



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.



HE'S WORTH IT!

We have just celebrated our 1986th birthday as Church. Yes, Pentecost was our inception, and it was great to mark those days with prayer and outreach just as they did in Acts.

I have often heard people talking or preaching about 'doing church like in Acts' or our need to return to 'a church like in Acts,' and I am one of them. Church that truly expresses the presence, love and life

giving message of Jesus Christ. A Church that sees scores of souls saved, the sick healed and whole cities impacted for Jesus. I long for that and I hope you do too.

This morning, I read about a Canadian pastor who recently taught at a secret church leaders retreat in China. It was secret only because of persecution. At the end of the three days, one of the

continued on next page

SUNDAY WORSHIP

07 July

Speaker: Jo Pearce

Worship Leaders: Dawn Coulson/ Will Pearce

Set-up: Matt Ford (YELLOW)

14 July

Speaker: Rodney Kingstone

Worship Leaders: Jon Grant-Willson/Adrian Hill

Set-up: Ian Coulson (BLUE)

21 July

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)

Worship Leaders: Kathryn Ford

Set-up: Ian Coulson (BLUE)

28 July

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)

Worship Leaders: Jim Thring/Janet Hodgson

Set-up: Phil Smith (RED)

04 August

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)

Worship Leaders: Dawn Coulson/ Will Pearce

Set-up: Phil Smith (RED)

11 August

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)

Worship Leaders: Jon Grant-Willson/Adrian Hill

Set-up: Adrian Hares (GREEN)

18 August

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)

Worship Leaders: Kathryn

Set-up: Adrian Hares (GREEN)

25 August

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)

Worship Leaders: Jim Thring/Janet Hodgson

Set-up: Matt Ford (YELLOW)

Highworth Community Church

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WHAT'S ON IN JULY AND AUGUST

07 July

The Spring
6:30pm, The Bridge Centre

week of 08 and 22 July, and 05 and 19 August

Small Groups meet

13 July

Prophetic Day, with Rodney Kingstone
8pm, The Bridge Centre

26 July

Open Garden, with tea and cake
Ken and Heather Ford's. Details to follow.

10 August

Fun Day
11am - 3pm, Community Centre

17 August

Picnic Walk
Details to follow

23 August

Movie Night, with fish and chips
6pm, The Bridge Centre

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

UPPER ROOM



Key Prayer Events Open to All

Please keep checking the Upper Room diary for Open Prayer times and additions.

During the month of August, there will be weekly River sessions (times of worship and prayer), and also weekly opportunities for outreach.

Regular sessions continue, including Waiting on God (Thursdays), and early morning open prayer sessions.

This summer, there are a number of special prayer times including:

15 July

Prayer for Moldova
7pm

09 and 16 July

Prayer for schools
1:20pm

continued from page 1

Chinese believers asked the pastor to pray for him. 'Please pray that we can one day be like you,' but the pastor replied, 'No, my only prayer is that we will one day become like you.'

Shocked, the man asked the pastor to explain. 'Well, you have travelled by box car for thirteen hours to be here. You have sat on the floor or wooden benches for over twelve hours-a-day whilst we have taught and prayed. Many of you have memorised the entire New Testament and 80% of you have been imprisoned for your faith. We need what you have!'

We forget so easily that the Church in Acts or in China has seen what they have seen because they pay the price and give everything for their faith in Jesus. Too easily, I fall into the trap of wanting the results without paying the cost.

But there is good news. This isn't a pull-your-socks-up message. The believers in Acts and in China would not trade seats with us for anything. The 'cost', if we are to call it that, is only giving up your life and trading it in for the life of Jesus — the most beautiful, kind and fulfilling person you will ever meet. Just read Lucy's testimony and you'll get the idea. He is worth it. What can seem like cost or loss is only enriching and gain.

I pray for myself and for you that we can come to a place where we can say with Paul in Phillipians 1:21, '**For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**'

I SAW JESUS

by Lucy Titcombe



God showed me a promise he has placed on my life!

These events happened during our time in Glasgow, but

I've been so blown away about how much God is speaking to me!

First, the time with Jesus I had! It happened yesterday. I had been feeling really rubbish and low in the morning. I knew it was a spiritual attack as the day before I had been so upbeat and declaring the truth over myself! During my time in worship, when I wasn't feeling particularly like I wanted to engage, I closed my eyes and let God take me on a journey. I could feel myself leaving the room, and when I opened my eyes, I was stood in a crowd, a bustling crowd. When I looked up I saw a bright light coming

continued from page 2

towards me, it was so bright but I was still able to look right at it! I could then see these eyes in the light, Jesus' eyes!!! They were soft and invited me deeper. He walked straight towards me and never lost eye contact or diverted his eyes to anyone else in the crowd. He had a box in his hands which he held out to me and said, 'A gift for you, my child. I love you.' The insane thing was, he said it in Romanian!!! I opened the box and inside was the most beautiful robe, the most delicate yet exquisite thing I've ever seen! Jesus then proceeded to take the robe out of the box and place it on my shoulders! I really felt Jesus was showing me, in the most real way possible, that I was so loved and am chosen, and that I shouldn't believe the lies that I had let the enemy whisper in my ear! It was the most amazing experience!

