



highworth community church | november 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.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

03 November

**Speaker:** Ken Ford

**Worship Leaders:** Jon Grant-Willson/Adrian Hill

**Set-up:** Ian Coulson (BLUE)

10 November

**Speaker:** Matt Ford

**Worship Leaders:** Kathryn Ford

**Set-up:** Ian Coulson (BLUE)

17 November

**Speaker:** Andrew Price

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

**Set-up:** Phil Smith (RED)

24 November

**Speaker:** Carl Beech

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

**Set-up:** Phil Smith (RED)

Find us on

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

## ENCOUNTER AT THE WELL

by Janet Hodgson

Reading the gospel stories is a great way to find out about the life of Jesus, his miracles and teachings. But how can we really get to know Jesus as a person? How can we get to the place where we can say we can have a real relationship with him?

One of the activities we did during last year's training school was meditating on the person of Jesus through his encounters with ordinary people. I have tried this a few times and have found it a powerful way to meet with Jesus. I recently read John Chapter 4

where Jesus meets a Samaritan woman. I asked God to speak, using my imagination and thoughts to experience something deeper of Him. As I started to write down my thought trail, I became immersed in the character of the woman and in her responses to her life-changing encounter with the living God. Just as the woman's thinking and lifestyle were challenged, and a better way was presented to her, so I was

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## Highworth Community Church

*Registered Office:*

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Highworth SN6 7AA

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

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

## WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

**weeks beginning 11 and 25 November**

Small Groups meet these weeks

### 02 November

Movie Night with fish and chips

6pm, The Bridge Centre

### 06 November

Hawaiian Night with Natalie (see article)

6 to 7pm, The Bridge Centre

### 06 November

River

7pm, Upper Room

### 09 November

Afternoon Tea Fundraiser for Natalie's Kona Trip (see article)

2 to 5pm, 10 The Willows, Highworth

### 10 November

The Spring (school years 7+)

6:30 to 8pm, The Bridge Centre

### 13 November

River

8 to 9am, Upper Room

### 14 November

The Sanctuary

4 to 6pm, The Bridge Centre

### 16 November

Raising Faith Day

9:30am to 4pm, The Bridge Centre

### 17 November

The Spring (school years 7+)

6:30 to 8pm, 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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able to enter into that deeper place where Jesus asks me to come to Him just as I am.

'It's a hot day...the hottest part of a hot day—beating sun and a hard dusty road. My water jar is heavy, even without its contents. I approach the well, out of town, away from prying eyes.

Someone is there before me. A man. He's sitting, resting near the well. A Jew! In Samaria! What's he doing here? He looks at me, our eyes briefly meet and I look quickly away. I'll just get on with my water-carrying and get back home. I don't want any trouble.

I let down my bucket and listen for the splash. As I start to wind it up, the man speaks, asking me for a drink. Who does he think he is? A Jewish man asking me, a Samaritan woman, to give him a drink. This shouldn't be happening. Doesn't he know our two cultures don't mix, that his race says I will make him unclean if I speak to him or if I just let him use my cup?

I can feel that he's still looking at me, but not in the same way that other men have looked at me. I feel uncomfortable, but at the same time drawn to him. What does he want with me?

His voice cuts through the awkward silence. 'If you knew the gift of God and who I am, it would be you asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh living water.'

So who is this man? What's he talking about?

## RIVER NIGHTS AT HCC

*by Ken Ford*

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible loves to tell us about the river of God's love, power and blessing. Ezekiel describes the river flowing from the temple and tells us that 'where the river flows everything will live,' (Ezekiel 47:9). In his vision in Revelation chapter 22 John sees, 'the river of the water of life flowing from the throne of God,' and describes the trees by the river whose leaves are for 'the healing of the nations.'

River Nights at HCC are gatherings when, together as God's family, we can give time to waiting on God and inviting the Holy Spirit to enable us to enjoy more of the river's flow in our own lives, in our life together as church, and out into the world which is so in need of God's healing love.

