



SNEATON CASTLE WEEKEND

Fiona Le Geyt

The Sneaton Castle Theme was "Walking With Jesus". At the Centre owned by the "Order of the Holy Paraclete" in Whitby. Folk from Westgate and Greenhill Community Church shared the weekend

Rev. Jill Willett (nee Jackson) used powerful narrative teaching on "How to walk every day with God!" Jill assumed the persona of Peter who went fishing, rode out a storm and denied his Lord.



To help us in our own walk, Jill encouraged us to use tangible objects e.g. a small cross, a heart-shaped pebble in our pockets and also to memorise biblical texts or psalms. In this way, we are better able to weather the storms

of life and even the desert places (the dark night of the soul). "Your walk must



be undergirded by prayer" Jill told us. "Do not even think of actions let alone attempt them until you have sought God's will". Her challenge was not only for us as individuals but especially for the whole body of believers. It was obvious that this emphasis is the basis of Jill's own ministry as she pastors The Greenhill Community Church.

The weather was beautiful, the catering excellent, but best of all, were the sessions of worship and praise with the folks from Greenhill. It was good too sharing testimonies as we chatted to them and I am sure many friendships were forged that weekend. We trust we may meet up with Jill's flock in the future.

Our thanks go to Angela, Paul and of course to Jill who incidentally doubled up as a minibus driver! The Rees family planned a quiz type fun evening, which we all enjoyed and there were capable child minders too.

Jill concluded, "WALK AS A CHURCH" with Jesus or you will be wasting precious time. Let us rise to Jill's challenge!



'HARVEST' Douglas Garry

'Harvest 2007' was a great experience. The first night really set the tone for the whole weekend. Hundreds of young people coming closer to God, receiving the Holy Spirit, and being called to be 'the generation that goes back in and pulls people out of the wreck'.

Tim, James O'Connell and I all felt God talking to us individually, and James even gave his life to Christ!!

As the days went by we were involved in all kinds of activities, from painting to football. In the mornings the camp was separated for the morning sessions into 17+ and under 17's.

I don't know exactly how good the 17+ sessions were but the under 17 sessions were like our Kidz Klub, only with Proclaimers style memory verses and a work out with the 118 team!

The speaker, Mark Ritchie, told us hilarious stories, which ended with a biblical message relevant to our everyday lives as young Christians. After this start to the day there were sessions which answered the big

questions like 'How can I be sure I'm a Christian?' and the big issues like 'Science and God'.

We had the chance to take part in things like creative work, bible study and even song writing and worship leading, or if you didn't feel like doing that you could just laze around and play Frisbee!

The night sessions were the best. They involved everyone and the noise was incredible. Speakers like Mark Ritchie and Mike Pilivachi really challenged us to follow God actively and calling us to work as evangelists in our day to day lives.

Towards the end of the weekend we were joined by more people from Westgate and that night the Holy Spirit really touched the hearts of us all. Once the evening meeting was over everyone would go to after hours stuff like battle of the bands, 70's disco and even interviewing YFriday, the band who lead the worship at 'Harvest'!

Overall, Harvest was the most affirming experience for my walk with God and I would recommend it to anyone and everyone. But if you do go be prepared for ice cold showers!!!

EDITORIAL - HARVEST FESTIVAL Simon Lloyd

We have just had an all-age harvest festival with a nice display of produce. A good time based around the work of BMS in an Indonesian island following the devastation of the Boxing Day tsunami.

In this country many producers have had a good harvest. We have supermarket shelves stacked with food from all over the world. Shouldn't we be celebrating this fact?

This summer our newspapers and TVs have been full of pictures of

devastating floods and drowned crops, of the effects of foot and mouth disease and most recently of bluetongue. Interviews with desperate farmers. Many are in desperate situations and at least one has committed suicide.

This year there has been a good harvest for arable farmers. Cereal prices have nearly doubled. That's great for cereal farmers who have barely been getting the cost of production back in recent years. But the sting in the tail is that livestock feed prices have risen enormously. This has a major impact on intensive livestock farmers who can't afford to produce at a loss. Production of eggs and pork is dropping dramatically and shop food prices are going to rise. Over wintering and finishing feed costs for sheep and cattle have already gone up.