Then a second crazy thing happened. One of the staff members as preaching on the promises of the Lord. He was talking about how Joshua didn't have the exact same dream and promises as Moses yet he helped achieve Moses promise! And how we can be involved in serving other people's promises. To finish his preach, he got the staff to create a fire tunnel which represented the River Jordan as they crossed it to reach the promise. We were invited to take our shoes off, leaving the past behind, and cross through the river into our promises. I didn't really know what to expect — I didn't necessarily know I had a specific promise.

As I reached the end of the tunnel, I was led out to a space on the floor. As soon as my knees hit the ground, I began to uncontrollably speak in tongues (Something I had been gifted with some time last year!) but the next moment another language was fluently coming out of my mouth...ROMANIAN!! I could understand what I was saying just enough to recognise the language! I found tears were streaming down my face, and I was held in a place of pure joy. You literally couldn't wipe the grin off my face! I really felt God gave me the brief ability to speak fluent Romanian as a sign that he was honouring the promise he laid on my life of my calling to Eastern Europe!

Another amazing encounter, was when there was a cry out to God to end slavery, especially child trafficking. I know I am called to work with victims or those at risk of human trafficking, but always thought it would be women or adults! But as soon as the man cried out to God, I felt my heart pulled to the front. I immediately started crying and found myself literally running to the front, to the altar, to cry out to God. Now I'm wondering if my calling is to parent and love children who have been victims of human trafficking! Makes sense as we all know I have such a love for children, and many people here have told me it's a gift God has given me!

PROPHETIC DAY WITH RODNEY, ANDREW AND TEAM SATURDAY 13 JULY, THE BRIDGE CENTRE

There are two mountains in our lives. The first is the mountain of promise. Here, we discover what we are called to be and what we are called to do. The second mountain is about becoming and doing what God has purposed in and through us. I have found prophecy can help with both of these.

If you are unsure what Jesus has created you to be and do, then having a small team graciously pray and hear God for you can birth something wonderful in your heart. If you know something of what your are called to be and do but aren't there yet, then such a prophetic opportunity can encourage you on your journey, give you fresh insight, and the strength to press on.

We did this last year and it was really helpful to all who came. There will be sign-up sheets nearer the time so you can book in for a twenty-minute slot during the day.

All this will done with a heart to bless and encourage you.

ALL HANDS ON DECK!!

We are going to bless hundreds of people. Fun Day is an interchurch day FREE day for the wider community.

Last year's Fun Day was a great success. Over 600 people came, had fun, relaxed, heard about Jesus, built friendships, were cared for, prayed for and some even gave their lives to Christ!

But it almost didn't happen.

We need a big team this year who are willing to steward, help cook burgers, make tea, oversee children on bouncy castles and be there to keep people loved and safe.

A sign up sheet for help will be in Church from the middle of July. The more the merrier!!!



B Bible Society

The Bible Course

Explore the BIG story

New to the Bible or want to go deeper? *The Bible Course* is for you. It shows how the key books, famous characters and epic events form one **BIG** story, from Genesis to Revelation. The course also provides **tools** and **skills** that help apply the Bible to everyday life.

Our next course will run in September, details to follow. Contact Jon or Lizzie Hares if you are interested in coming.



FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY 10 AUGUST

11AM - 3PM

HIGHWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE



Free

BBQ FACE PAINTING
CRAFTS JUGGLING FOOTBALL
MAGIC SHOW COMPETITIONS
BOUNCY CASTLE AND MORE!

CONTACT MATT FOR MORE DETAILS: 07712 521046

A HIGHWORTH CHURCHES TOGETHER EVENT

ANTICIPATE THE FRUIT

by Ken Ford

'See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.'

— James 5:7

Last week I sowed some radish seeds. I confidently expect that I will shortly be enjoying the fruit! Throughout June, a lot of seed sowing went on in and around Highworth. There were regular gatherings in The Upper Room as we connected with the *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative and joined thousands of others in crying out to God for his power to be released, and for many to come to know Jesus as their Lord, Saviour and friend. At some of those gatherings, we named before God those we were longing to see come to faith—these were seed prayers.