As we gather there's very little in the way of programme or agenda—we're simply there

How can he get water when he has nothing to draw with? Does he think he is greater than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this very well? He says the water he gives will bring endless life.

So give me this water then. Let me see what you can do. Prove yourself.

And then the body blow, 'Go and get your husband.' How does he know? We've never met; who told him?

'I have no husband,' I mumble, hoping that's the end of it. But no. 'You have had five husbands, and now you're living with a man who isn't your husband.'

Our eyes meet again, and I know he can see right inside me. He knows the truth.

Vulnerable and ashamed I drop my gaze. I don't know where to turn. I want to run but I haven't finished getting my water. Distraction – let's talk about something else. Religion and politics is always a good topic.

And yet he won't let go, and still finds a way through. There's no escape, he speaks straight to my soul, drawing me to seek, find and worship the true God. And something is stirring up inside me, to lay down my mask, to come as I truly am, the real me.

I still don't understand, but I do know that one day the Messiah will come.

And then he holds my gaze, and speaks one more time, confirming his identity.

But this I already knew.'

to worship, listen and respond to what the Holy Spirit says.

At one recent River evening we sat, knelt or stood in silence for a good fifteen minutes, simply soaking in God's beautiful presence. Earlier the same evening the worship got a bit lively and I was concerned we might be disturbing the folks in the pub next door!!! Sometimes we end up praying and prophesying over each other—you just never know!

We have two River events this month: 06 and 13 November—an opportunity to get encouraged and empowered.

As some of us used to sing:

*Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes.  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here.*



## ADVANCE 2020

by Laura Fisher

On 12 October, Matt and Kathryn, Natalie, Simon and Svetlana, Rich Wathen and I, headed to a conference centre near Birmingham, for a day of inspiration and challenge as we attended the Advance 2020 Summit.

The idea for Advance 2020 began life and gained momentum after an initial group of thirteen met to pray in the office of Andy Hawthorne, leader and founder of The Message Trust, Manchester. As time passed, a number of organisations and denominations began to dream together for what a year of intentional proclamation of the gospel across the UK could look like in 2020. The Church of England, Evangelical Alliance, The Message Trust, Luis Palau Association, HOPE Together and The Redeemed Christian Church of God are just some of the organisations who have committed to this vision of intentional proclamation of the gospel in our nation next year!

It was thought that never had so many evangelists gathered together under one roof in the UK before. At the conference, we heard a number of times that there is a sense of a fresh openness to the gospel in the UK, and that we are on the edge of a major move of God across the land. Oh, how we long for that! The organisers of the day hoped to inspire us to consider our own efforts of gospel proclamation over the coming year, and encourage us as we were reminded afresh that the gospel is the power of God to bring salvation to all who believe!

Ravi Zacharias, one of the day's keynote

speakers, asked us to consider the prophet Jonah, and how not to go about reaching a people group lost in sin and brokenness! He suggested that Jonah was a man out of touch with his surroundings, message and Maker, who judged from afar, looking at only the symptoms of sin rather than allow himself to be overcome with compassion for the people. He challenged us to be in the world, whilst not be of it, to be a people who emulate that which is good, true and beautiful, by spending time with our Maker, and pursuing His love and compassion for the people around us.

Andy Hawthorne, Celia Apeagyei-Collins, of the Rehoboth Foundation, and Yemi Adedeji, of Evangelical Alliance and HOPE Together all talked about various tools and gifts of the evangelist, but notably prayer and spending time with Jesus kept being repeated. I was challenged. Am I praying regularly for my friends and family who don't know Jesus? Am I in our wonderful Upper Room regularly crying out to God for our lost nation? I was challenged by Yemi to really believe what I pray, then when God moves I won't miss it.

