

# contact

## 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 word from Andrew Price

## Prayer Ministry

## Ghana Update

## Youth and Children's Ministry

## small groups

Jesus used them, the early church was built around them, Wesley encouraged them and the New Church movement was founded on them; so why do so many Christians think they're either boring or optional?

Big meetings are great places to worship and to hear inspirational teaching, and every believer needs to spend time on their own with God, but for practical learning, for encouragement and for growth, the small group is essential.

Reading through the gospels, it's clear that while Jesus' parables and miracles were often witnessed by crowds, his teaching was often for the disciples alone.

Sometimes he posed challenging questions, as in Mark 8 when he

*continued on page 2...*

## sunday worship

### 4 March

Speaker: Martyn Watson  
Worship Leaders: Dawn Golton and Will Pearse  
Set-up: Ian Coulson (BLUE)

### 11 March

Speaker: Dave Blandford  
Worship Leaders: Jon Grant-Willson and Adrian Hill  
Set-up: Phil Smith (RED)

### 18 March

Speaker: Rachael Laing Smith  
Worship Leaders: Kathryn Ford and Tess Hares  
Set-up: Phil Smith (RED)

### 25 March

Speaker: Steve Lee  
Worship Leaders: Janet Hodgson  
Set-up: Adrian Hares (GREEN)

Find us on 

[www.highworth-swindon.org](http://www.highworth-swindon.org)

asked the disciples “who do people say I am?” and opened up a conversation leading to fresh revelation. Sometimes his disciples asked him questions in private, as when they asked him to teach them to pray, and sometimes he broke in on arguments (Luke 22:24-25). These small group discussions were not always comfortable, but they were where Jesus explained, taught, encouraged and challenged. And it was not just one way; in his hour of need the night before his crucifixion, Jesus wanted a small group to watch and pray with him (Matt 26).

After the resurrection, the disciples continued to meet in small groups in one another’s homes.

For Jesus’ disciples today, small groups are just as vital. They give us a place where we can “stir up one another to love and good works” (Heb 10:24) and “confess your sins to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed” (James 5:16). In a large meeting, there is a limit to how many can make a contribution, but in a small group we can all play an important part.

Small groups are the ideal setting for:

- Walking through difficult times with one another
- developing emerging gifts such as hospitality, prophecy and discernment
- confessing our sins and weaknesses and finding grace and acceptance
- spurring one another on to greater depths of relationship with God
- nurturing new believers

Perhaps the main reasons small groups fail are:

- the real purpose - to learn and grow together – is lost
- Our hunger for God has lessened
- one or two people end up doing most of the organising/talking/teaching
- insufficient mutual challenge and vulnerability
- they become merely a social gathering or a discussion group

## How to make your small group work

- Agree together that you want to grow in God and that you will embrace the joys

and the challenges that come with this

- In small groups, discipleship should be mutual, not one way or top down

- Have a loose structure, e.g. start with a simple shared meal, move on to let each person share their triumphs and disasters, and end with prayer and worship.

- Keep challenging people to grow in their gifts. For example, everyone can prophesy, so ask everyone to bring a prophecy for a member of the group

- Ask each other awkward questions. A favourite in Wesley’s small groups was “how is it with your soul?”. A condition of being in the group is that we allow people to help us out of our comfort zones

- Focus on the reality of the lives of the people in the group, not theoretical questions or elegant exposition. Teaching should flow from experience and should be practical

- commit to pray for one another regularly

Where small groups are working well, they will provide most of the pastoral care, prayer support, practical teaching and encouragement that the church needs.

**Prayer:** Luke 11:1-13

**End times:** Matt 24:3

**Beatitudes:** Matt 5:1-12

**Who do men say that I am:** Matt 16:13-20

**Leadership:** Luke 22:24-25

**Prayer and fasting:** Mark 9:28-29

**Breaking bread from home to home:** Acts 2:46

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

- James 5:16

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to*

*meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

- Heb 10: 24-25

*Andrew Price*

## Care for the Family: Bereavement Support Day



**09 June  
10am - 5pm  
Highworth  
Community  
Centre**

The Support Day offers understanding, encouragement and support to any parent who has suffered the death of a son or daughter in any circumstance and at any age.

The worst loss a parent ever has to face is the death of a son or daughter.

Whether you are coming on your own or as a couple, you’ll be able to meet others who understand the heartache you are going through. Many have found that these events can make a huge difference in helping them cope both now and as they think about the future.

### *The difference a day can make*

As well as having times to share informally over refreshments and lunch, you will have opportunities to:

Meet and share with other parents who have suffered the death of a child

Discover practical ways to work through the pain of bereavement and loss

Receive comfort, hope and help for the journey ahead

The cost of attending one of our Support Days is £22 per person, including lunch and refreshments.

