

Welcome – Bienvenue - Croeso - Witajcie -

hardwick evangelical church

Bemvindo - Karibu - Willkommen - Bienvenidos

March 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 who God is in more age-appropriate ways. Sometimes 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.

House groups

It is often helpful to meet up with fellow Christians during the week to encourage each other in the Christian faith and support each other practically as well as spiritually. We currently have groups set up to help facilitate that. There is an open invitation to attend any of these groups. If you want more information, please ask. The groups meet most weeks during term-times and we try and put the dates on the monthly calendar in this newsheet, but it is probably always best to check before going in case we've made a mistake.

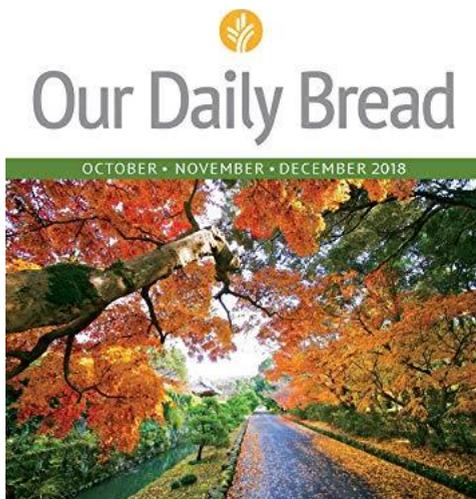
Monday evenings, a group meets at Pauline's home in Toft, 7.30pm for fellowship with an 8pm start for the study etc. To find out more please see Pauline or call her on 01223 262525.

Wednesday mornings, a group meets at David & Julie Gaze's house in Hardwick from about 10:15am-12:15, for people who are around in the daytime.

Thursday evenings, a group meets at the Thomson's house in Hardwick, from about 8pm. Ask Robbie or Susie if you want more information.

Our Daily Bread

Those who appreciate the structure of daily Bible reading notes may be interested to see that **Our Daily Bread** is available in a number of other formats beside the familiar quarterly booklets. Go online to **odb.org** to see how to get your reading notes delivered by email or mobile app, and check out the range of other resources.



Alpha in Hardwick – starting April

What is the Alpha Course?

It's a 10-week introduction to the Christian faith and what it may mean for you and your life. An Alpha Course involves three key elements – food, video teaching and chat. We gather for something to eat – sometimes it's a meal or dessert or snacks, we then watch the 20-30-minute video explaining the topic for that week and then we chat about it. And you talk as much or as little as you want. It's entirely up to you...

So, is it just for Christians then?

No, definitely not. The Alpha Course is for anyone who has questions around faith, big problem issues like "is there more to life than this?" or anyone who just wants to find out more about what it means to be a Christian. The video sessions try and deal with a number of tricky issues like asking how prayer works, what does the Bible mean, and do we believe everything in there?

I know nothing about prayer, the Bible or anything like that....

That is totally fine! There are no silly questions with Alpha. Any question is a good question and if we think we have something worth saying we'll say it, but we'll also say if we don't know the answer. (You see, everyone deep down still has questions!)

What if I turn up and don't like it?

If you come along and think that it isn't for you – that's fine. With Alpha there is no awkward follow up, no chasing texts or asking how you found it. If it's not right for you, then it's not right for you.

When and where is it?

The next 10-week Alpha course starts in Hardwick on Wednesday 24th April at 22 Laxton Avenue (Robbie's house). We'll aim to start at 7:30pm and will always finish by 9:30pm.

**Everyone has
questions...**



How much does it cost?

Nothing! One of the key principles of Alpha is that all of it is entirely free.

How do I sign up?

If you think you'd like to give it a go either email hardwickalpha@gmail.com to sign up or text or call me (Robbie) on 07796768573 and I'd happily give you some more info.

Finally, why should I come to Alpha?

It's always good to ask questions if we've got them. Alpha is a place to ask those questions and find out more about what you believe and what that belief may mean for your life...

...I also make nice coffee, have comfy sofas and have a good variety of biscuits!

Try Alpha – special introductory sessions

Sometimes it's helpful to try something before you commit. So we'll be holding 2 special "try alpha" sessions which will both cover the first alpha session. Please take the opportunity to invite a friend, neighbour or colleague to one or both of the following:



Weds evening, 24 April – Try Alpha at Thomson's house, 22 Laxton Ave, Hardwick. Starting 7:30pm finish by 9:30pm. For catering purposes it would be helpful to let Robbie or Susie know if you or a friend plans to go.



Sunday morning, 26 April – Try Alpha at our Café Church at Hardwick Primary School, Limes Rd, Hardwick. Starting 10:30am finish by midday. Breakfast, pastries, hot drinks, Alpha Session 1, in main school hall, with special Young Church session for in the Community Room.

Hardwick Community Centre Working Group

There's a meeting on Tuesday 19 March at the school between 5.00 and 7.30pm to show and discuss plans for the proposed new facilities at the Pavilion next to the recreation ground in the centre of the estate. Anyone with an interest in the village is welcome to attend.

WCCYM Weekend



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

Summer Holiday Club at Comberton Baptist Church

Comberton Baptist Church run a very popular and successful Holiday Club each summer which reaches primary school age children from many local villages including Hardwick. Many of these children have no regular contact with any church. Would you be interested in helping out this year? CBC are looking for volunteers to work with primary aged children from 9.30am-1pm (the children arrive for 10am and leave at 12.30pm) from Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August. If you would like more information or would be willing to volunteer please get in touch with Keith (keith@c-b-c.org.uk) as soon as possible please. Thank you.

