



# Westgate News August/September 2006

## EDITORIAL - HOLIDAYS

What makes a good holiday? Travelling to some part of the world where you can see beautiful places and countryside? Or do you prefer some form of stimulating or even strenuous activity? Or is your idea of a good holiday to stretch out and cook under the sun lightly basted with sun tan oil?

The word holiday comes from two words, "holy day." Originally this applied to days celebrating religious festivals but now has become applied to time off work, times for rest and refreshment. Sadly they are all too often so strenuous, people need another holiday to recover.

Richard Foster in his book *Spiritual Discipline*, and others, has commented on the fact we make our lives so full of business we have no time to be still before the Lord. Yet holidays can be a time when we simply stop and relax. We can take time to enjoy the beautiful world we live in. The psalmist tells us, "Stand still and know that I am God."

Have a good holy day this summer.

*Simon Lloyd*



## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

At this time of year many of us make journeys to go on holiday. Right from being a small child I can remember my mum making sure that we had some good food to take with us. It was as if we wouldn't arrive at our destination unless we had been sustained on the journey by sandwiches, crisps, chocolate, fruit and the like.

This is interesting because it mirrors what God says about our journey through life as His people... "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

With this in mind it is my pleasure to introduce to you the menu for this autumn!

On Sunday mornings we shall be following the journey of the Israelites as they were taken out of Egypt to journey through the wilderness. A journey which highlights both what we are really like and who God truly is. Under the title "Ordinary people - Extraordinary God" we'll better get to know ourselves and our heavenly Father.

On Sunday evenings we'll be following two series. The first, called "Signs of the Times", will look at what various passages of the New Testament say about the days we are living in and the return of Jesus. The second will be a study of the letter of 1Peter, with its emphasis on living for Jesus in a world which is not our home.

I hope you will enjoy and make the most of the food placed before you!

*Paul Merton*

## Family Fun day 2006

It may sound repetitive but the day was yet another success. The weather was lovely and the turn out was great! The day began with people busily going about the



finishing touches of setting up followed by a light hearted briefing session (with some debate over what or who (?) were considered "valuables" to be locked up in the pastor's office!) This year our prayers took us round the building as we prayed at and anointed each entrance with oil and asked for God's blessing on the day. As we began the sound of organ music (played by Stan Sudworth) drifted through the building. It was lovely! Shola Ameobi arrived shortly after to officially open the day much to the delight of our local children.

Workshops included leatherwork, glass decorating, balloon modelling and of course our ever popular dance workshops. Much to our great delight and not a little amazement we discovered that some of our "guys" have a real talent for interpretive



dance! Aply coached by Keith Morley it was a strong and moving performance which we hope will be repeated at some point in one of our services! The girls had a lot of fun with theirs led by Max Morley and several ladies joined in too!

Musical performances by our own folk, including "Zion Underground" (Obadiah as was), Carmen, Nathan and Stew went down very well. At the close of the day Nathan and Stew's rendition of "A nightingale sang" had some helpers dancing in the sanctuary! The Stocksfield Baptist puppet group also made a return visit by popular request.

The chefs on the BBQ were a cheery and able (groan...Abel was one of them!!) bunch...they must have been, they ran out of food at 2 o'clock! Our café in the hall was also a pleasant pit stop throughout the day.



The baked goods stall was stocked with a delicious homemade selection too.

Arts and crafts for the children, face painting and banner making completed the activities inside whilst outside the inflatable climbing wall, bouncy castle and bucking bronco went non stop. We have some wonderfully incriminating photos if anyone wants to see them!!

A huge thank you once again to all who helped to make the day such a pleasant and successful one! Looking forward to 2007's already....why not get involved?

### **NE1 WEEK 23 - 29 July**

What an amazing week this has been! God has been at work in so many ways - prayers have been answered and lives have been changed. We have had lots of fun, worked very hard and met hundreds of new people.

