

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 Matt Ford

Base Camp breather

A trip to Bethel Church

ELEVATE is coming

Find us on 

www.highworth-swindon.org

week of true prayer and fasting

Fasting is voluntarily going without food — or any other regularly enjoyed, good gift from God — for the sake of some spiritual purpose. It can be for one meal, one day or more.

In Isaiah 58, God clearly tells us what the purpose of that fast should be:

'This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once.'

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sunday worship

4 February

Speaker: Phil Hulks
Worship Leaders: Dawn Golton and Will Pearse
Set-up: Adrian Hares (GREEN)

11 February

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)
Worship Leaders: Jon Grant-Willson and Adrian Hill
Set-up: Matt Ford (YELLOW)

18 February

Speaker: Matt Ford (AAW)
Worship Leaders: Kathryn Ford and Tess Hares
Set-up: Matt Ford (YELLOW)

25 February

Speaker: Andrew Price (ELEVATE Sunday)
Worship Leaders: Janet Hodgson
Set-up: Ian Coulson (BLUE)

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During the week beginning 5th February, I encourage you to stop doing something for yourself to do something for someone else. I love that. We can all do it.

What you do this week is up to you. Give a little time over at the week's beginning to pray and think how you might show God's love to someone. Alongside this here's a few things that you can engage with which may help :

This Sunday you can hear about, donate and sign up:

Hear About

- Fairtrade

A vision of a world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods.

(<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>)

- A21

A mission to end human trafficking through awareness, intervention, and aftercare.

<http://www.a21.org/>

Donate

- Booth House, Swindon (shelter and support for the homeless)

They need toiletries (both for men and women) and clean underwear. Change someone's life - give up a pair of socks!

- CAP

We will be taking fish and chips round to many of our wonderful CAP clients on Monday night. Can you give £5 to bless someone with a treat?

Sign Up

- Monday, 6pm, Market square

We need three people with cars to quickly deliver fish and chips.

- Tuesday night

We will be walking Swindon Town Centre blessing the homeless.

- Friday afternoon, 2pm

We are praying and worshipping in Gloucester House, Highworth.

The word 'new', when we are described as 'new creations' (2 Cor. 5:17), literally means 'not found like before.' It means a deep

innovation and an utterly fresh opportunity. It really offers something new.

This 2018 as we look ahead, can we all look with the eyes of the Bible's NEW. Can we see ourselves, our church family and our communities as being 'not found like before'?

Blessings.

Matt Ford

Base Camp: where are we and what are we doing?

Tuesday 27th February, 8pm

Warneford School

Below the soaring peak of the world's highest mountain lies Nepal Everest Base Camp. A community living at over 5300m altitude gathered for one single purpose: the mountain. It is a place to connect, to plan and to strategise. It is also a place to rest, to recover and to be resupplied. There you will find many familiar faces, some even call it home and yet 1000's of enthusiasts visit every year to be inspired and to fulfill their dreams.

Atop the modest peak of Highworth Hill lies HCC. A community gathered from different altitudes with one single purpose. Jesus. It is a place to connect, to plan and to strategise. It is also a place to rest, to recover and to be resupplied. There you will find many familiar faces, many call it home and yet new faces are always appearing, some to visit, some to stay, some to be launched forward but all come to be inspired and to fulfill their dreams.

Clarity. A clear picture of who we are and what we do. That's the aim of our 'Base Camp' meeting on Tuesday 27th February. This is for the whole Church family, an important time that we hope will enable us all to understand what Church life looks like today, where and how we can each develop connections and provide together a platform for further excursions.

Hope to see you there.

Across the pond

Across the pond to stand in the river, that is.

The river is a picture in the Bible of God's advancing kingdom. It represents His presence in this world. It is transformational. It is healing. It is good. It is life.

Ezekiel was a prophet in the Bible and an exile. Taken from his home land of Israel and forced to live across the desert in Babylon. At a dark time, at a time of great trial, when all seemed lost, he received a vision of a river, a provision wide and deep (Ezekiel 47). This river touched the broken and the dead and brought life. God invited Ezekiel into that river, step by step until, steadily, he was out of his depth (in a good way).

For us as a family this has been a key picture describing our journey following Jesus. He invites us to measure off (experience and understand) a part of His life, live in that and then measure off some more. We have felt it is time to wade in deeper and so at the beginning of March we are heading across the pond (North Atlantic) to visit We Will Go Ministries and Bethel Church.

We first came into contact with Amy Lancaster and We Will Go Ministries in Mozambique back in 2011. Amy was one of the most radical, uncompromising loving people we had ever met and we have since grown a connection which culminated in Dave and Jeanette Ketcher moving out to Jackson, Mississippi, two years ago to work with Amy as missionaries.

Some of the friends we worked with in Cambodia are currently training at Bethel Church Redding, California. It is a church that believes God really is good and has pursued miracles in a very real and 'normal' way.

As a family we will be spending a week in each place to humbly learn, grow and look to live deeper in that River than we ever have before. We also want to honour Dave and Jeanette for their sacrifice and see what they've been up to!

If you would like to hear about our trip then we will be sharing at The Bridge on Tuesday 27th March, 8pm.

Matt and Kathryn Ford

what's on in february

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

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

02 February

Prayer for Israel

7:30pm, The Bridge

03 February

'Learning how to fight in God's army' teaching day

11am, The Bridge

w/b 05 February

Week of Prayer and Fasting

Small Groups meet this week

05 February

Freedom in Christ course

7pm, The Bridge

14 February

Highworth Churches Together Lent Lunches

12pm, Highworth Methodist Church

19 February

Freedom in Christ course

7pm, The Bridge

26 February

Freedom in Christ course

7pm, The Bridge

28 February

Highworth Churches Together Lent Lunches

12pm, Highworth Methodist Church

Highworth Prayer Network

Friday Blessings

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

A visit to Bethel Church, Redding

We had wanted to go out to Bethel in California for some time and the opportunity came for us in November when friends invited us to join them at a Sozo conference. We went a few days early to taste and see as much as we could.

