

 **Home Church
Watton**

Web site:

www.homechurchwatton.co.uk



**THE HOLY SPIRIT:
SACRED SONGS—
THE PSALMS**

**APRIL—JUNE
2024**



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Home Church Watton. This year has started off to be an amazing time of hearing from God and we know that He is not finished yet!

As we continue into 2024, over the next 3 months we will be spending time with the Holy Spirit and then dwelling in the Psalms.

Be ready for God to speak to you and lead you on.



APRIL—THE HOLY SPIRIT

Written by Elaine Best

This month, following on for the celebration of Easter and as we look forward to the day of Pentecost, we will be focusing on the person who is the Holy Spirit. Over the next four weeks we have an amazing opportunity to draw closer to the Holy Spirit and learn more about who He is. I would like to encourage you to spend some time daily dwelling with the Holy Spirit and asking Him to reveal more about Himself to you.

You will see at the end of each week there are some suggested verses for you to meditate on and pray through or maybe you would like to spend a few minutes praying in tongues, drawing closer to the Holy Spirit and dwelling in His presence and at the end of the month see how much deeper your relationship with Him is.



WEEK ONE : PERSON WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT



This week we will examine more about who He is and how He is described through the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit we often think of as literally that a spirit, a force that influences but He actually the third person of the trinity and the Bible clearly states that He is the Lord, Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:13 TPT ***Now, the “Lord” I’m referring to is the Holy Spirit, and wherever he is Lord, there is freedom.***

As well as being part of the trinity the Bible also reveals that He was there at the beginning, Genesis 1:2 NLT ***And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.***

Billy Graham said that ‘The Bible is clear that the Holy Spirit is God Himself.’ The Holy Spirit is real, He is sovereign and He is a person.

When we grasp hold of this truth, then we can really start to know who The Spirit of God is and that He speaks directly to us. Jesus said in John 15:26 TPT ***“And I will send you the Divine Encourager from the very presence of my Father. He will come to you, the Spirit of Truth, emanating from the Father, and he will speak to you about me.”***

As a person who speaks to us, this reveals that we can have a close intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us (John 14:16), this week I encourage you to spend time on your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26&27 mediate on these verses.



WEEK TWO : THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Last week we established that the Holy Spirit is person who we have the privilege to have a personal intimate relationship with and this week let us explore more of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in our lives and what that means for us.



The baptism of the Holy Spirit automatically occurs when we accept Jesus into our lives just as promised ***And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Savior, the Holy Spirit of Truth, who will be to you a friend just like me—and he will never leave you. The world won't receive him because they can't see him or know him. But you know him intimately because he remains with you and will live inside***

The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us and gives us guidance and direction and He starts the work of transforming us. Yet God wants more for us and wants us to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18) and to move in the anointing that comes from this.

Our example is Jesus, who at the very start of His ministry sought out the Holy Spirit and chose to move in the anointing. Luke records the baptism of Jesus in Luke 3:21-22 Jesus ministry only started after this and similarly the disciples only started to move into their ministries after the Day of Pentecost when they too received the anointing of the Holy Spirit and were continually refilled.

The word baptism means to immerse, so let us be fully immersed in the Holy Spirit, soaked from head to toe with His anointing so that we can move into all that God has for us.

This week verses to meditate on are John 14:26, Romans 8:9 and 2 Corinthians 3:17. What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you this week and ask for his refilling.

WEEK THREE : TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Last week we explored the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the need we have to be continually refilled so that we can move into all that God has for us, this week let us expand on this and what happens when we spend time dwelling with the Holy Spirit.

