



highworth community church | october 2019

# CONTACT

registered charity no. 1080002

## WELCOME

God is good, and we have lots to celebrate. If this is your first time here at Highworth Community Church, then you're especially welcome. We hope that you enjoy your time with us.

We start together with a time of worship, which is very relaxed and open for all to participate in. After the worship time, the children and young people will leave for their own groups (follow the crowd or look for the signs), whilst there's a time of teaching from the Bible, usually by one of the church leaders. On those weeks marked All Age Worship (AAW) we all stay in the service together.

We are really glad you're here and would like the opportunity to get to know you. We always have tea and coffee available before and after the meeting so please stay and chat.



## A RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT POLITICAL TURMOIL

by Jim Thring

The early 20th Century writer, philosopher and theologian G.K. Chesterton, speaking about modern politics, wrote, 'Most of us know by this time that the Party System has been popular only in the sense that a football match is popular.'

I'm not sure what the state of politics in this country was like at the time, but given the adversarial games being played out on the political stage currently, it would seem that not much has changed. Continuing the football analogy, we've seen everything from change of management, own-goals, and even VAR (Virtual Assisted Referee)! At a time when one of the most complex issues in generations needs to be handled with careful sobriety in parliament, we are witnessing what appears to be shameless partisan politics and very little statesmanship, with the use of media

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP

06 October

**Speaker:** Andrew Wilson

**Worship Leaders:** Dawn Golton/Will Pearse

**Set-up:** Adrian Hares (GREEN)

13 October

**Speaker:** Testimony Speakers

**Worship Leaders:** Kathryn Ford

**Set-up:** Adrian Hares (GREEN)

20 October

**Speaker:** Rodney Kingstone

**Worship Leaders:** Jim Thring/Janet Hodgson

**Set-up:** Matt Ford (YELLOW)

27 October

**Speaker:** Matt Ford (AAW)

**Worship Leaders:** Dawn Golton/Will Pearse

**Set-up:** Matt Ford (YELLOW)

Find us on

[www.highworthcommunitychurch.org](http://www.highworthcommunitychurch.org)

## Highworth Community Church

*Registered Office:*

The Bridge Centre, 8 Sheep Street  
Highworth SN6 7AA

T: 01793 765060

W: [highworthcommunitychurch.org](http://highworthcommunitychurch.org)

E: [admin@highworthchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@highworthchurch.co.uk)

## WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

### weeks beginning 14 and 28 October

Small Groups meet these weeks

#### 02 October

##### Prayer Ministry Appointments

7 to 9pm, Upper Room

#### 03 October

##### CAP Prayer

3 to 4pm, Upper Room

#### 05 October

##### Prayer Ministry Appointments

11am to 1pm, Upper Room

#### 09 October

##### Prayer Ministry Appointments

7 to 9pm, Upper Room

#### 10 October

##### The Sanctuary

4 to 6pm, The Bridge Centre

#### 12 October

##### Prayer Ministry Appointments

11am to 1pm, Upper Room

#### 16 October

##### Prayer Ministry Appointments

7 to 9pm, Upper Room

#### 19 October

##### Prayer Ministry Appointments

11am to 1pm, Upper Room

#### River — Prayer for the Nation with Rodney Kingstone

7pm, The Bridge Centre

#### 31 October

##### Youth and Family Worship Time (see advert)

5 to 6pm (Family Worship)

6pm (Youth Worship)

Both at The Bridge Centre

## UPPER ROOM



### Key Opening times for booking:

6 to 9am, and 1 to 10pm

To book a slot, either go to our website:

[www.highworthcommunitychurch.org/copy-of-events-calendar](http://www.highworthcommunitychurch.org/copy-of-events-calendar)

or email: [lizzie@highworthchurch.co.uk](mailto:lizzie@highworthchurch.co.uk)

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(especially the social variety) to score points against those with opposing views, often in a personal way.

For many, this has caused a deepening concern, not just about the outcome of Brexit, but our confidence in politics and politicians themselves. But Chesterton also wrote that, 'All government is an ugly necessity.' We may not like what we see, and we may be rightly concerned, but we can choose to respond differently, against a culture of division, fear and criticism.