Then the Harvest School team arrived: what a delightful mixture of nationalities, characters, ages and backgrounds. For four days they joined with us and seeds of God's love and kindness were sown in Grove Hill, Gloucester House, the Methodist Church, T T Linnet, the streets of Swindon, and Marlborough....the list goes on and on. The team were a real inspiration to us, and their comments on the Sunday morning suggest that we were able to encourage them in return.

So what now? Do we just 'hang in there' and hope for some tangible fruit from all this activity? Or do we continue to press

in for all God has for us? It's a choice. As a church family, together let's water all those sown seeds with fervent prayer (lots of opportunities in the Upper Room) and let's be on the lookout to further connect with, and share more of, God's love with the many contacts that were made throughout June.

'May he who goes forth weeping, bearing precious seed for sowing, return with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.'

— Psalm 126:6

Three of our friends share their reflections on the visit of the team from Harvest School:

I loved the fact that even though we came from various parts of the world, Jesus was the same to all of us. The Harvest group were expectant, open to do whatever was needed and just wanted to share God's love with whoever they met. The 'wow' moment for me was when Vitor stood up on Sunday and said that being with HCC had changed his experience of church, that we were family to each other.

Delbra Mathen

Having been to Harvest School ourselves, Jeanette and I were delighted to be part of the event and we felt an immediate empathy with our visitors. We were privileged to

share with them what mission in the local community can look like and perhaps be a model for their future adventures with Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit.

There were several highlights for me. Meeting youngsters with a passion for Jesus and their wanting to go deeper really impacted me. I was blown away in the Marlborough chapel by the sense of God's presence in those hallowed halls, and the worship in St Mary's was wonderful. On the streets on Saturday morning, Vitor and Derek both had words for people as we moved around. I loved it—let's hope for more Harvest Schools in the UK.

David Ketcher

I was inspired by the willingness of the team to jump straight in and love people - they felt like a natural extension of our church family. My favourite moment was when Sarah and I handed a greetings card with some words of encouragement to a lady doing her fruit and veg shopping — we'd had 'clues' that she was the person to give it to in our Treasure Hunting prayer time. As her husband gave her an encouraging grip on the shoulder she welled up, and said, 'You cannot possibly have known how much I needed this this morning. Thank you.' We didn't know, but Father God knew and saw, and used us, willing vessels, to show her that he did!

Laura Fisher

Love
MOLDOVA
FOUNDATION

06 July, 2:30pm
Camberley

**COME AND JOIN US FOR
OUR 1ST BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS!**

Hear first-hand from Sam and Leo Sandu as they join us for a special garden party to share all that you are enabling in Moldova.

Cream teas and bubbly on the lawn

All are welcome! See Sally Willson for more information.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH HCC

Over the course of the past academic year, the first cohort of the HCC Discipleship Training School has met once-a-fortnight on a journey of discovering more about who we are in God. Two of the 'students' — Jo Pearce and Richard Wathen — write to tell us about their experiences.

Jo Pearce



How can I describe the training school? It's not easy, every week was different; most weeks challenged my thinking, and while renewing of the mind sounds nice and, of course, spiritual, the reality is that it makes you vulnerable and messes with your head. The good thing is, at Training School you've got people to process it all with.

The author of Hebrews says, 'Let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good works'. In many ways, that's what Training School was about:

- **LET US:** We were in it together as a group, a body, and thereby accountable to one another.
- **CONSIDER:** We talked and read and journalled from week-to-week about the different subjects. Certainly, plenty of food for thought, some being easier to digest than others.
- **SPUR ONE ANOTHER:** Our sessions together were invariably thought-provoking, stirring, a kindling of thoughts. Some of us who could, met up on the 'in between' weeks to continue this.
- **LOVE AND GOOD WORKS:** Well, yes, we hope so, since that's the aim...

So, how did it run? Like a small group, we've met fortnightly since we started in September, with Matt, Andrew and Ruth Price joined us for alternate sessions. Each term had a broad theme, for example: Who we are in God; What does church/

leadership look like, and Revival. While those might sound familiar themes, we had books to read to help us explore deeper. For example, reading this, puts my identity on a whole new plane: 'Neither knowing God nor knowing self can progress very far unless it begins with a knowledge of how deeply we are loved by God.' Possibly —no probably— knowing how much we are loved by God is the most fundamental truth we can grasp. I'm not there yet, but I'm a bit further along that road than I was.

What did we do? Usually there was a teaching, sometimes a meditation or prophetic activation time, smaller group discussion and feedback. And, like school, there was homework, though thankfully unlike school, it was usually in the form of questions to consider for the following session rather than to hand in and have marked.

