



highworth community church

November 22

registered charity no. 1080002

CONTACT

Trust and Obey

I don't know how many of you have been able to follow Matt's daily blogs on Ford Family Missions (Facebook). Matt is being very honest and vulnerable as he processes his thoughts and struggles. Do continue to pray for him and Kathryn in this next leg, that they can find quality times of rest and refreshment, even as they go through the stress of a house move.

Matt describes this season as a threshold, stepping into a time of anointing, release and restoration. Whilst continuing to understand, value and honour all God has been doing up to this point, it's about reopening wells of life which have become blocked. That is something which any of us who have been around awhile can identify with. It's not about change of structures, strategies or situations, but ongoing inner transformation. Yes please Lord, I'm up for fresh living water.

The starting point for me is knowing that He sees me and loves me unconditionally and then learning to trust Him completely. When life presents challenge after challenge it's remembering to lean on Him, joyfully doing what I can and trusting Him to work out all the rest. He is a whole lot bigger than all my mistakes and ideas of how things should work. It's a lifelong journey of letting go and letting God, learning to be obedient to the promptings of Holy Spirit. I can be stubbornly deaf at times but He is so patient and forgiving. He definitely has a sense of humour.

I have been reminded recently of a simple old chorus I used to sing in Sunday school, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

Simple, but conveying a deep truth which I am still processing.

The deep joy which is vital to unblocking wells is more than the being happy implied by this chorus. How I'd love to be someone who laughs and rejoices rather than wearing the stresses and strains of life on my aging face! Sounds like the key to healthy minds, bodies and souls to me.

Blessings and love to you all. Keep on pressing forwards, joyfully and with grace and courage.

Sally



IRIS

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
IRIS MOVIE PREMIER OF

NIFENTO

LOVE IN THE MIDST OF MOZAMBIQUE'S WAR OF TERROR

FOLLOWED BY A INTERVIEW WITH ROLLAND BAKER
13TH OF NOVEMBER | 4:00PM - 5:30PM
1A FORUM BUILDINGS, BATH, BA1 1UG

FREE EVENT | MORE INFO ON MOVIE HERE WWW.NIFENTO.COM

What's Happening

November

- 18th Worship Night 7:30pm
Upper Room
- 26th Worship Workshop
3-5pm @ Warneford
- 28th-2nd Christmas Trail for
schools

December

- 7th Mid-week Gathering
7pm URC
- 9th-11th Youth Residential
@ Macaroni Woods
- 14th Bags of Hope/CAP
Hamper packing
- 15th/16th Carols on Our Street
- 16th Worship Night 7.30pm
Upper Room
- 17th Outreach in Highworth
- 18th Christmas Service @ St
Michael's 6pm
- 25th Christmas Day service @
The Community Centre
10:30am

January

- 1st No Service - chance for
small group gatherings,
walks, meals etc

All Events at the Bridge Centre unless stated. More details on ChurchSuite and the weekly Connect emails.

I've got an idea - what shall I do with it?

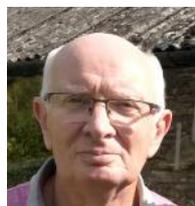
The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the benefit of all (1Corinthians 12v7). I guess we all have passages or themes from the Bible that are especially meaningful to us and that we tend to return to regularly. For me I love the way that whenever we read about the Church there's a real honouring of the importance of the individual, you and me, but always in the context of the wider Church family.

Ephesians chapter 4 sums it up brilliantly. Jesus has given gifts to the Church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Their job is to prepare God's people for works of service 'so that the whole body, joined and knit together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work.' There it is – each part doing its work in a united, cohesive and close knit Church family.

One of the challenges I used to find in my Church leading days was to ensure that the ideas and vision of individuals found a cohesive place in the life of the wider Church family. I well remember one occasion when within a few days four people came to see me, really excited about starting a group or meeting to explore a particular issue. Each of the ideas was really good and would be of value to the Church, but to have started them all at the same time would have led to an overcrowded programme, and probably to four rather 'thin' gatherings.