We had a team of 18 delegates, mainly from a Methodist church in Darlington, with us for the week. We also had the Metro Church team based with us and the City Church team joined us in the evenings. We had the privilege of having Dave Sharples from Frontline Church in Liverpool working as our evangelist throughout the week. It has been such a joy to work with other churches and to be The Body of Christ at work.

It is so hard to sum up all that happened so here are my personal highlights:

- Over 50 of our church folk being involved in the daytime work, the catering and the stewarding of evening events. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

- Loads of bin bags being filled and back yards being transformed. Many positive comments from local residents appreciating the hard work and the clean results.
- Support from the local council in the cleaning up and in allowing the outdoor evening events to go ahead.
- Laughter, music, slapstick and the Westgate Gospel Singers live on stage in the park.
- Running out of publicity flyers - 2000 were distributed before Wednesday so we had to print another 2000!



- Delicious food and happy mealtimes.
- Five of the delegates who were with us came to faith during the week - we continue to pray for the remaining two who have yet to make this step.
- The constant group of local children who joined in with everything and the way the delegates took them to their hearts.
- The conversations about faith and the many people who responded positively to the Gospel message each evening.

- The desire to continue to be actively involved in mission in our community and the ideas that have come through the week.
- Please thank God for all that He did during the week and continue to pray for the follow up to NE1.

*Heather Begarnie*

*Someone was showing a group of children round a church when they came to a big plaque that listed all those who had died during the two world wars.*

*"What are those names?" asked a child.*

*"They are the names of those who died in the services," said the guide.*

*"Was it in the morning or evening service that they died?" asked the child.*

### **Y COURSE**

We are soon intending to start running a course aimed at people who are seeking to find out more about the Christian faith. In the past, we have used the Alpha Course to do this. However, this time our plan is to use material from the Y Course. The feel of the events will be similar, though - a friendly, informal meeting where there is a lot of opportunity to openly discuss the issues raised, and which we hope will build friendships as well as people's understanding. The exact details of when and where the meetings will be held are yet to be decided, so watch this space. Also yet to be decided is precisely who will be involved in making the evenings happen - so please get in touch if you feel God prompting you in any way. In the meantime, please pray and think about whom you might be able to invite to such a course, and that God will use it to help people get to know Him.

*Ross Smith*

### **SINK OR SWIM!**

A few weeks ago I realized the need to replace the batteries in my powered wheelchair....I was using my 'normal' wheelchair and was stuck in my muddy (remember 'muddy!!) garden.

As I sunk I pondered the options....new batteries like any piece of equipment I use

are expensive - anything that carries the 'disability label' usually is - I hadn't used the powered chair for a while as I couldn't afford the cost of replacements.

But the idea popped into my head that perhaps I could try and do a sponsored swim to raise some of the money.....I could literally sink-or-swim! I can no longer walk a mile...or crawl a mile...but perhaps I could swim a mile!! So I did!!

Even before the swim the money had been raised....and beyond! So much so that thanks to the wonders of eBay I acquired THE most fabulous PowerTrike which really does need to be seen - and tried - to be believed!



Now I can sedately trundle in my powered chair.....or whizz around bridleways and woodland paths at speeds I hardly dare admit to!!

All of this thanks to your love and generosity - my Friends at WBC!

Thank you all SO much!

*Sandra Wheatley*

*How many counsellors does it take to change a light bulb?*

*One, but the light bulb must really want to change.*

#### **KENTON HOUSEGROUP**

In our housegroup we kept coming up with terms like the Rapture, Pre-Millennial and Post-Millennial. We had just finished a

series of studies in Ephesians and weren't sure what to study next. In our considerations it became very obvious that some people knew virtually nothing about what is often referred to as "The End Times." What to do?

We decided to do a series of studies on the whole of the book of Revelation. This is proving to be interesting and challenging as we have seen it as a book of images and realize the relevance to today. So having found out all sorts of interesting things like the fact there are 52 sevens in the book, and a lot of repetition we launched into the letters to the churches. Familiar territory, then the tremendous picture of heaven followed by the seven seals. Alarmingly relevant.