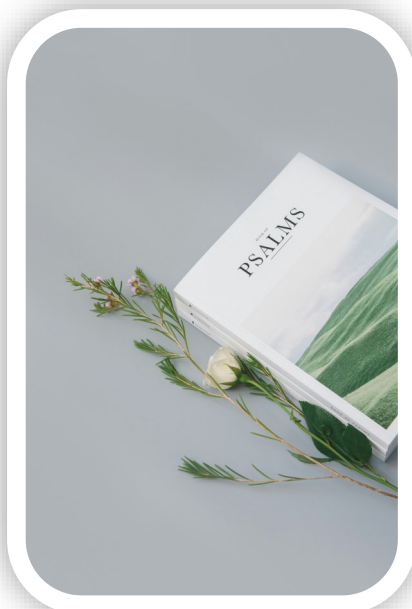
As believers we have moved into a relationship with God and it is so important that we spend time cultivating that relationship and allowing it to grow and deepen.

When we spend time with the Holy Spirit and are continually refilled then the transforming work of the Spirit happens.



Paul wrote in Romans 12:2 ***Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.*** The more we deepen our relationship with the Holy Spirit, the more we reflect Christ and are transformed.

The way we think, the way we respond, the way we act are all transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Galatians 5:22-23 describes the fruit of the Spirit, these are nine attributes that are produced when we live in communion with the Spirit. We do not just demonstrate one but all.

The Holy Spirit is at work in all of us transforming us and deepening our understanding of who God is and what He is calling us to do.

This week meditate on Galatians 5:22-23, thoughtfully pray through this and allow the Holy Spirit to transform you more and more.

WEEK FOUR : MOVING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you. Corrie Ten Boom.

Philippians 2:13 AMP *For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.* Reminding us that we need the power of the Holy Spirit to see what God has in store for us. We need the Spirit of God to move to see revival and renewal.

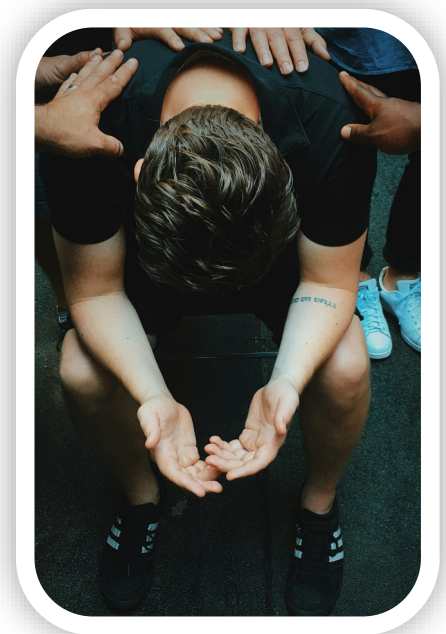


Acts 2 tells us of the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit after the resurrection of Jesus and just like at the baptism of Jesus by the Holy Spirit, this outpouring marked the beginning of the ministries of the disciples of Jesus and the birth of the early church.

Also with the outpouring came power, miracles and the preaching of the Gospel, people's ears were opened, hearts touched and people responded accepting Jesus as their Saviour.

The last verse in this chapter tells us

They were continually filled with praises to God, enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were coming to life. V47 TPT





When the Spirit of the Lord moves things happen, lives are changed, healed, renewed, restored and transformed. Revival always starts with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. At the beginning of the year God spoke to us the promise in Ezekiel 37, these verse hold the promise of revival, of restoration and of life.

In order for us to see this, to live it, to experience it we need the Holy Spirit to move, and God wants that for us, for this town, for this country, for the world.

Lets us seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that we can move into all that God has for us as individuals and as a body. The Holy Spirit is what unites us, He is what connects us all together and flows through each one of us.

This week let us meditate on Ezekiel 37 and seek an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the church and I would like to encourage you to listen to a couple of worship songs, the first is Spirit Move and the second is Spirit Break Out, [Spirit Move // Spirit Break Out // Miracles - Jeremy Riddle \(youtube.com\)](#) I will post links in our church group as well.



MAY: LIVING WORSHIP THROUGH THE PSALMS

Written by Terrie Thomas

Here is a group of Psalms that have been placed together and they have the title of The Psalms of Ascent or The Stairway, this group numbers from Psalm 120-134.

