

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK...

May 2022



*Please join us at 10:30am on Sunday, in the building or on Zoom
Please note that you will still need to wear masks when entering/leaving the building and when singing, but once seated you may remove your masks.*



Church Family Gathering

Thursday 19th May – in the church at 8pm

(Zoom available for those of us who are clinically vulnerable).

The key focus of our gathering in May will be to discuss and discern how we develop our community life at ABC.

Historically the church has run house, or small-groups and then more recently Missional Communities were developed. Those who are a part of these groups all testify to the significance and impact of them over recent years.

As we emerge from the pandemic and are able to meet, the ache in us all is for community – shared lives where we find care and support, study and understanding, growth and an outworking of our faith.

At May's Church Family Gathering we want to re-focus and re-launch this essential aspect of our Christian living. So what do you think? What would best help you *and* be of significance to others?

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Notice to the church

Dear ABC Church Family,

Your Invitation

In February and March we invited everyone to attend the Creating Sanctuary Course – aimed at helping ABC become a safer and more welcoming place for LGBT+ people. Over a hundred people attended the course in total and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive about the course, its facilitators Luke and Myra and about the beneficial impact for ABC.

In the near future we hope to make a brief statement about this which would register our undertaking of this course and how we wish ABC to be a safe and welcoming place for LGBT+ people.

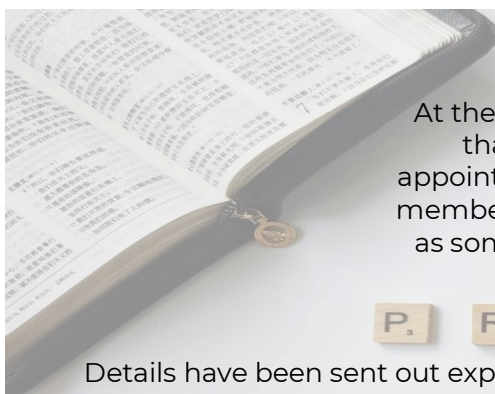
You will recall from what I said in February that the Creating Sanctuary Course was to be followed by an opportunity to examine the Bible on this matter; and indeed many of you fed back that you wanted ABC to now do this. So on **17th & 24th May**, two consecutive Tuesdays, we shall be holding two evenings where we will look at the Bible in relation to this issue. These gatherings will be in-person at Hale Road with those who are isolating for health reasons able to request a link to 'Zoom-in'. (We especially think that it is important to do this in-person as this aids our listening, praying and conversation together). At these times we also want to share some stories from those within our church family who have direct experience of this issue.

This will be followed by two dates in June (speakers and dates to be confirmed) when we will invite two speakers to present their different views on the matter of LGBT+ inclusion.

Just as we have taken a pause after Creating Sanctuary to stop and reflect, we will do this again after these Bible studies and evenings with contrasting views. This is necessary and vital to the process of discernment – listening to scripture, each other and the Spirit who leads us into all truth.

Grace and peace,

Ashley & Andrew



Elders nominations

At the recent church family meeting we shared the news that we are starting the process of discerning and appointing new elders to serve our church. We have invited members to recommend the person, or people, you discern as someone who God may be calling to eldership of ABC.

P. R. A. Y.

Details have been sent out explaining the process and recommendation forms and a members list have been included in the email. Please pray about who might be a good person to fulfil these roles. If you have any queries please contact Sally Hickson via email: secretary@altrinchambaptist.org or phone: 07906137180

💧 WHAT'S NEWS THIS WEEK ...

Houston, We Have A Problem!

If you have been in Hale Rd in the past few months you will have noticed that we are having problems with the projectors in the building. One of the projectors is faulty and will not stay on and the other is not giving a bright enough image. We are very aware of the problem and are actively pursuing a solution but this is going to take a little more time. The church agreed the funding to remedy this at the last church meeting and we are gathering the necessary quotes so that we can appoint a supplier to provide new projectors and larger screens. In the interim we will pull the blinds down a little lower than usual and thank you for your patience while we get this sorted.

Tim



**We Need
YOU!**

Would you like to be part of the Stewarding ministry team? We really need some more people to help with stewarding and welcoming people on Sundays. If you would like to serve the church in this way, please contact Elaine Gillett elainegillett1@gmail.com

Children's activities

Children's Church age 2.5 to year 6 Sunday mornings. Come meet some friends, have some fun and find out more about God and his family.

If you would like to support with children's church please contact racheldowney@altrinchambaptist.org There are opportunities for IT, one to one support for children with additional needs, music, small group support, helping with refreshments, craft & activity leading.



Team for toddlers.

If you would like to be part of a team that serves the parents, carers and youngest members of our community on a Wednesday or Thursday morning at the hub. There are opportunities for helping with refreshments, family support, playing with children so parents can support each other, setting up / organising up activities etc

Youth activities

Friday night @ 7:00pm: At The Hub from 7:00pm till 8:30pm, all ages from 11 to 18 welcome, we will have a pool table, table tennis set up, and space to catch up with each other. We will also have an optional prayer time in the evening and more organised games.