What are the consequences of this to our farmers? Such stress and despair that some simply cannot cope. Why don't we celebrate the harvest in our own countryside and pray for our farmers? I know we are an inner city church but are we really so divorced from the countryside we ignore those who work in it?

FROM THE FLOODS

Lord Jesus,
You told a story about a sower
And compared yourself to a shepherd,
So maybe you know how I'm feeling
As I look out at acres of floodland
Where there should be standing crops
And see distressed livestock
Stranded on a few square yards
Of sodden grass.

Just when I thought things were looking up;
Prices improving,
The prospect of a decent harvest
And enough grass to see us through the winter,
It started to rain
And it kept on raining.
And all the effort,
All the investment of time and of money
Has gone to waste.

It's not the first time it's happened,
I've seen it before,
As my father did before me
And his father before him.
But I wonder if it's all worth it.
Is anyone interested
In what I do, or how I feel?
Is anyone bothered about where their food comes from,
Or how it's produced or who produces it?

And yet, if you are like a shepherd
If you really care for me
As I care for my sheep
Then it must mean that I am valued
And that what I do is of worth
At least to you.

Help me to hold onto this
When all else seems to be against me.
Help me to remember that
What I do is important,
That if it wasn't for us farmers
People would go hungry.
That the floods of one year
Have been followed by seedtime the next
And another harvest.

Land and crops, have recovered
As have those who've tended them,
And they will again.

Help me to remember
And help me to trust
In you the Shepherd and the Sower.
AMEN.

Anonymous farmer

SCAFFOLDERS HOUSE GROUP. Brian Lidgate

This group was formed over a year ago by the amalgamation of two groups who were low in numbers and whose viability was beginning to be doubted.

The individuals from the two groups have come together well and we enjoy our times together.

The name was suggested because we believe that one of our main objectives is to support one another and to help build one another up in our faith. We do this as we study God's word together, share our concerns, pray together and share in some good social occasions.

We are blessed in that we have people who are willing to share in the leading of our studies.

At the moment we are in the middle of a detailed study of Ephesians.

We are grateful to Sarah Pulsford who is generous enough to host our meetings each time. Her front room is big enough to hold us all.

Recently we were able to share with Lorraine & Rick in their wedding & have just welcomed them back from their honeymoon in Kenya.

Jo Forster is no longer able to be at our gatherings on weeknights because she is working over in Cumbria at the moment, but we still see her at weekends. We have, however been able to welcome four new (young) members of the group and if everyone turned up at the same time, which they don't, we would be up to sixteen.

The make up of the group means that our age range goes from early twenties up to mid seventies; which is probably good for us all.

SYKES NEWS

The monsoon season seems to have arrived and everyday for the past 2 weeks we've had regular showers, which has turned the gardens very green and the market into a mud bath. It has also hampered some of the work at the hospital, as you can't dig a hole if it keeps filling with water. Needless to say our problems are as nothing compared to those living near the river or low ground; still one local village took advantage of the floods to sit on their roofs and fish for those fish washed in from the river by the floods....well if you can't beat it.....

Today saw the local newspapers advertising for jobs at a new hospital called CIHSR due to open in October. We already have a huge file of unsolicited applications...including a file marked "I'll do anything"...Please pray for those who will be doing the interviews; that they choose the right people for the right reasons.

Our planned move to the hospital site has taken longer than expected to do, but it's hoped that sometime from the 17th we will be packing up and moving out from our rented rooms at A Kashiram village.

Our own plans for leaving are in place. We will leave Dimapur on the 23rd September, spend some time visiting Dr Isac and Dr Vigila, return to Kolkata on the 26th, fly to Birmingham on the 28th and reach Stockton on the 29th. Our address will be 9, Askrigg Road,

Grangefield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 4JH.

It's both an exciting time and a sad time. We would ask that you continue to pray for our friends here. Opening a new hospital, getting new staff in place, dealing with the day to day workings of such a big campus (125 acres) will stretch our little team very much and they need your support.

We look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks time,

Love Judith & Tony.

BMS WORLD MISSION MAGAZINE IS CHANGING

If you do not personally receive the bi-monthly magazine then please read this.

The current magazine will cease at the end of 2007 to be replaced by a quarterly publication called Engage.

This will be an excellent opportunity for you to sign up to receive it and more frequent email updates. Look out for a display in the foyer about this soon.