For more information, check out the website at [www.careforthefamily.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jrdliia-jhidhyuyk-n/](http://www.careforthefamily.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jrdliia-jhidhyuyk-n/)

# what's on in march

## 02 March

### Prayer for Israel

7:30pm, The Bridge

## w/b 05 March

Small Groups meet this week

## w/b 19 March

Small Groups meet this week

## 23 March

### Praise and Worship Night (provisional)

7:30pm, The Bridge

## 27 March

### Ford's USA Trip Talk

8pm, The Bridge

## 29 March

### Maundy Thursday Service

7:30pm, St Michael's

## 30 March

### Highworth Churches Together

### Good Friday Service

12pm, Highworth Methodist Church

## 31 March

### Highworth Churches Together

### Easter Walk of Witness

10:30am - 12:30pm

## Every Tuesday

### Craft Group

11am-12noon, The Bridge

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

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

## Every Wednesday

### Bible Study

9:30-10:30am, The Bridge

### Nursery Rhythms with Jon (term time)

11-11:30am, The Bridge

### For the month of March

### Highworth Churches Together Lent Lunches

12pm, Highworth Methodist Church

## Every Thursday (term time)

### Little Treasures Toddler Group

9:45-11:15am, Community Centre

### Thursday Group (school years 10+)

8-9:30pm, Jon and Lizzie's

## Highworth Prayer Network

### Friday Blessings

9:15-9:45am, St Michael's

## Prayer Ministry

We are really blessed to have a dedicated team of folk with a prayer ministry in HCC. Currently there are 2 "on duty" each Sunday (usually one male, one female).

They often are wearing a badge, but to be more identifiable (particularly for newcomers and visitors) we plan to have a designated place by the fire exit on the left hand side of the hall as you look at the stage. It would be really helpful if that area is kept as quiet as possible whilst people are being prayed for.

We are also very encouraged to see a culture of prayer ministry developing across the wider congregation in church particularly on Sunday mornings. It has also been suggested by one or two of the young people that a basket is available in the vicinity of the prayer ministry team for prayer requests to be placed, if it is too difficult to ask for prayer directly.

As we become more intentional about praying with each other (and this does not just mean in a crisis), our expectations of what God can and will do among us grows. If you would like any guidance in good, safe practice in prayer ministry please do ask and you will be pointed in the direction of one of our team.

*Sally Willson*

## Freedom in Christ courses

Please check with either Heather or Lesley for the current dates and times.



Fair Trade  
Fortnight  
started on 26  
February and  
ends with a

Coffee Morning at the Council Rooms on  
Saturday 10th March. Come and join us  
for free drinks and cakes.

Meanwhile don't forget to look for the  
Fair Trade logo and try the Fair Trade  
version if there is one when you shop.  
Remember, HCC is registered as a  
"Fairtrade Church"!

## Ghana Update

At the All Age Worship on Sunday 08 April, we will be sharing about our recent trip to North Ghana. There will be lots of photos, heart-warming stories of people's lives being transformed by the charity we volunteer with, and some extremely sad stories along the way.

But the most exciting thing is that we are seeing God opening doors and inviting us to step into things we haven't done before!

Hope you can join us....

*Janet and Stephen*





## Spree and Soul Survivor

We are now booking for both our summer residential trips!

Soul Survivor is aimed at young people who are currently in secondary school or college and runs from **24th-29th August**.

If you are aged 8-17 or Soul Survivor's just not for you then we are also hoping to go back to weekend to Spree this year in Devon.

Both opportunities involving camping with an amazing team of youth leaders from local churches and I'll be leading the teams.

If you want to come then get in touch with me and I can get you more info.

*Jon Hares*

## easter trail

Despite the chilly Siberian air delaying the start of spring, Easter is still nearly upon us and that means sharing the amazing story of our rising Son! The Easter and Christmas Trails have become a bit legendary in Highworth and we couldn't do them without a load of help.

Can you provide some plants to help us recreate the garden of Gethsemane? Or maybe you have an hour or two spare from 19-26th March (particularly during the daytime) to help make refreshments, assist with a craft or become an ancient storyteller? Perhaps you are a creative type and want to help set up some of the scenes? Or maybe you just want to come and find out what all the fuss is about and enjoy the story! If any of these is you, please get in touch with me about helping out via my email – [jon@highworthchurch.co.uk](mailto:jon@highworthchurch.co.uk) And don't miss the training on **Saturday 17th March, 10am at St Michael's church**. (There might be a bacon butty in it for you!!) You would be part of a team of around 40 people sharing the lifegiving power of the cross with approx. 350 children. Thank you so much for your help!

*Jon*

## Training for Sunday Volunteers

Thanks to all who have come forward to help with the Sunday morning children's work!

There will be a training session for everyone who has come forward to offer help on Tuesday 27th March at 7pm at The Bridge, before The Fords share about their trip to the USA at 8pm.

Please make every effort to be there for essential information.

*Jon*

## Nursery Rhymes at The Bridge

Hey! I've just launched a nursery rhyme and story group at The Bridge, 8 Sheep Street (SN6 7AA) for under 5s and their parents/carers.

With singing, stories and coffee what's not to love! I'm hoping to connect with some new parents through this and deepen relationships we already have with many through our toddler group, little treasures. Everyone's welcome, including tea drinkers!

Please spread the word – Wednesdays during term time, 11am at The Bridge.

# ELEVATE

## church for families!

### 25 March 2018

### STARTING AT 9:45am WITH BREAKFAST

Highworth Warneford School

Organised by Highworth Community Church, Registered Charity No. 1080002