The Psalms are my favourite book in the bible, and I had a choice of 15 psalms to choose from, but these 4 are psalms that have spoken to me in the past, I hope you enjoy them.

The psalms are a book where I can find peace, joy, love and sometimes God even highlights sin in my life.

In the book of Psalms, we can hear many of the themes for the contemporary music that we sing today.

These psalms of Ascent were used to encourage the Israelites as they climbed up to the temple at Jerusalem. It helped them to focus on God, to seek forgiveness for any sins, to open their hearts and worship God.

WEEK ONE : PSALM 121



*I look up to the mountains and hills,
longing for God's help.*

*But then I realize that our true help and
protection comes only from the Lord.*

And today we can be encouraged by the words of the Psalm, as the psalmist was encouraged as he looked to Jerusalem where the ark of God was, the symbol of the presence of God.

We too can be encouraged by the Holy Spirit who lives in each one of us.

Our help comes from God above. We can lift our eyes with hope, expectancy, desire, and confidence.

Psalm 121 v.7-8 says

The Lord will keep you from all harm- he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more.

Action point.

This week why not spend some time meditating on these 2 Psalms, perhaps reading them in different versions, and know that God is with you always, during all the seasons of your life.



WEEK TWO : PSALM 126

In v. 1-3 The psalmist is telling us that the Israelites had times of great spiritual growth and these times (v.2) were marked by joy. But he goes on to v.4.

Restore our fortunes Lord, like streams in the Negev.

Just as the Israelites went through times of spiritual dryness, so do we. Sometimes floods of God's Spirit came powerfully and suddenly, like the streams from distant mountains that would feed the Negev, the Israelites were also restored dramatically by God.

We need to rest in Jesus in difficult times and know the flood of the Holy Spirit will come and refresh us.

Action point.

Whatever you are going through this week, know that tears in prayer are like seeds that will come to fruition in the lives of those you care for.



WEEK THREE : PSALM 133

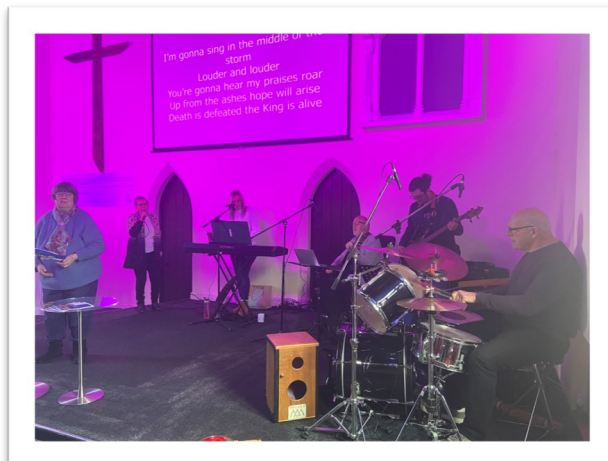
How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Psalm 133 is not a very long psalm, but in 3 verses it says it all.

God hasn't made all his people the same, we all have our good points, bad points, and bits in-between.

The Israelites had nearly reached Jerusalem, and the Psalmist is telling us that although the people are all different, together they make up something wonderful.

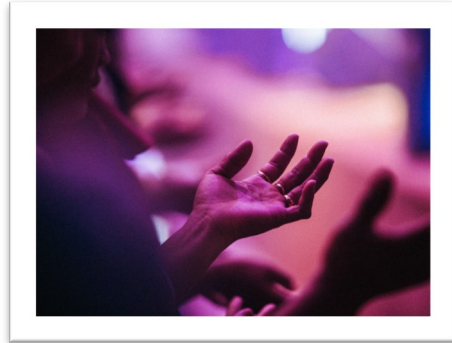


God blesses our work when we work together. If a group of musicians playing different instruments all play a different song, the noise which is what it will be, will not be good.

When the group of musicians come together, they may be playing different instruments, but they are playing the same song, the sound is amazing.

Action point,

Read Ephesians 4 v. 2-3.



WEEK FOUR : PSALM 134



The Israelites have reached the top of the mountain, they have arrived at the temple.