Engage will keep you informed about the work of BMS World Mission which we as a Church support. It will also let you know about issues effecting communities globally.

Sarah Haswell & Judy Smith

THE CHAT SHOP Ron Wilson

Time and space allow only a toe's dip in the waters of 'Churches Acting Together in Arthur's Hill' (of which Westgate is one of the four founding and ongoing partner churches)

To many people, the CHAT Shop has never been much more than a drop-in, providing cheap food and a place to hang out. In fact, it has always been much more than that, providing a base and an outlet for a host of community

organisations and initiatives, undergirded by our Christian witness and ethos.

However, 'times are a-changing' and the CHAT Shop is having to forge for itself a new role and identity, and to adopt new structures. To that end, a new 'Memorandum & Articles' were adopted at the AGM in September. And quite independently of all this, Carol Harle is retiring from her role as Project Manager in October, to allow her to devote more time to her church, Cowgate Methodist, after first taking a well-earned holiday. Fortunately, her successor, Caroline Emmerson, took up post on Monday 1 October, so there will be a period of overlap, albeit brief. Carol has been a tireless worker for the CHAT Shop. Please pray for Carol and Caroline in their new roles.

Please pray, too, for the response to our Thank-Offering here at Westgate on 4th November - the CHAT Shop being one of the causes we will be supporting. If you would like to know more about the CHAT Shop, please speak to Paul (Merton) or me.

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

Sarah Haswell

POSADA

Last year was our first for a POSADA - based on a Central American tradition. These are groups containing Mary and Joseph figures, which visit different houses during Advent.

Why not make this an opportunity for you to focus on your journey in preparation for Christ's birthday and use it as a witness to friends and family about the Christ in Christmas?

Look out soon for the signing up sheet, if there is demand we could have 2 Posada's going around.

COMMUNAL CHRISTMAS CARD

An opportunity for you to send your greetings to others in the Church on one card - saving paper and money - it will be displayed in the foyer from early December.

Have you thought about introducing one to your workplace to save all the card swapping and save a few more trees?

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

There will be a display of alternative gifts such as buying a goat or paying for a health care worker. But do not think you have to stick to these, think about the recipient of your present - they may prefer the money donated to another good cause - make up your own gift cards.

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE 2007 (WSJ) Sarah Haswell

I was privileged to attend this event in July/August 2007, thanks to Westgate and individuals who generously donated towards the camp fees. 2007 sees the centenary of Scouting and that is why the Jamboree (which happens every four years) returned home. It was held at Hylands Park in Chelmsford. There were 30,000 participants (14 - 18 years) and 10,000 staff (International Service Team - IST); I was a part of the latter.

I was allocated to FATT team (food and trading) and more specifically to a group of people who worked a shift selling phone cards, internet time and stamps as well as dealing with lost property. My shift was generally about 7 - 8 hours long starting at 7.30, 12 noon or 2pm. In addition I had a day off too so there was plenty of time to explore

the vast site and go into Chelmsford as well.

It was truly international - a quarter of the IST was from the UK and 1/10 of participants too. I am not a great linguist but 12 years working in the West End of Newcastle with people for whom English was not the first language was a great help, mixed in with a bit of school French when things got really desperate. My fellow IST mates were so proficient bi- or tri-lingually - I am resolved to rectify my language incompetence before going abroad again.

As well as the 40,000 campers there were as many again day visitors - these included younger Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from the UK and from parts of Europe and even further afield.

I had originally applied to be involved in the Faiths and Beliefs team and was disappointed not to be allocated to this. However I was greatly encouraged that when I attended the voluntary Scouts Own services, there were Christian Scouts (i.e. young people) from the USA, France, Germany, Hungary and Zimbabwe even if there were not many from the UK. The Faiths and Beliefs zone had a creative Christian presence - there was a labyrinth as well as Hylands Abbey focussing on Celtic art.

There were three main gatherings - opening, closing ceremonies and Scouting Sunrise on 1st Aug - 100 years on from that famous Brownsea Island Camp. Each of these had opportunities for personal reflection and the sense of being part of something very large was quite emotional.

I camped next to other Northumberland leaders who were part of IST, and even though I did not know them very well before the event we built up friendships and shared memories.

