

*Welcome – Bienvenue - Croeso - Witajcie -*

# hardwick evangelical church

*Bemvindo - Karibu - Willkommen - Bienvenidos*

## June 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.

## 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 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 linking up with a prison chaplaincy, and plans to find out more about initiatives among churches to reach new housing developments and effective ways of working together across churches.

If you see Kate or Steve around, please don't ignore them. They lived in Hardwick, and were part of this congregation, before becoming the co-Ministers. They are part of the local community and Joe will still be at school through June and most of July. The sabbatical simply offers them an opportunity to take a break from their regular church responsibilities. They are still part of the church family and the local community.

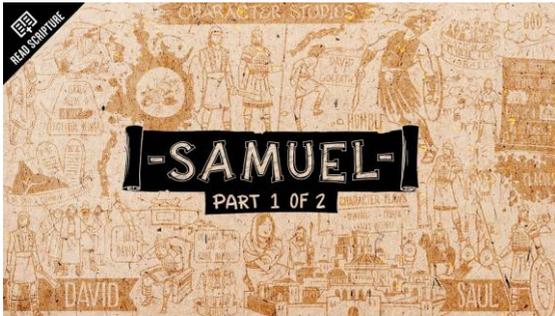
Arrangements are in place to cover Kate and Steve's regular responsibilities. Pauline and Robbie will continue to meet regularly as a (smaller) leadership team, but will sometimes be joined by the Trustees, Mike Elcome (a retired Baptist Minister), Liz Wadsworth (our Children and Families Worker, who will be Line Managed by Rach Huisman in Kate's absence). We have a varied line-up of preachers scheduled for Sunday mornings with visiting preachers and people from within the congregation. Enid Instone-Brewer is volunteering some regular admin time, on top of the Trustee duties, and is co-ordinating with the various preachers as part of this. Enid also has a more detailed list of who is responsible for what should anybody need to know.

## 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 our 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.



## Preaching series



From May - September, the Sunday morning preaching series is 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.

## Selah – monthly sessions of movement and meditation

These monthly sessions have been designed to offer an alternative way into Christian Spirituality, they are for those who wouldn't dream of setting foot in a traditional church as well as for those who just want something a bit different. The sessions combine a series of gentle flowing postures with Christian inspired meditation. They are run by Sally, a registered exercise professional and the wife of David Newton (vicar of St Mary's, Comberton).

Suitable for teenagers upwards:

wear comfy clothing, bring a 'pilates' type mat if you have one, otherwise you can borrow one there. Or you can take part sitting on a chair. Why not try one, or more, of the sessions which start at 9am at Comberton Village Hall, on the following Saturdays: 29th June, 31st August, 5th Oct, 2nd Nov.



## WCCYM Punting & BBQ

Each year WCCYM take a group of young people (from Year 6 through to 6<sup>th</sup> form) punting along the River Cam. It's a highlight of the WCCYM calendar!

The next punting trip takes place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Meet for punting at 5.30pm followed by BBQ and games at Newnham Park until 8.30pm. Flyers and booking forms are available on the information desk along with other information about WCCYM activities and events for young people.



## 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?

Everyone has questions...



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 are 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.

## Supporting parents of children with additional needs

Being a parent has its challenges as well as joys. And if a child has additional needs that comes with a range of additional challenges and joys for the parents. Sometimes it’s good to meet up and chat with



**Hardwick Daytime Get-Together for parents of children with additional needs**  
Drop in for a cup of tea, meet with other parents and have a chat. Children can also come and play!

Next gathering:  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 1:30 – 3pm**

For more details, please contact Liz on 07814883724 or [children.hechurch@gmail.com](mailto:children.hechurch@gmail.com)  
Looking forward to seeing you soon!

people who have some understanding of what you’re going through because they are experiencing, or have experienced, similar situations. There are many practical resources and help to be shared as well as the emotional relief of meeting someone else who understands.

We’re trialling monthly daytime, and monthly evening, get togethers open to any from Hardwick and surrounding villages, to come to share their experiences and encourage, help and support each other. See Liz Wadsworth or Helen Mendis for more info.