Gavin Calver of Evangelical Alliance and Spring Harvest rounded off the day reminding us of Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples in Matthew 28, later commissioning all of us to go, to make disciples and remember the promise that God is with us all, no matter what.

So, having being inspired and challenged, this certainly leaves me asking the question: How can we, our family of believers in HCC, intentionally proclaim the gospel to the precious community around us in 2020? Let's pray as individuals. Let's pray as a community. Then, when God shows us how to go, let's do it.

## A MESSAGE FROM MATT FORD

We are going to be away for a few days from 16 November and would really value your prayers. Bookended by an Open Doors Conference (supporting the Persecuted Church) and Kathryn speaking at an evangelistic event in Wolverhampton, we are 'retreating' for a few days to Rutland Water.

Kathryn has been working on an EP of her songs and I have been trying to write a book. Both of these things are blooming hard yet are things we believe God wants us to do. The EP is a big part of the gospel message Kathryn wants to continue to bring through CAP and my book is about discipleship and being family.

We need grace—lots of it—as our aim is to try and finish both these projects that week. Hoping to bring glory to Jesus.

*Matt*

## 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

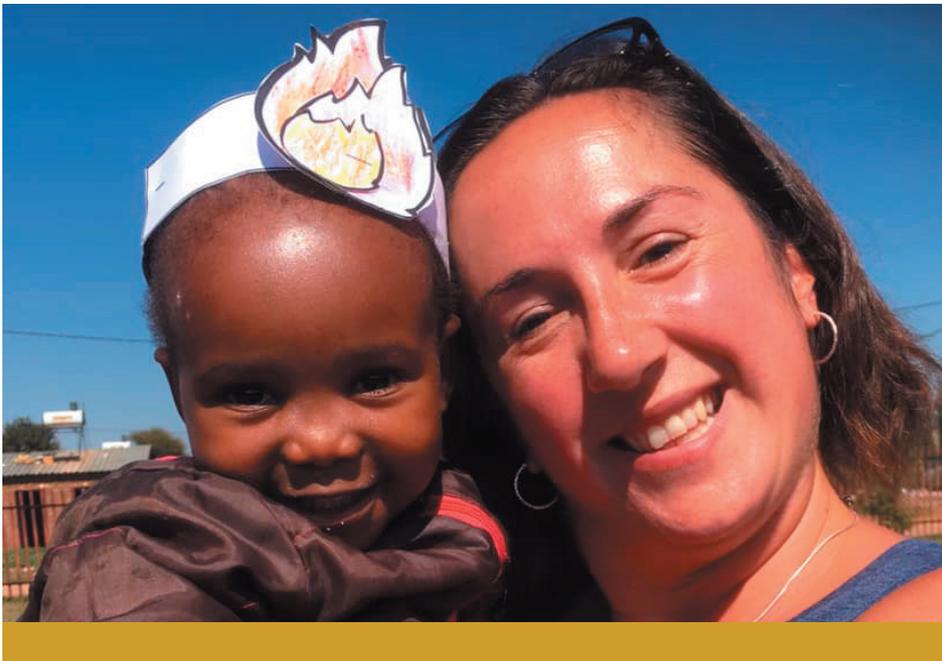
### Every Friday

#### Friday Blessings

9:15am, Highworth Methodist Church

#### Knit and Natter Group

10:30am, The Bridge Centre



## FOLLOWING FAITH

by Natalie Ketcher

The Lord has taken me on a really wild adventure the last few years which culminated in my incredible DTS experience earlier in the year.

As a fourteen-year-old the Lord impressed America upon my heart, and my dream from then on was to become a teacher and work in the USA. I even studied American Studies at university as a precursor to this!

Over the years, I believed that the dream had died, but this year the Lord told me to start dreaming BIG again and to stop putting limitations on my dreams. It's crazy to think how the Lord works. He used youth ministry to fulfil this desire and showed me that spiritual teaching is far more significant than academic. Through this I have become passionate about mentoring young girls and women to know their worth, value and identity come from the Lord.