And we were encouraged to journal — something I've done from time-to-time, but not consistently. I found these pointers which we were given at the outset, really helpful—in relation to a passage you've read, an issue you've had to work through or a word you've needed to process, think: What has most impacted me? What are my thoughts/feelings about this? What seems most important about this? And then just write.... Try it. I'm journaling more than I ever used to, and I'm going back over what I've written from time-to-time to see the thread of what God is saying to me.

Basically, if you're thinking of doing Training School next year, or some time in the future, go for it!

Richard Wathen

Those of you who know me well, will know



that I am not the, 'Let's-talk-about-it-in-a-group-setting,' or 'Read-a-book-every-term,' type of person. The thought of committing to attend and be part of a group of five couples who go quite deep into both themselves

summer at HCC!

We want to take the opportunity over the summer to foster two key areas of Church life: worship and outreach.

Worship

The River is our chance to worship together with greater freedom than is afforded on a Sunday morning. The focus is meeting with Jesus and they are a great place for growth and encouragement.

Outreach

From 01 August. Meet. Pray. Go wherever we feel the Holy Spirit leads us. Open to all and you don't need to be an 'evangelist', you won't be pressured but you do need to be willing to say 'yes!' If you have a car bring it. We should finish and be back in Highworth before 10pm.

Feel free to keep meeting as small groups, and perhaps do something different.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open Garden, with Tea and Cake

More details to follow

Hawaiian Night

Our own Natalie Ketcher will be giving us a literal taste of Kona with Hawaiian food, Hawaiian fun, and hearing about her five-month adventure with YWAM.

Fun Day

We need lots of help to make this event wonderful for the wider community.

Picnic Walk

More details to follow.

Movie Night, with Fish and Chips

Always great evenings watching and inspiring film and being together. Let Matt Ford know you are coming for orders.

IT'S SUMMER AT HIGHWORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

LAST WEEK OF JULY UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

HAWAIIAN EVENING

WITH NATALIE KETCHER

Details to follow

OPEN GARDEN WITH TEA AND CAKE

26th July

Ken and Heather Ford's

FUN DAY

10th August

Highworth Community Centre

PICNIC WALK

17th August

Details to follow

MOVIE NIGHT WITH FISH AND CHIPS

23rd August

6pm, TBC+



RIVER

every Wednesday

7pm to 9pm, TUR*

OUTREACH

every Thursday

6:30pm (for 7pm), TUR*

* The Upper Room + The Bridge Centre

Registered Charity No. 1080002

continued from page 6

and what God really wants for them was enough for me to think of every excuse under the sun not to attend. However, thankfully Deb was there to hold my hand and to hold me to account; the latter was something I needed on quite a few occasions.

Our group was made up of five couples, I had known these people for several years, but only in a very on-the-surface type of way. Without any doubt, this course has brought us all closer together. We have shared, laughed and cried and, in doing so, it has brought us all closer to God.

Being honest with yourself and being honest with God naturally draws you into a deeper conversation with the Father. We were encouraged to journal every day— there is a big difference between thinking something and actually writing it down. I struggled with the idea of writing every night and, to be honest, I have not written as much as I should have, but looking back on what has been written not only shows me where I have come from, but highlights why I felt like I did which, in turn, helps me to understand why I did what I did or said what I said. The upside of journalling was that I was able to see the beauty around me in what God was doing, being able to do that every day is sheer beauty.

Part of the course involves one Friday evening session, followed by an all day Saturday session. I went in to it open-minded but with a small doubt of what I possibly gain from it. How wrong was I? Being human means we get marked by things that have happened to us in our past. It does not have to be major things, and we are all different so everyone has different marks, but I discovered that these things we take with us can lead us to think differently or behave slightly differently. In the end, we have to unpick it and give to God. He is bigger and able to deal with it much more efficiently.

Books! From the beginning of the course we were given books to read. Now, I am not one for books, I find it hard enough to read the Bible, never mind having to read another book. I duly read most of each book and there were indeed very good thought-provoking points. I thought that was all I was going to get out of it; It was not until I was having an unrelated conversation that I was able to bring to mind a point I'd read in one of the books. These books help you to go deeper into what God wants for you and for his Church. For the non-book reader, they are worth spending the time on.

One of the key objectives of this process was to raise leaders of the Church, not pastors or vicars or a senior leadership team, but people who are willing to put their head above the parapet, safe in the knowledge that they have the support of those around them and, more importantly, that they know that God is with them. I have really grown from being part of this course. I have grown closer to the people who facilitated it and I have very much built connections with the other couples. Most significantly, I have grown closer to my Father on this journey.

CITY ON a HILL

Come and be inspired about discipling young people

Wednesday 11 September 7:30 to 9pm
Warneford School Library

Registered Charity 1080002

hcc