will be from Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March at Burwell House and is for young people of secondary school and sixth form age (schools years 7-13). The weekend is packed with lots of activities such as talks and discussions, team-building games, wide games, sports, crafts, with plenty of time to relax and hang out with friends. For booking forms or more information please speak to Susie or Steve.



WCCYM youthworkers are regularly in the local secondary schools and Comberton Sixth Form, helping provide pastoral support to students as well as hosting Christian Union groups at lunchtime, and taking the occasional assembly or PSHE lesson.

For a fuller overview of WCCYM's work please take a copy of their recent annual report from the information table, or visit their website: www.wccym.co.uk

Prayer Diary