Some may have had a difficult journey, as they have travelled perhaps facing sin, hurts or upsets or pain in their lives.

We read in Psalm 121, that God is always with us, no matter how difficult the journey is.

And in Psalm 126 we read that sometimes we go through times of spiritual dryness, but at these times we need to know that the Holy Spirit will refresh us

In Psalm 133 we read how good it was to live in unity.

Psalm 134 – the Israelites have been on a journey, perhaps not always an easy one, but they have arrived at the temple in Jerusalem, and here as was their custom they would pray and praise God.

So, the greatest thing for us, is to live in His presence always staying thankful in our hearts.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Dereham Road, Watton Norfolk IP25 6ER

HOME CHURCH | 2024

WHATS ON

1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS PRAYER MEETING 11AM

2ND MONDAY MONTH DIABETES UK

TUESDAYS THE BIG HOUSE 12.30-2.30PM

FRIDAYS FRIENDSHIP CLUB 10-12

SUNDAYS SERVICE 10.30-12

For further details call James: - 07585 793670 or Elaine: - 07976890154

email: -info@homechurchwatton.co.uk



Prayer Meeting.
1st and 3rd Monday of the month.
11am at the church.

Join us to
pray together



Meets in the church

Diabetes UK

2nd Monday of the month at 10am



Please keep an eye open for more information about upcoming events for Arise and the Forge

ARISE REFRESHMENT DAY

Saturday 13th April 2024

COST £ 10.00 INCLUDING LUNCH

Home Church, Dereham Road, Watton, Norfolk, IP25 ER

TO BOOK

CONTACT:

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Tel: Elaine 07976 890154



THEME **'Come as you are'**

Ladies, you are warmly invited to come and join us on our next Arise Refreshment Day! Come and see what God has in store for us with a day filled with fellowship, laughter, praise and worship.

PRAYER FOCUS

We will start this month spending time with the Holy Spirit, so our prayer focus for the next three months I would like to encourage you to continue to spend time dwelling with the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to guide you and build your relationship with Him. Enter into His presence with expectation that He will speak to you and draw you close.

Following on from Ezekiel 37 and the promises held here, I strongly believe that God IS on the move and that we will see miracles, salvation, restoration and much more. So let us pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon this town and surrounding areas. Let us ask for opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and that the eyes, ears and hearts of those who do not know Him are opened. If we want to see revival it starts in our hearts, with us passionate in prayer and seeking the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2: 42-47 Every believer was faithfully devoted to following the teachings of the apostles. Their hearts were mutually linked to one another, sharing communion and coming together regularly for prayer. *43*A deep sense of holy awe swept over everyone, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. *44*All the believers were in fellowship as one body, and they shared with one another whatever they had. *45**Out of generosity they even sold their assets to distribute the proceeds to those who were in need among them.* *46**Daily they met together in the temple courts and in one another's homes to celebrate communion. They shared meals together with joyful hearts and tender humility.* *47**They were continually filled with praises to God, enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were coming to life.*

How encouraging is this scripture, so let us come together and pray together for God to move.

JUNE: WHY THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Written by Terrie Thomas

Last month we focused on 4 Psalms that were taken from The Psalm of Ascent or The Stairway.

This month we are again focusing on the Psalms, but I have chosen one Psalm, a Psalm of David, Psalm 23.

This Psalm must be one of the best known of all the Psalms, it is a Psalm where we can find hope in times of great fear and panic. Where we can find peace and rest at other times.

President George W. Bush quoted from it when he addressed the nation from the Oval Office on the evening of the 911 attacks.

In Psalm 23 David speaks quite personally of God. He claims that the Lord is his Shepherd.

As we go through this month, I pray you will know the Lord as your Shepherd, that you will know that He provides all you need, that He restores you, guides you, protects you and comforts you.



