

Welcome – Bienvenue - Croeso - Witajcie -

# hardwick evangelical church

Bemvindo - Karibu - Willkommen - Bienvenidos

## May 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.

## Easter Jigsaw & Easter Café &

Decorate an Egg  
COMPETITION

Thank you very much to everyone who helped in different ways to plan, prepare and deliver the various aspects of the Easter Jigsaw Hunt, Decorated Egg Competition, and Easter Cafe.



At least 80 people, probably a few more, came to the cafe on Easter Sunday, with many of them staying for most of the hour. There were a dozen or so families who aren't part of our regular congregation, some came as 3 generations. It was great to see people from the congregation welcoming and engaging in conversation with people as they arrived, at tables, etc. We had people who had been to special events like this previously, and others who had never been before. There were everyday conversations as well as conversations about faith and invitations to "Try Alpha". Some people took the opportunity to tie a ribbon to the cross as symbol of their prayer; others, I suspect, tied a ribbon as decoration. In addition all the children, as they left, were offered a goodie bag that contained a booklet with stories of Jesus, the leaflet with information about our regular church activities and Alpha, and other special goodies. Many people also took the booklet "The Miracle of Easter", that contained the picture used in this year's jigsaw.

## Alpha – continues on Wednesday evenings

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?

The format is similar to that followed at the “Try Alpha” Sunday morning on 28 April, with food and chat, followed by video and further discussion.

The evenings will be held at the Thomsons’ house, 22 Laxton Ave, Hardwick, 7:30 - 9:30pm. For catering purposes it would be helpful to let Robbie or Susie Thomson know if you or a friend plans to go.

## Sabbatical leave for Kate & Steve

Many organisations, including churches, have provision for employees to take a “sabbatical”. The idea comes from the Biblical principle of having a day of rest (Sabbath) each week, and a year of rest every seven years. How this was worked out for the Jews (in the Bible) was a source of much debate. And today there are many variations of sabbatical leave, if indeed it exists at all.

Hardwick Evangelical Church have kindly agreed (at the Church Business Meeting on 12 March) that Kate and Steve could have 3 months sabbatical leave from June to August this year. During that time, Kate and Steve will not be carrying out their regular church responsibilities, and some of the time will be spent on annual leave. Kate will use some of the time to complete a study module towards accreditation as a Baptist Minister, and also to write up some theological research. Steve is looking at linking up with a prison chaplaincy, and finding out more about initiatives among churches to reach new housing developments.

We’re starting the process of ensuring there is relevant cover in place while Kate and Steve are on sabbatical. Please chat with one of the leadership team if you have questions or suggestions.

Everyone has questions...

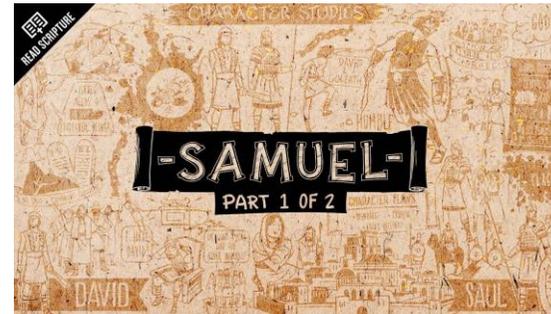


## Gracefield

Gracefield Nursing & Residential Home accommodates about 20 residents, and specialises in caring for elderly people with dementia, mental disability or learning difficulties. A small team from congregation, co-ordinated by Dave Sage, together with one or two people from St Mary’s church, lead a short service once a month at the home for any resident, carer, or visitor who wishes to participate. The service is usually on the first Sunday afternoon of each month, at 3pm. Communion is also offered to those who want to take it. If you would like to join the team, or find out about how you could support this work, please speak with Dave or Steve.