First of all, we need to be watchful and discerning of the times we live in. Brexit is not the only matter for concern, and it can easily become a political football that distracts from other fundamental issues, such as poverty, education, and security. As Christians we need to be careful how we interpret what is presented in the media, and seek wisdom from God about how we respond. We are seeing policies that reflect a more secular view of our world, with less room for those who believe in a loving, creator God from whom we inherit our purpose for life, objective moral values, and a hope for the future.

Secondly, we need to pray diligently for those who have a position of responsibility in government, regardless of which party they sit under. There are also a number of Christian MPs who need our prayers, as they seek to serve their constituencies whilst honouring God above all.

Thirdly, we need to remember that we are the light of the world. We have an opportunity through our actions and attitudes that we display publicly, especially in social media, to "put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience," as Paul encourages in Colossians 3:12.

And finally, indeed more importantly, we need to keep our kingdom perspective. Paul went on to say in verse 15, 'And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.' That word 'rule', can be translated as 'umpire' or 'arbitrator'. This world, frankly, cannot provide the answers to the fundamental issues that affect us. Our hope for the future that unites us, is the assurance we have through Jesus. As Malcolm Muggeridge said, 'We worship a King that men have not crowned, and hence cannot dethrone, and we are part of a kingdom that men have not built, and hence cannot destroy.'

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN???

*by Matt Ford*

Earlier this year we launched a Leadership Charter. The intent was to define what we believe great leadership looks like, and also what it doesn't look like.

As we are in a season where more and more is happening, and there is an increase in the numbers of people leading different initiatives and activities within the Church Family, one of the key expectations is :

### **A commitment to good communication — connecting my vision to the wider vision.**

For example, it is great to see The Bridge Centre being used for such a multitude of events, and we want to just clarify the process for booking the spaces :

- Please email Lizzie ([lizzie@highworthchurch.co.uk](mailto:lizzie@highworthchurch.co.uk)) if you need to make a booking for The Bridge Centre downstairs or a special event in the Upper Room.
- Do the above even if you have spoken to me (Matt Ford) as I forget things!
- As a team we will quickly review your request and confirm. We may come back with a different idea - don't be alarmed let's work together!!
- If it's a long term booking stay flexible. Our job is to do the very best we can to be a platform for everyone and not a ceiling.
- If you can, look ahead as to what you might want to do. The more information we have and the earlier we have it the better.
- If you need to book for an event within the following 48 hours, please contact Matt Ford.

Remember, we are here to serve. We will do our best to accommodate creatively everything you want to do, but some things may take precedence over others. That's ok. It doesn't mean you are not important. We will work hard on your behalf to find the best fit and to ensure there's a great pace to the whole thing.

This is a brilliant problem to have — so much life — so let us pursue love and stay connected.



## ARE YOU A DREAMER?

by Liz Thring

Following several River sessions in August, I became aware that we had repeatedly heard messages about God calling out freedom in us all. He was pursuing our hearts and our identities. In the Bible, things that are mentioned once are important, but Jewish tradition informs us that where they are revisited multiple times, this adds extra weight and alerts the reader to pay particular attention. The frequent repetition of a calling to freedom led me to ask God, 'What are you doing?' My curiosity grew, and so I began to write down the pictures and words we had received in recent weeks.

Andrew shared about Jesus asking us to step into his provision, and to stop using our own measure as we accept his gifting to us. Jo shared about Jesus opening multiple doors in a corridor and inviting us to step through them, into new places. Hannah led us in seeking new a level of vulnerability with Jesus as we ask him to strip away the barriers to our union with him.

I felt that God was, and is still, calling us as Church to be bolder in our relationship with him, to see ourselves as he designed us. He wants us to rightly understand our inheritance, to experience true freedom in coming before him 'naked and unashamed' (Genesis 2,25), and to return to our first love. All of this is a challenge and humbles me immensely!

On the 28 August, I had a vivid dream and, when I woke, I wrote the following:

A picture of a large lamp, black and glowing like a beacon. The light in it was soft and strong, not brash — but an invitation. A curiosity, not usually seen.

*'I have chosen this place [Highworth] to deposit something previously unseen, an invitation, an invitation to LIFE. My Life.'*

*I am drawing people from all around who are to make ready, to be available to express my life on earth. I want to establish a beacon that is me, God. This light cannot be put out, it is everlasting, eternal, beyond your understanding.*

*I have called out in you [corporately] an expression of me. Your hearts to be made new, your stone become flesh (Ezekial 36, 26). I give permission, all you need to do is ask. I am calling you to raise the arms of a generation who are too weary for the battle, who have no idea of who their enemy is. This is why I am calling you to me. It is my voice.'*

Our calling is to respond to God's heart, to seek and save the lost. The church in this generation needs to be the physical expression of Gods leading. In this world's desert wandering, we are invited to offer ourselves as a light, a pillar of fire, for the lost to navigate to their inheritance, their promised land, which is Jesus.