What a joy it was to find each of the individuals totally aware of the wider context, and happy to think through how their particular idea or vision could find a time and place that would cause it to prosper – they had learnt the secret of what it is to 'prefer one-another in love' (Romans 12 v10). Ultimately, over a period of a few months, we were able to find a place for each of the ideas to bear fruit in a way that brought blessing and growth to the whole Church family.

As we learn to increasingly sense the presence and leading of the Holy Spirit all sorts of thoughts and ideas will grow in our hearts. Can we encourage everyone to be enthusiastic about what we're sensing as individuals, but let's also be aware of our 'joined and knitted together' Church family. Let's share our thoughts through with the leadership team so that we can be sure the glorious body of Jesus, the Church, is moving forward, joined and knit together, with a sense of purpose and cohesion.



Ken

Finance Team update

We welcomed Kelly Jupp onto the team recently. The finance team now consists of Richard Wathen (Treasurer), Lizzie Hares (Trust Administrator), Mike Willson and Kelly Jupp. If you have any questions about finances or want to know how you can give to the work we do here at HCC, please email the team finance@highworthchurch.co.uk



Mollie and Steve

Here is an extract from Mollie and Steve's latest newsletter:

We have really loved reuniting with our old team mates and meeting the new ones. Every Monday we have "family time", a time of prayer and worship with our team and it has been really special! We are really thankful for each of our team members!

We are looking forward and planning to connect with our team on even deeper levels and we truly believe the more unity and love in our team the greater the impact we can have. We have so much belief and confidence in each of our Cambodian team and we long to help champion and serve them in anyway we can.

We have started going more consistently to the projects and outreaches we are involved with. It is in this times of outreaches we feel so full of Gods pleasure! I remember over 10 years ago Jesus gave me a picture of finding Him in the slums and on the Riverside/Red light area. It is something I always think about when I am in those locations and surrounded by such hopelessness, poverty and lack; I remember His promise to me that He is right there and as soon as I fix my eyes on Him again I watch as He moves on our kids and our families in awe and wonder. Every time we go out on outreaches people are always hungry for prayer and a touch of God and its been wonderful to see people be healed and touched by His presence.

We had the opportunity during the holidays here to go visit our old hometown on the coast. We lived there for two years in between living in Phnom Penh. It has changed beyond recognition, which was a little sad. However the people we love there and the communities we worked with were just the same and it was incredible to be reunited with them.

To read their latest news and updates in full visit www.mollieandsteve.info

RightNow Media

Want to grow in your relationship with Jesus but not sure where to start? Or have you ever wanted to run a small group but felt under-resourced? Or maybe books and reading just aren't your thing? Then RightNow Media is here to help you!

RightNow who?

RightNow Media is like the 'Netflix of Video Bible Studies.' It's a digital mega-library, headed up by one of the creators of the Alpha Film Series. Our good friend Rod Williams is involved as well so we have a good connection with them.

The resource is a comprehensive collection of faith-based video content that you can access whenever you want, wherever you are! It is compatible with all devices – even chromecast on your smart TV! There are apps available as well as a website but you access through one account. You can get the app once you're setup through our link below (keep reading!). As a church, we want to help you strengthen your faith. We believe that RightNow Media will equip you with quality content to grow in your discipleship and effectiveness. Everyone will benefit from the topics and titles offered; kids, youth, parents, married couples, single adults, working professionals, those who have just got to know Jesus or who have known him a long time – it's all aimed at helping you grow right where you are at!

Right, now what?

To access the content for free you have to go through our link.

Visit our website and click on the "Media" tab or go to <https://www.highworthcommunitychurch.org/media>.

Go down to the bottom of the page, Click the blue "sign up for an account" button and get yourself set up. There is also a link to RightNow Media in ChurchSuite. This is 100% free.

Right, now who can use it?

Anyone connected with HCC is welcome to use this link to access the media (that means you!). It is a gift from the church to you, your people (friends/family) and your small group. The videos are sharable and could be a great tool in reaching out and discipling others.

Right, now when?

Right now! The link is live so sign yourself up with an account. What are you waiting for?