## New preaching series



In May, we’ll start a new preaching series with the adults on Sunday mornings. We’ll be working through the stories told in the 1<sup>st</sup> book of Samuel in the Old Testament (Bible). This book covers the birth and life of the Jewish prophet, Samuel, and the transition to Israel being ruled by a

king, first Saul and then David. It includes the story of God calling Samuel in the night, the famous story of David and Goliath as well as some lesser known stories. But all these stories tell us about God calling people, anointing them for particular roles and also their response to that calling (positive and negative) and the ongoing way that relationship plays out.

We can learn so much of value in our own lives and our relationship with God through these old stories. As Paul wrote to the early Christians “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” [2 Timothy 3:16-17] Please do take the opportunity to read the relevant chapters during the week before the Sunday morning sermons (see the rota on the calendar in this newsheet). It will help us all learn and engage better.

## Gospel Choir gig



On

Weds, 3 April, the Cambourne Community Gospel Choir performed for the first time in the Hardwick Sports and Social Club. It was a great evening as once again the choir brought their energy and infectious enthusiasm to an audience who don't normally listen to gospel music. The choir have been invited to return on a Sunday afternoon in July when the club will be much busier. They also have an invitation to perform at a new festival in Cambourne in July. So it's looking like it could be a busy summer term, though the choir need to check their diaries before committing to these and other invitations.

If you, or someone you know, likes the idea of singing with the choir, why not give it a go? There are no auditions, just turn up to a rehearsal and try it out. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:15pm at the Old Blue School, Cambourne. Suggested donation £1 per person towards costs.

## Pippin's Café

This community café is organised facilitated by Hardwick Community Association, St Mary's Church and Hardwick Evangelical Church working together for Hardwick. The next one will be on Saturday, 4 May.

You can **PEDAL FROM PIPPINS** on a cycle ride, leaving at 10:30am from Pippins Café. For more info speak to Charlie Bays.



### Open:

1st Saturday of the month  
10 am - 12 noon

### Venue:

The Community Room  
Hardwick Community Primary School

### Pippin's

where people gather with friends, or make new friends;  
where children and elderly are welcome;  
where there is no urgency or rush;  
where people matter more than time or money.

*Good tea, coffee and cold drinks,  
a range of homemade cakes, and friendly company.*

More info: Anne Jones [jiffandanne23@gmail.com](mailto:jiffandanne23@gmail.com) 01954 211417

## Prayer Diary

Please pick up a copy of **Hardwick and Caldecote Prayer Works**, our prayer diary for local people, events and streets that is valid from January - April. As far as possible, we try to prayer for the same streets that St Mary's Church are praying for, so we can join together in this way.

## Useful Contacts

<b>Co-Ministers</b> Steve and Kate Gaze	01954 211900 / 212556	minister.hechurch@gmail.com
<b>Leadership Team:</b> Steve Gaze and Kate Gaze Pauline Blower, Robbie Thomson		hc-leadersteam@googlegroups.com
<b>Trustees</b> Steve Gaze, Dave Sage (Treasurer), Liz Pamplin (Secretary), Susie Thomson, Enid Instone-Brewer		hc-officers@googlegroups.com
<b>Secretary</b> Liz Pamplin	01954 211725	hardwickevangelical@gmail.com
<b>Children and Families Worker</b> Liz Wadsworth	07814 883724	children.hechurch@gmail.com
<b>Pastoral Support Contact</b> Pauline Blower	01223 262525	pastoral.hechurch@gmail.com

## Giving

There is a box for donations at the back of the hall if you would like to give towards the work of the church. Alternatively, you can give by direct bank transfer:  
Account Name – Hardwick Christian Fellowship; Bank – CAF Bank Ltd;  
Sort Code – 40 52 40; Account Number – 00013764.

If you would like to find out about regular giving to the church, and the option of Gift Aid, please talk to our treasurer Dave Sage.

*If you have items for the Newssheet please email [hardwickevangelical@gmail.com](mailto:hardwickevangelical@gmail.com) by Wednesday morning before the last Sunday of the month and put 'Newssheet' in the subject line.*

[www.hardwickchurch.co.uk](http://www.hardwickchurch.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/HardwickEvangelicalChurch](https://www.facebook.com/HardwickEvangelicalChurch)