We had started listening to Bethel's 'Sermon of the Week' podcasts about five years ago and while not tuning in every week, we have found them really helpful. The people at Bethel just seemed to have revelation about encountering God in a way that we had rarely heard elsewhere.

A few one-liners as tasters:-

'I can't afford to have a thought about me in my head that He doesn't have in His head about me.'

'Because nothing is impossible with God, I am required to take risks'

'The essence of the gospel is to do exactly what Jesus did and destroy the works of the devil.'

'Faith doesn't deny a problem's existence. It denies a problem a place of influence.'

So we went.

We arrived on a wet Friday evening – their first rain for months and everyone else was ecstatic! – straight into their regular Friday night meeting which was being held at a smaller venue because there was a leaders' conference at their main venue. The conference message, which was live streamed to us, began with a young girl (in her 20's) taking a risk and sharing some pretty amazing words of knowledge, including first names, surnames, significant dates, even a postcode, for various people at the conference, followed by prophesy for these individuals. All in all confirming that God had seen them, knows them, knew where they had come from and where He is taking them. These were absolutely life-changing moments for them and significant moments for us – what a start to our time there!

It set the tone for the whole visit; it was so evident that people expect the Holy Spirit to speak to them – and He does – both in and out of the meetings, including, as we found, in the coffee shop (aptly named HeBrews) where someone stopped in their tracks to give us a word.

During the weekend, we went to, in total, six separate services/events and we also enjoyed meeting with some people who live there, including Molly and Stephen (who Matt and Kathryn know from Cambodia), and Chloe (Vincent and Helen's daughter), her husband James and their baby, Poppy.

The Sozo conference ran from Monday to Wednesday with an array of great speakers, including both Bill and Beni Johnson, Banning Leibscher, Kris Vallotten, Dawna de Silva, Stephen de Silva. Overall the message, as with *Freedom in Christ*, is that we do not have to stay defined and held back by the lies that we have believed through life's circumstances. God really has made a way for release from captivity.

We know what should be possible with God because we read it in the Bible. Many of us have seen God move in special ways at times. But it is something else to be immersed in an environment where, in a more natural way than we have ever seen, people are moving in the spiritual realm. We left feeling encouraged, inspired and energised; what we all seek is more in reach than we thought! And what we love about HCC is that there is that same hunger.

We're looking forward to the coming days.

Mill and Jo Pearce

HCC Job Opportunity

An exciting opportunity has opened up for you to join us as the Administrator to the Trust. Working 16 hours per week, you will support the leaders and trustees by undertaking a variety of administrative tasks.

A job description is available from Mike Willson, who will also be able to answer any questions you may have about the role.

The closing date is Sunday 11 February.

tearfund

Tearfund has launched a 'Light up the Darkness' petition to persuade the Worldbank to invest more in local, clean and renewable energy (solar power). 1 in 7 people don't have access to electricity; this adversely affects their health, education and employment. Anyone who takes a few minutes to sign the petition could make a huge difference to the lives of many disadvantaged people.

www.tearfund.org/en/wewontstop

The petition can be found at:

www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/action/world_bank/



Gloucester House have two employment opportunities available:

1. Relief Staff – prepared to cover for staff off sick – may mean being available for night cover. Hours as needed.

2. Assistant Support Worker – 24 hours per week.

Relevant training will be given for both of these posts.

For further information, please see Phil Baker.

ELEVATE – back 25th February 2018 and 25th March 2018

Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard on ELEVATE Sundays. We've been able to welcome some new families through this which has been great and have even seen some of our friends from Little Treasures coming down.

Three things everyone can do to support this are:

1. Invite families you know! We go to extra effort with preparing ELEVATE so we really do need the whole church to get behind it and be invitational! Sharing the flyer on social media is good but the best way is asking people if they want to come with you. Don't forget the free breakfast! We can provide you with flyers if you want to give some away.

2. Encourage anyone in an ELEVATE t-shirt! The team work really hard to put this on. Offering to help get things for us (extension leads, craft materials, breakfast...!) is a real blessing.

3. Keep being the really friendly bunch you are. 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' John 13:35 (NIV)

ELEVATE
church for families!

25 February 2018
25 March 2018

STARTING AT 9:45am
WITH BREAKFAST

Highworth Warneford School
Shrivenham Road
Highworth, SN6 7BZ

Contact Jon:
07701 303760
jon@highworthchurch.co.uk

Organised by Highworth Community Church, Registered Charity No. 1080002

Christmas Through the Keyhole 2017

For those of you who don't know, the Christmas trail is a project we work on with churches across the town, where for one week we set up several 'stations' around St Michael's Church. Retelling the Christmas story by taking groups into scenes of the homes of the main characters, children become investigators of what might have happened, collecting clues that might help them find out what (who!) this story is all about.

Over 400 children went 'through the keyhole' on a journey back 2,000 years to question and investigate what might have happened. Supported by a veritable army of volunteers (there are around 40 of us in all from across the Highworth Churches!), it really is a great team effort.

Quotes from children and staff this year included, 'This is magical!', 'Wow,' and 'Did this really happen?' That's why for the past two years we've run the trail, because the enchantment of Christmas is not a fleeting feeling, wrapped up under the tree on Christmas morning! No, God gave his Son to us and for us. Love came down to be with us!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone who helped make it happen. We really couldn't do such a big project without you.