Are you looking for answers to some of life's biggest questions?

Are you interested in finding out about Jesus and what it means to follow him?

Have you have made a decision for Jesus but want to understand more of what that means?

If your answer is YES to any of the above, Alpha is for you!

The Alpha Course is a great place to make friends, discover faith and ask questions. It will be run at The Bridge Centre starting on **Thursday 07 November, 5.30-7.30pm**. There are five weekly sessions, a break for Christmas, and then five more in the New Year. Every week, a lovely hot meal will be served and the course material is presented through videos, questions and stories.

For more information, or to book in, speak to Jon and Rosie Grant-Willson, or text Matt Ford 07721 521046.





## SAFE FAMILIES – YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Shirley Baxter recently spoke to us all about *Safe Families*. In a time of political turmoil, it was great to hear about something we could all do now to help change our world.

Isaiah 58 paints an amazing picture of God at work and shows that one sign of this is the restoration of homes. *Safe Families* works to restore homes, keep families together and bring hope.

You can volunteer as a:

- Family friend: One day of training and some forms, and you will get paired up with families you can help just by being there for them.
- Resource friend: One we can probably all do. You will be made aware of practical needs like a fridge, tv or sofa via email and, if you have a spare one, you can help.

I believe *Safe Families* is part of the answer to the prayer we are praying for our community. It's a safe, structured way to bring hope, and if you get involved we can see it working wonderfully alongside services and initiatives we already run from The Bridge Centre.

Please find out more here by checking out their website at:  
[www.safefamiliesforchildren.com](http://www.safefamiliesforchildren.com)

## WHO IS CARL BEECH?

by Rachael Laing Smith

Perhaps, like me, the name Carl Beech is new to you, and yet I feel I ought to know him. A little search with my friend, Google, explained exactly why.

Carl is the senior leader of Redeemer King Church, and CEO of The Edge (including Edgefest).

As President of *Christian Vision for Men* (CVM), Carl speaks to thousands of men every year around the world, and his list

of credentials includes everything from financial advisor to church planter.

He is also the author of several books, and is co-founder of *The Gathering*, a major UK festival for men. Additionally, Carl serves on the councils of several major Christian organisations including the *Proclaim Trust*, and sat on the *Evangelical Alliance* council until 2016. Additionally, he hosts a programme on Premier Radio.

Whew!

**We have the privilege of Carl coming to share with us at 10:15am, on 24 November. Don't miss it!**

The whole family is invited to

# THE SANCTUARY

A good meal, a warm welcome, something for the kids and a place to rest and reflect!

## THURSDAYS

12TH SEPTEMBER 2019	4-6PM
10TH OCTOBER 2019	THE BRIDGE,
14TH NOVEMBER 2019	SHEEP STREET

SPACES ARE LIMITED FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK IN CONTACT JON HARES 07701 303760

Organised by Highworth Community Church  
Registered charity 1080002



# WORSHIP TIME

<p><b>31 OCTOBER</b> Family Worship The Bridge Centre 5 to 6pm Youth Worship The Bridge Centre 6pm</p>	<p><b>24 NOVEMBER</b> Family Worship The Bridge Centre 3 to 4:30pm</p> <p><b>with ALEX AND LAURA GICHOHI</b></p>
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## BE THE LIGHT

by Jon Hares

During the Blitz of WW2, Britain endured a six-year blackout. Across the UK, people covered their windows with cardboard, switched off their car lights and shut the curtains, to keep the enemy from seeing the light within. Whole cities could have been destroyed if the enemy spotted a single chink of light.

In Matthew 5:14, Jesus says, 'You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.'

At *City on a Hill*, we grappled with what Jesus' teaching could mean for our families, as parents seeking to be the light of the world in our homes.

Displaying the light of the gospel in our lives is a risky activity, but one we have been commanded to do by Jesus, the King of Kings.