WEEK ONE : THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD BECAUSE HE KNOWS ME

Psalm 23 v.1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

David began Psalm 23 by saying “The Lord is my shepherd.” This statement shocked the readers of the biblical times because in ancient Israel they would usually say “our” God. **Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (Deut. 6 v.4).** Forgetting that the God of Israel is also the God of individuals. This might be a reason Jesus told them the parable of The Lost Sheep in (Luke 15 3-7).

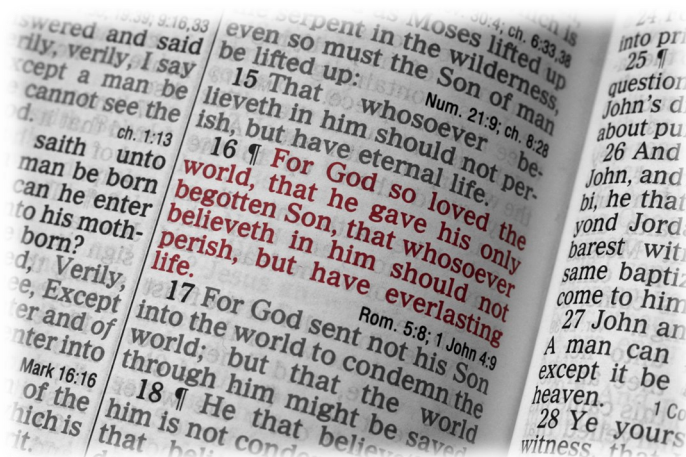


A single flock of sheep can have as few as 10 or as many as hundreds. But the good shepherd knows each and every sheep in his flock regardless of how big the number can be. (John 10 v. 3-5)

So, we see that David uses the metaphor of the Shepherd to describe God, he is not just talking about a name for the Lord but the relationship that exists between God and his covenant children.

Action point.

Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, as your Shepherd, why not read John 3.16 and John 1.12



WEEK TWO : THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD BECAUSE HE CARES FOR ME

Psalm 23 v 2. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me besides quiet waters.

The green pastures are the rich and green pastures, where the sheep need not move from place to place to be satisfied. The fields and even parts of the desert would be green during the winter and spring. But in summer and autumn, the sheep would be led to many places in search of food. God's care is not based on the seasons of our lives, he is not there in just good or bad times, His love is constant and abundant.



The Shepherd cared for his flock, he didn't allow the sheep to drink from running water (rivers etc.) because sheep whilst bending to drink the water might fall into the water. The shepherd would draw water from wells, these wells would be deep and would need strength to pull the water up.

Action Point,

Just as the shepherd provided for his sheep, we can read in [Matthew 6 25-34](#) how God provides for us.

WEEK THREE : THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD BECAUSE HE RESTORES ME

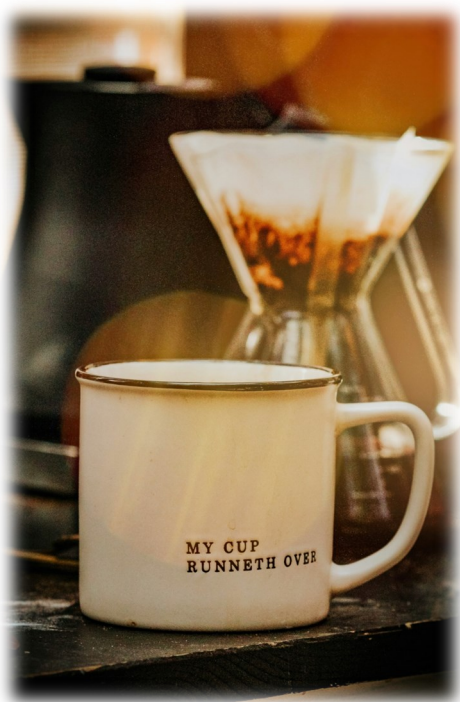
Psalm 23 v. 3 He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

There are many characteristics that set sheep apart from other animals. They are incapable of defending themselves. Unlike a dog or other household animals if a sheep falls on its back they cannot get up unless someone rolls them over and help them stand on their own feet.