One of the main reasons for me choosing to go back to Kona and staff is that I had freedom and healing in those areas, and the Lord is calling me to come alongside others to help them be set free from strongholds and the lies of the enemy.

On three separate occasions this year, the Lord has used people to tell me to move the tent pegs and that He wanted to redefine my definition of home. In December, I will be making Kona my new home base. I loved the community living that came with living on campus and it was a healthy place for me to be, both physically and spiritually speaking.

The Lord is using it as a training ground to launch me into what He is ultimately calling me into.

While I'm there, I will be leading a small group of around six to eight women, providing weekly 1:1 mentoring, organising and leading an outreach in March, and growing in my leadership/discipleship abilities. I have always had a heart for people and an overwhelming compulsion to help make a difference, and the Lord is using those things to have me walk alongside others.

I also hope to become involved with other community projects such as advocacy, homeless outreach and coming alongside the local foster care system to provide love and support.

I have a few things that I would really appreciate prayer over:

- **Accommodation:** I am still awaiting confirmation of housing on campus, please pray I hear soon as I leave in six weeks.
- **Prayer warriors:** As I step on to the mission field full time and make this bold declaration of faith.
- **Financial provision:** I would really appreciate it if you would prayerfully consider sponsoring me, either as a one-off gift or on a more regular basis. As a missionary I will be completely reliant on the Lord's provision and be self-financed. Please contact me at [ketchinkona@gmail.com](mailto:ketchinkona@gmail.com) if you would like to be a part of this amazing Jesus journey I'm on.

I will be holding an **afternoon tea fundraiser** at 10 The Willows (home to Ben and Becky Furlong) on Saturday 09 November, 2 to 5pm. Please join me for coffee, tea, cake and sandwiches, and hear more about my journey this year. **Contact Becky Furlong by the 05 November at [bubs.rf@googlemail.com](mailto:bubs.rf@googlemail.com) to confirm your attendance.**

Alternatively, I will be holding another **Hawaiian Night** before the River on Wednesday 06 November in The Bridge Centre, between 6 and 7pm. There will be traditional Hawaiian food, leis and a slideshow of my DTS experience.

Thank you for your continued love, prayers and support as I step into this exciting new season and all that God is calling me into.

## CHRISTMAS 2019 AT HCC

**08 December, 4pm, Warneford**

### HCC Christmas Celebration

*Fun, worship mince pies, a nativity and a message of hope. Invite your friends to come along.*

**22 December, 5pm**

### Carols on the Podium

*Outreach to the whole community believing for Jesus to touch hundreds of lives.*

**22 December, 6pm**

### Highworth Methodist Church

### Christmas service

*We have been specially invited. We won't be meeting in the morning so another great chance to unite and to worship.*

**25 December, 10:30am**

### Highworth Community Centre

### Christmas Day service

**Sunday 29 December,  
10:15am, Warneford**

### 'Normal' family service



# STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

by Matt Ford

Each generation should step into and walk in more of the Kingdom of God as we honour and build off what has gone before. Every year, each one of us should recognise who God is and what he has done, and reach higher than we ever have.

Our Bridge Centre is a small expression of these eternal truths.

For years 'giants' have been willing to be there, rain or shine, full or empty, busy or silent, to enable a haven for support, friendship and rest. Week in and week out these volunteers have touched countless lives.

One way we can honour them is to respond to the amazing opportunity they create. You see, so much more is possible day-to-day because of the safe, warm, friendly place our volunteers have made. We don't want to waste their hard work, and so a few of us have been working to see how we can build more on this wonderful foundation.

## Clothesline

Hopefully you have picked up on this soon to be launched initiative led by Laura Fisher and working in partnership with Mercy in Action. Think Food Bank for children's clothes.

## Befriending

We are working with the council to establish a home visits befriending service for the lonely and isolated in our community.

## Job Club

This CAP service is something we are desperate to launch and the time feels right.