Sunday morning @ 10:30am: Breakfast Club - This will run alongside the morning church service and will be in The Hub. Drop off young people before you go to church, from 10:20. We will be looking at the bible & prayer & having fun. Pickup young people after the service

Sunday evening @ 6:30pm: Youth Alpha - Lower lounge, Hale road, from 6:30 till 8:00.



WHAT'S NEWS THIS WEEK ...

Opportunities we need help with:

Altrincham Interchange Platform 4 - Renew Wellbeing

This is a very exciting opportunity to have a presence in Altrincham outside of the Hub and Hale Road and create an environment where we can sit with people, listen and pray. The model of 'Renew Wellbeing' is to have an activities space where people can drop in, make and do whilst having informal conversations. There is a second space for prayer; a place that is open for reflection and also to lead people in prayer.

We will be appointing a p/t coordinator for the activities space but we would like to gather a group of volunteers who have a heart for people's wellbeing and want to explore this opportunity to rest, lament, and breathe deeply with our community.

We could open the rooms on Saturdays, so if you've always wanted to do something like this but have commitments during the week, this could be for you.

Wednesday Cafe

We want to create a space to enable and support people to access the internet, with the aim of widening digital inclusion but also building relationships.

One idea is to develop links with the jobcentre (DWP), to encourage people who are financially struggling to use our digital kit in a relaxed environment and help them with applications. We have a CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) advisor running drop in sessions in the Hub from 10 - 12. What else could we do?

Can you make a cup of coffee and serve someone cake? Can you encourage people? Do you know your way around a laptop? Do you have a heart for people and want to help them get back on their feet? If you have answered yes to any one of those questions, is this the opportunity you've been looking for?

Ukrainian drop in/creche

We are providing social opportunities by running a Ukrainian drop in session on Monday afternoons 1 - 3 and are hoping to provide creche facilities on Friday morning whilst Ukrainians have English lessons. If you can help with either of these sessions, please let Rachel Muter know—rachelmutter@ourhub.org



Home for Good is thrilled to be partnering with Riding Lights Theatre Company for a UK-wide tour of a fantastic original play called *My Place*.

In a deeply moving and insightful performance, *My Place* shares the interwoven stories of four individuals as they journey through the care system. An individual child, a pair of siblings and an unaccompanied child refugee, they have different backgrounds and journeys, brought to life through a range of colourful story-telling techniques, including song and spoken word. Each story highlights the need for all vulnerable children to have a safe, stable, and loving home where they can thrive.

My Place will be coming to the North West from **14th to 20th May**, and will be at Bethany Church Gatley on Saturday 14th May and St Peter's Church Halliwell, Bolton on Friday 20th May. Performances start at 7:30pm and each evening will finish with an opportunity to hear about Home for Good and how each of us can play our part in transforming the lives of vulnerable children and young people. Tickets are £10 each (£8 for concessions). Please click on the link below for more information

<https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/events/riding-lights-tour-my-place>

WHAT'S NEWS THIS WEEK ...

Pray for Ukraine

Please refer to this month's World Mission Team Prayer News for prayer needs for Ukraine. Find all the latest updates from BMS World Mission on our website and social media channels, as well as up-to-date news about how you can pray, help or give. www.bmsworldmission.org

Practical Help

We are working with the other Trafford Community Hubs, existing local charities, and informal networks of sponsors to support those coming to the UK from Ukraine. The first guests have arrived with sponsors! Trafford Community Hubs (of which Our Hub is part) have information at www.traffordhubs.org/ukraine about:

- What's happening locally
- How to volunteer with existing programmes
- Where to donate financially
- How to sign up to be a emergency host for short periods of time (not the minimum 6 months of the Homes for Ukraine sponsoring scheme)

ABC are hosting and enabling:

- Distribution of Trafford welcome boxes to guests
- A drop-in session on a Monday afternoon for Ukrainian guests at the Hub
- A "free shop" for Ukrainian guests to come and select clothes and toiletries, hosted from the room next to the office in Hale Road. We're currently very well stocked due to very generous donations!
- English language lessons on a Friday morning at Hale Road
- Space for Manchester Homes for Ukraine to operate from.

More information about what is going on, local charities that are supporting the Homes for Ukraine scheme, & useful information for sponsors & people that want to volunteer can be found at www.manchesterhomesforukraine.com

To offer time, skills or stuff, please join www.facebook.com/groups/southtraffordwelcomes.

Financial Support

There are many ways of providing financial support to help the people of Ukraine. The DEC Ukraine Appeal, The Disasters Emergency Committee [Home | Disasters Emergency Committee \(dec.org.uk\)](http://www.dec.org.uk).

Gifts made through the church are being sent via the Baptist Missionary Society. You can also give directly through BMS at [BMS Ukraine appeal - BMS World Mission](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ukraine)