Finally, please don't worry! We know some people struggle with technology and find that phones, computers etc a challenge! We don't want this to be a worry to anyone. We are not moving "online" and no one will be excluded if they don't join in. But we do want to equip those people for whom this could be a huge blessing and a great tool. If you have questions or concerns about any of the above please come and chat with me.

Jon



The graphic is a vertical poster with a gradient background from orange at the top to blue at the bottom. At the top, it says 'rightnow MEDIA' in white. Below that, in smaller white text, it says 'Our church's Bible study library is now digital...'. The main headline is 'AND GIGANTIC.' in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, it says 'Over 20,000 discipleship videos for kids, youth, and adults.' in white. In the center, there are several overlapping images of mobile devices (a tablet and two smartphones) displaying the RightNow Media interface. Below the devices, it says 'GET FREE ACCESS' in white. Then, it provides instructions: 'Go to highworthcommunitychurch.org.uk/media' and 'Click the sign-up button, fill out your profile and explore!'. It also mentions 'There is also a link in ChurchSuite'. At the bottom, there are logos for various devices: android, chromecast, Apple TV, Roku, and Fire TV. The website address 'www.rightnowmedia.org' is at the very bottom in white.

Bridge Update

The Bridge team has been faithfully serving our community over the past couple of months. Next time you pop your head around the door of the bridge, please do encourage them, and remember to be praying for them often!

As well as the daily drop in and weekly knit and natter group, since September, the surgery team has helped people to successfully complete:

- 1 Universal Credit application
- 2 Children's Disability Living Allowance Applications
- 2 Adult Personal Independence Payment Applications
- 2 Blue Badge applications, with another ongoing
- 1 Personal Independence Payment Appeal
- 1 Support for family on a low income



The food collective team have issued 37 food parcels.

Altogether this is 46 measurable acts of kindness for people often in desperate circumstances. And this is just the measurable ones! When people come in they are often carrying a huge burden. But they are experiencing the truth that "Hope is Alive Today".

I just wanted to thank and celebrate all of our team, and all that God is doing through The Bridge Centre. Be encouraged and pray the Holy Spirit would use every opportunity for the benefit of the Kingdom of God.

Jon

Christmas

With Highworth Community Church

Carols on Our Street
Thursday 15th/Friday 16th December
Let us know if you'd like to host

Outreach in Highworth
Saturday, 17th December
During the Saturday market

Carol Service
Sunday 18th December
A joint service with our friends at St Michael's Church 6pm

Christmas Day
Sunday, 25th December
10:30am at Highworth Community Centre

Registered Charity 1080002

Christmas outreach

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to reach out. There is generally a great sense of openness to the strange ancient story of the King of Heaven being born in a bed of straw! Outreach for the Kingdom is a whole church family venture so now's the time we need you to be thinking about how you can get involved. You don't have to do everything, but you may want to if you have the time and passion!

Christmas in a box trail

This interactive trail for schools is running at St Michael's Church between 27th October and 2nd December. We need volunteers to make it happen. It's fully scripted and training is given. Contact Jon Hares to get involved.

Carols on Our street

Would you like some carol singers from HCC to visit your street to spread joy? Then this is for you! In previous years what's worked well has been serving hot drinks and festive refreshments to invite your neighbours to enjoy! If you would like to host this on your street then we can provide you with resources. To make this happen, we also need some carol singers to go along and support each street's event. If you are particularly musical and want to lead some singing, event better! Contact Lizzie Hares if you'd like to be involved.

Bags of Hope and CAP Hampers

Wednesday 14th December, 9am at St Michael's Church we'll be packing bags and hampers ready to distribute to families in need in Highworth and surrounding areas. All help greatly appreciated! Speak to Jon Hares to sign up to help.

Carol Service with St Michaels

Can you invite your friends and neighbours to hear about the Christmas message? Speak to Janet Hodgson to find out more.

CAP Christmas Event

This is happening at St Michael's Church, on the evening of Monday, 19th December. Speak to Eoli if you'd like to help out.

Outreach in Highworth

During the market on Saturday, 17th we'd love to bless the high street businesses and shoppers with prayer and hand out refreshments to stall holders. Do you have a passion to share Jesus very simply at this time of year? Look out for more details nearer the time.