Following on from *City on a Hill*, I felt it was important to follow up from that rallying cry with a call to action:

### What will you do to raise up faith in your family?

For each person, this will look different depending on our circumstances, ages of children etc., and there can be no one-size-fits-all approach. Each family is unique, with different struggles and blessings that come from the diversity that makes each unique.

However, we have great resources and opportunities to disciple children and young people as parents, even as they become adults, and as we seek to pass on our values and spiritual heritage. Here's a few things we're doing at HCC to support you:

- We are running a course called *Raising Faith* which we are signing up for now (see the flyer). We'll be exploring the vital responsibility of raising up faith in our families together. Why not book on as we get to grips with what this could mean for our families?
- A few of us recently started up *The Sanctuary* as a place where we can connect and serve people from our community, offering them hope, fun and a place of rest. You can be a part of this — and we want to welcome them into our church community.
- In 2020 we plan to start our next Bible Course and there's an Alpha course starting later this year – so why not send your teenage son or daughter along to find out more or better still, come and do it with them! We don't always need separate activities for young people, but an embracing community.
- We have an amazing programme for families and young people, with weekly Youth Groups, The Spring, Residentials, Kids Work, Church and Schools Work. Please encourage your son/daughter to get plugged-in. For more information, talk to me and visit the website.

- The Upper Room is a fantastic and under-used resource. Why not book a slot with your family and go deeper with God together? It's even open at the weekends!
- River — bring your family with you and feel a part of what is happening.

If you have a teenager, why not encourage them, by seeking out experiences with them that they are interested in. Be proactive in talking about how they'd like to be involved in church, and give them room to make their own decisions too.

As we look at our church, we're aware that there's a whole bunch of young people aged 11-14. Moving forward we'd really like to create a space on Sunday mornings that is specifically for them. This isn't about creating new groups or imposing limits on where we are at, but about refining our focus whilst making room for all to belong. I'll be sharing more about this at raising faith, and over the coming weeks, with parents.

Our hope as a leadership team is that all this is highly complementary! There's no need for a divide between what we do in the youth, children and families work and what's happening in the rest of the church. We want people to feel a part of the whole church family, not just a subculture or small group within it.



**UPPER ROOM**  
AT THE BRIDGE CENTRE

**New**  
**Opportunity**  
Open every Monday  
3 to 10pm

Come for  
seven minutes  
or seven hours  
**IT'S UP TO YOU!**

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Every Tuesday

#### Craft Group

11am-12noon, The Bridge

#### Tuesday Group for school years 7-9 (term time)

6:30-8pm, St Michael's Church

#### Tuesday Group for school years 10+ (term time)

8-9:30pm, The Bridge Centre

### Every Wednesday

#### Bible Study

9:30-10:30am, The Bridge

#### Nursery Rhymes with Jon (term time)

11-11:30am, The Bridge

### Every Thursday

#### Little Treasures Toddler Group (term time)

9:45-11:15am, Community Centre

### Every Friday

#### Friday Blessings

9:15am, Highworth Methodist Church

#### Knit and Natter Group

10:30am, The Bridge Centre

## BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH DEDICATION CELEBRATION

On 13 October, we will be celebrating with Carolyn and Richard Jupp the dedication of their gorgeous boy, Samuel.

In the spirit of all good parties, we're inviting you to bring along some food to share with Church so we can eat together after the morning gathering.

For more information, please speak to Sally Willson.



## LOOKING AHEAD WITH FREEDOM IN CHRIST

by Heather Ford



There are two options:

1. For those who have already covered the first seven sessions of the course plus the Steps to Freedom.
2. A new course will be starting in January 2020 for those that as yet have not had a chance to do the course.

We will be covering the last three sessions on Mondays 11, 18, and 25 November, 7 to 9:15pm.

It will be on first-come-first-served basis, as potentially there are forty of us that need to finish these sessions! Twelve is a good number to work with on these sessions.

Starting on Monday 20 January for six sessions (with a half term break) with the Steps to Freedom day scheduled for Saturday 07 March.

Let me know if you are interested via email: [heatherfford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heatherfford@hotmail.co.uk)

**Raising FAITH**

Care for the Family

A day to help you inspire your children's faith

hcc

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 9.30-4pm, The Bridge.  
Booking and info: [jon@highworthchurch.co.uk](mailto:jon@highworthchurch.co.uk)  
Organised by Highworth Community Church, Registered Charity Number 1080002