## Craft Group

This has been an amazing point of connecting with and loving people, and we are hoping to relaunch.

This is just a flavour of what is possible. Let's not forget, but celebrate and support the good work already being done through

Food Collective, CAP and our Benefits Helpers. Our team of volunteers make this possible.

Just think of the number of people that could be reached, blessed and loved through these things and more.

None of the above is exclusive.

If you are not currently involved in The Bridge Centre's morning activities, or are a volunteer and want to get involved in other expressions of service as well—we need you.

For more information, please chat with me.



**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!**

Raising  
**FAITH**

Care  
for the  
Family

A day to  
help you  
inspire your  
children's  
faith



hcc

## RAISING FAITH

If you're planning on attending the *Raising Faith* day, please let Lizzie know by emailing her at:  
lizzie@highworthchurch.co.uk

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



## CAP UPDATE

by Kathryn Ford



As you are probably aware, CAP Highworth has been running for over five years now and has been a key expression of church unity and our love and support for our community. Over the past couple of years, CAP nationally has been seeing a huge increase in the number of people coming for help, and the projection is that this will only continue to rise. In order to meet this demand, and be prepared for the future, they have temporarily closed the helpline for new client enquiries (0800 328 0006). For us here in Highworth, this means we are unable to see new clients in these next few months.

This is, of course, a challenge for us locally and for CAP nationally. We need your help and support.

CAP nationally not only provide the framework for us to work under, but do all the debt advice, creditor negotiation, producing of financial statements and payment plans. They need your prayers.

CAP Highworth —we have many current clients that we will still be working closely with.

Over the years, we have had contact with over one hundred families, many of whom don't yet know Jesus. This 'pause' is a great opportunity for us all to come alongside these people and expect God to be at work.

Through The Bridge Centre we are still working hard at supporting and signposting people wherever we can! We are also

looking ahead and hoping to offer other CAP services like Job Club, Fresh Start, more money courses and other future Lifeskills courses.

### What can you do?

#### 1. Pray

- For head office to find the right staff, for wisdom about which systems to implement, and for the finance to do what is needed.
- That people come to know Jesus.
- Whether you could be involved in our CAP team, perhaps with a new service.
- For our Christmas party and hampers, that this generous love reveals God's heart for people.

#### 2. Support

If you wish to financially help support clients who are going through a difficult time, please feel free to give money through HCC referenced 'CAP Hardship Fund'. We will use any monies donated in this way from our Highworth churches to assist with emergency needs, e.g. fresh food shopping.

#### 3. Donate

Bring donations (not fresh or short shelf life) for our Christmas

hampers to church on Sundays 24 November and 01 December, or into The Bridge Centre between 25 November and 02 December. The hamper making party will be on 03 December at The Bridge Centre!

**Donation ideas:** biscuits for cheese, sweet biscuits, nice crisps, boxes of chocolates, chocolate biscuits, sweets, nice coffee, tea, hot chocolate, other bottles of drink eg. Shloer (no alcohol please), chutney, cranberry sauce, other sauces and stuffings, Christmas cake, Christmas puddings, mince pies, nice pasta.

If you have any questions, or want to get involved, please speak to someone on the church leadership team or Kathryn Ford.

Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Kathryn Ford: 07885579876.  
kathrynford@capuk.org



Hamper making 2018

# 2019 CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CHOIR

**REHEARSALS**  
Mondays  
7.30 - 9pm  
from Mon 4 Nov - Mon 16 Dec

**Come to as many sessions as you can!**

**WHERE**  
St Michaels Church, Highworth

**Worship Choir**  
A place to sing, worship God, have fun, make friends, improve your voice and get to perform!

**ALL SINGERS WELCOME**

**PERFORMANCE**  
Sunday  
22 December  
on podium!

**MORE INFO**

**CONTACT**  
KATHRYN  
07944 646396  
mandkford@hotmail.com