The most common reasons that sheep fall are down to natural causes such as dehydration, starvation as well as vultures, Hyenas, and wild dogs.

A competent shepherd would scan his flock for any fallen sheep and would rush to their aid if he finds any in difficulty.



Action point

We can be just like the sheep, incapable of defending ourselves against Satan's schemes, especially because of our fallen nature that dominates our behaviour. (Psalm 51 v.5).

We can come before our Lord when we sin, and ask for forgiveness, we must leave no room for feelings of guilt. And the Lord our God will forgive us our sins, and restore us.

WEEK FOUR : THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD BECAUSE HE PROTECTS ME

Psalm 23 v. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.



The phrase “shadow of death” portrays death as a deep shadow or as deep as darkness. This image of death compliments the metaphor of the shepherd because the shepherd at times must lead his flock to feeding grounds which might have been across ravines with sharp cliffs. Apart from the risk of the sheep slipping, the chances where, these ravines were inhabited by wild animals. Yet the sheep that follow in the path of the shepherd needn’t worry, because the shepherd would fight any predator off. (1 Sam17. 34-36).

This darkness among the ravines symbolizes different seasons in David’s life. His victory over Goliath was a turning point for both good and bad. The good was he unconsciously won the hearts of people in Israel. The bad was Saul envied him so badly that he wanted him dead.



When God guided David to the throne, he actually walked him through the valley of the shadow of death, for God’s hand of deliverance was over David in every situation he found himself.

We go through different seasons in our lives, we might never face the things that David did, but trials and tribulations occur in all our lives in different forms. God is with us and will take us through our “valley of the shadow of death.”

WEEK FOUR : THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD BECAUSE HE EXHALTS ME



Psalm 23 v. 5-6 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This verse describes the Lord’s faithfulness to his children even in times of great storms, of turmoil.

David’s life never lacked people who envied him and desired his fall and death. Example King Saul (1 Sam.18 7-10), even his own son (2 Sam. 16 v.11). Yet Psalm 23 tells us that God exalted and honoured David and put his enemies to utter shame.

In biblical times the host of a banquet would anoint the honoured guests with oil which was made from olive oil and perfume.

The overflowing cup meant, “My cup is an abundant drink”. It refers to a shepherd’s cup, which was a large, hollowed out stone that could hold forty or fifty gallons and from which the sheep drank.



Action Point,

David was a skilled warrior, a king who won the hearts of his people, he was called and anointed by God.

David didn't seek to retaliate or engage his enemies in his own strength. We can see this in the battle against Goliath. He never sought to avenge his enemies, which was evident in his reaction to Saul's wickedness.

David believed that the battle and vengeance both belonged to the Lord. In doing so he waited upon the Lord.

If you are holding on to hurts that others have done to you, lay them down, give them to the Lord, because the Lord will exalt you, he will honour you and he will give you overflowing provision in times of hardship.

For Jesus commanded his disciples and us, to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

Matt. 5 v. 44 TPT

However, I say to you, love your enemy, bless the one who curses you, do something wonderful for the one who hates you.

Upcoming Events

April

6th Men's Breakfast

13th Arise Refreshment Day speakers Sue Evans and Elaine Best

Sunday 14th Guest Speaker Jeff Evans

May

10th Pizza and Games Evening

12th Fellowship Meal

June

21st Praise Evening

July

14th Guest Speaker Daryl Mallet
And Church BBQ

August

25th Church is closed for Awaken

September

7th Arise Refreshment Day with Jo Hargreaves



APRIL—THE HOLY SPIRIT
MAY—SACRED SONGS LIVING WORSHIP
JUNE—SACRED SONGS PSALM 23

Our Mission Statement

“The purpose of Home Church is to give every person the opportunity of understanding the gospel and to provide a church where they can grow *and develop* in ministry for the glory of God.”

The Sunday Service starts at 10.30am. Please join us after the service for refreshments.

Home Church Watton is part of
River Ministries (Norfolk)
Registered Charity number 1160192.