Things I learnt... what it is like to be at an event feeling completely lost geographically and unsure where you fit in for the first 48 hours - unusual for someone who leads camps nowadays and tells others what to do. I should have taken a bigger day sack - to carry several bottles of water as well as packed lunch, waterproof etc. If you sing too much you lose your voice!

And finally I could not manage more than 1 week on a foam carry mat - I admitted defeat and bought an airbed.

BEGARNIES' NEWS



We are delighted to announce the arrival of Joanna Ruth Begarnie. She was born very quickly and easily at home on Monday 24 September at 4.15am, with a



midwife in attendance. She weighs 8lbs and is 55cm long. Once again we are amazed at the miracle of new life and are all enjoying getting to know our

little daughter/sister. She met all four of her grandparents and Uncle Graham, Auntie Shona and Cousin Alyssa on her birth day - quite a party!

It has been an amazing few months when we have been very aware of God's plans for us unfolding, after a long time of waiting and wondering. We are so thankful to Him.

Since mid April, Steve has been teaching at West Calder High School. It is a very different school from Emmanuel College and is in the midst of a time of change, especially in the Biology department. Steve is enjoying the challenges and the new start.

Apologies if you have had trouble getting in touch with us recently. We moved from Newcastle at the end of July and are all settling well. We have been made most welcome and are all making friends with people here. It is great to be nearer to family too.

Sarah has gone into Primary 5 and Andrew is in Primary 3. They can walk to school and back on their own, with other children who live in our street. They are loving being able to play out safely on their bikes in the cul-de-sac. Esther is attending playgroup two mornings each week and feels very grown up!



We are going to St. John's Evangelical Church, which is an active, family church with loads of children and young people. It has to meet in the Linlithgow Academy building to be able to fit everyone in!

We are enjoying exploring the many walks and places to visit around and about us. It has been good to have lots of friends and family visiting us here. It has helped us to settle although we miss our Newcastle friends. We do like having people to visit - you are always welcome.

Thank you for your on-going friendship and concern for us.
With our love and prayers for you,
Steve, Heather, Sarah, Andrew, Esther & Joanna Begarnie

COMING EVENTS

'THEY GET FREE MOBILES ... DON'T THEY?'

Banner Theatre at the Round Theatre, Lime Street, Newcastle, 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday the 10th October** - a drama documentary challenging myths about refugees and Asylum seekers. Tickets are £2 each. To reserve a ticket contact the UNISON office on 2116980 or unison.newcastle@newcastle.gov.uk

'BUILDING THE CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY'

Wednesday 10th October at Elim Pentecostal Church, Heaton. A seminar with Pastor David Reidy from Hillsong International College in Sydney, Australia.

N.B.A. AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

We are hosting the Northern Baptist Association Autumn Assembly here at Westgate on **Saturday 13th October** 10am-3.30pm, '**Following, Calling and Growing**'. Speakers are Rev Paul Newman from Whitley Bay Baptist Church and Rev Mark Elder from Heaton Baptist Church.

'ONE BAPTISM?'

A look at issues arising from the recent Anglican/ Baptist Report. Conversations about baptism of children and baptism of believers. Monday 15th Oct 10.30-3.30 at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Gateshead. £12 including lunch. Booking essential. Poster in foyer.

'CARGO'

The fight for freedom in music, words, dance & images is a one night only performance by singer/songwriter Paul Field and others. This is at Peoples' Theatre on Friday 19th October.

ONE WORLD WEEK

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FENHAM - On Thursday 25th October an evening of International Food at Fenham Community Hut. Tickets £3.50 & £1 (child). See Joan Lidgate for tickets.

On Sunday 4th November at WBC
10.30am - Annual Thank Offering
6.30pm - NBA 'The Big Sing'

Sunday 25th November - 6.30pm
Meet with Judith & Tony Sykes at Durham Road Baptist Church, Gateshead.

CONTRIBUTIONS Simon Lloyd

I want to thank all those who have contributed to this edition. I'm grateful for your help and it has been exciting to see what has arrived.

This edition marks the third complete year of Westgate News. Our next one is the December "Christmas Edition". I am always on the lookout for articles which should reach me by Thursday 22nd November please.

If you want to e-mail any items my address is lloyds@uku.co.uk. Please put **Westgate** in the subject so I don't think it could be spam and delete it.

CHURCH CONTACT

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For ideas on reducing your carbon footprint visit Yahoo! For Good this month.