

Welcome – Bienvenue - Croeso - Witajcie -

hardwick evangelical church

Bemvindo - Karibu - Willkommen - Bienvenidos

December 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 and young people 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.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas is coming! And it offers a variety of opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus' birth in the community.

The **nativity scene** has become an important part of Christmas in Hardwick for many. We'll be building it once again this year, and Hardwick Pre-School will



kindly make baby Jesus and come and install him in the crib before the end of their term.

The **Christmas Eve** carols at 5pm were attended by about 150 people last year, and serving refreshments outside proved popular

This year we will also be handing out "goodie bags" with

information about the church and an invitation to "Try Church" in January. If you can help with this or with marshalling to keep people off the road please look for the sign-up sheet on Sundays. Please continue to pray for good conversations at this event.

The **Gracefield** team will take a Christmas service in the care home on 15 Dec.

Steve Gaze and Alison Myers (Vicar at St Mary's Church, Hardwick) will be taking a **Christmas Assembly** in Hardwick Primary School on Wed. 18 Dec. Steve is also taking fortnightly singing assemblies this half-term, teaching Christmas carols and generally having fun making music together.

We will have our **Carol Service on Sunday 22 December** in our usual 10.30am service and our **Christmas Day Celebration** at 10.30am, both in the school hall.

On 22 December please bring any donations for that day's refreshments AND for Christmas Eve – on the latter we found it helpful to serve Christmas biscuits rather than mince pies, as these are easier to eat while standing up outside.

For more information about Christmas events in Hardwick please see the separate Christmas card from the churches that will be available in December.

Kate is now an Accredited Baptist Minister



As many of you know, for the past year Kate Gaze (one of our co-Ministers) has been pursuing accreditation as a Baptist Minister with the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). At the end of November she attended a 3-day Residential Selection Conference run by BUGB where, along with other candidates, she was assessed on her “calling and suitability for Baptist Ministry” by a team of experienced selectors. We are

delighted to announce that the selectors have recommended that Kate be accepted onto the BUGB register of accredited ministers.

After the New Year we shall organise an Ordination Service where representatives from BUGB (including Graeme Ross, our Regional Minister for the Eastern Baptist Association) will come to ordain Kate as an accredited Baptist Minister. And it is an opportunity for us as a church family to celebrate along with Kate and other friends, family and colleagues.

As a newly accredited Minister (NAM), Kate will have a mandatory programme of further study, mentoring and evaluation before being affirmed as a fully accredited Minister. Details of the content and duration of the NAM period for Kate are yet to be confirmed.

WCCYM Christmas Party, 8 December

Starting at 6pm (8:30pm finish) for anyone of secondary school and sixth form age, there is free entry to this event which includes food and optional craft activities. It will be held at Comberton Baptist Church (CB23 7DY). Celebrate Christmas with friends! For more info pick up a flyer or ask Susie Thomson.

www.wccym.org |  /wccym |  @wccym



Prepare for the General Election – St Mary’s Hardwick open for Prayer and Reflection on Wednesday 11 December

Whatever our personal political convictions, which are becoming harder than ever to work out in the current climate, there has not been a time in recent years when the country has been in more need of prayer. With this in mind we have liaised with our friends in St Mary’s Church Hardwick and it will be open for prayer and reflection from 9.00am when Morning Prayers will be said, then will remain open until around 4.30pm and again between 7.00 and 9.00pm. Several prayer stations will be set up to help us focus our prayers. If you can, do make use of this opportunity to join with others to pray.

January - Try Church

After the Christmas season, when “Christ” is on everyone’s lips, we hope and pray that at least some people will have tasted and seen something good about Jesus and would like to find out more. So, we will be inviting people to “Try Church” in January.

Our church services will run more or less as usual with sung worship, prayers, children’s and youth groups and sermon for adults, followed by refreshments. The sermon series will consider different aspects of who Jesus is and what it means to be a Christian.

Maybe Sunday mornings don’t work for some. How about inviting them to a small group or to Presence on Sunday evening, 19 Jan? We want people to taste and see that coming to church can be a positive experience - and if they come back in February it’s not vastly different. Let’s work together to make this so, and if we need to change to do so, in order that people might meet with Jesus for themselves.

~~Try the gym~~
Try a new hobby ✓
~~Try couch to 5k~~
Try healthy eating ✓
Try Church?

Whether it's for the first time or the first time in years, why not try church this January?

Find out more at
www.hardwickevangeliachurch.co.uk

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WCCYM (West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries)



WCCYM was started in 1992 to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ with young people in villages west of Cambridge. Right from the start WCCYM youth workers have worked closely with Comberton Village College, and subsequently Cambourne Village College and Comberton Sixth Form, as

well as local village churches and communities. It is, essentially, churches working together for young people, and has been an important reason why relationships between churches in our local villages is as strong as it is. Leaders from different churches are on the WCCYM Exec. and meeting together to oversee, plan and pray for this youth work has helped strengthen relationships, trust and respect and do much more than we could have ever done by ourselves.

In November, a team of youth workers and volunteers from this area attended the National Youth Ministry Weekend in Birmingham. Susie Thomson (WCCYM Team Leader) and Jonathan Buwert (Youth Worker with Cambourne Church and Romsey Mill) led a seminar to which about 100 people came to learn more about the advantages of rural youth work from a WCCYM perspective. Youth workers from various parts of the UK are keen to find out more about what WCCYM are doing and what could be learned for other rural ministries. Please pray for our youth workers and young people in their day to day lives, as well as wisdom and finance in how to follow up various opportunities that are opening up.



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 October to January. As far as possible, we try to pray for the same streets that St Mary's Church are praying for, so we can join together in this way.

Useful Contacts

Co-Ministers Steve and Kate Gaze 01954 211900/212556	minister.hechurch@gmail.com
Leadership Team: Steve Gaze and Kate Gaze Pauline Blower, Robbie Thomson	hc-leadersteam@googlegroups.com
Trustees Steve Gaze, Dave Sage (Treasurer), Enid Instone-Brewer, Susie Thomson	hc-trustees@googlegroups.com (N.B. The "hc-officers" address is closed)
Secretary Enid Instone-Brewer 01954 210009	hardwickevangelical@gmail.com
Pastoral Support Contact 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 by Wednesday morning before the last Sunday of the month and put 'Newssheet' in the subject line.

www.hardwickchurch.co.uk
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