So we are being "futuristically challenged" by a book designed to be read in all the churches as a letter. Wow!

*Simon Lloyd*

*A burglar breaks into a house in the middle of the night and sets to work filling his bag with goodies. Suddenly he hears a voice say, "Jesus is watching you", and he quickly looks round, scanning the room with his flashlight. Seeing no one he thinks he simply imagined it and continues to stuff his bag with loot.*

*Suddenly he hears the voice again - "Jesus is watching you." This time he's sure it comes from within the room, so he slowly shines his flashlight round until he notices a birdcage in the far corner. Moving towards it he sees there's a parrot in the cage.*

*"Did you say something?" the burglar asks. "Yes, I said 'Jesus is watching you' because I thought you should be warned," replies the parrot. "Well, who are you to warn me?" Asks the burglar. "My name is Moses," says the parrot. The burglar laughs and says, "What kind of people would name their parrot Moses?"*

*"The same kind of people who would name their Rottweiler, Jesus!" The parrot replies.*

## SHEPHERD'S CORNER

Warm humid weather from May to September is the time when shepherds have to watch out for maggots on sheep. This is commonly called "fly strike" or simply "strike" and is not a pretty sight.

What happens is that blowflies are attracted to wool that is smelly because it is soiled with muck or urine. They lay eggs on the smelly wool and maggots hatch out about a day later. The maggots burrow down to the skin and produce a digestive juice that dissolves the skin. This produces a smelly soup the maggots live off. It also attracts more flies and they lay more eggs so the attack spreads.

The sheep try and rub the maggots off or bite them. The wool around the area looks unusually wet and it's easy to spot infected sheep unless they have hidden themselves away.

Treatment usually involves clipping away the wool, removing the maggots, treating the wound and preventing further attacks. Not easy and so it's best to prevent it by shearing before the blowflies get active and then either dipping the sheep in insecticide or spraying on a low volume insecticide referred to as a pour-on. The pour-ons are much quicker and safer to use.

We can be like sheep allowing ourselves to "get struck", when our own lives get soiled by sin. We may need to completely shear off all the dirt by spending time in repentance. Or we may need to apply the "insecticide" of ongoing grace by the spiritual disciplines of careful Bible study, meditation and prayer in our own quiet times.

*Simon Lloyd*

## P.A. TEAM CHANGES

We have altered the way the rota for the P.A. team is organized by dividing the responsibilities for morning and evening services between Alan Haswell and Simon Lloyd. The way it works now is that:

- Alan Haswell arranges who is operating the P.A. for the morning services. The other two who are sharing this with him are Linda Mutunga and Andy Foster

- Simon Lloyd arranges the operator for evening services and shares this with Lewis Schofield.

Our tape deck died and so we have not been recording services. Tapes are becoming increasingly obsolete though we can still play them in a service. We are in the process of setting up a computer so we can record services and copy them onto CDs in the future.

*Simon Lloyd*

## COMMUNICATIONS

Can you please help?

Getting to know each other

- We need a couple of photographers to take people's photographs, and a person to compile the album and then keep it up to date.
- We need a person to design a board which will contain photographs and names of the church leadership team and keep it up to date.

Notice boards

- We would like to put together a small team of people to think about how we use the notice boards, and what improvements could be made.

External publicity

- We are looking for a person to help re-design the main sign at the front of the building, and to help with ideas for other external displays / banners / boards.
- Could you help us with preparing press releases for specific events?

If you think you could help with any of these opportunities, please speak to either Donald Daly or Angela Wilson

*Donald Daly*

## DEACONS' ELECTIONS

The Deacons' Election - this year this has been brought forward from our usual December date to **Sunday October 1st** because of the heavy workload on the team with reduced membership. There are now **5 vacancies**.

The Leadership Team currently consists of the Pastor and 10 Deacons, with one space unfilled and Ruth Rees on maternity leave, so a full team would have 12 Deacons. The team is reduced with the resignation of 3 Deacons, (Richard Hillary, Simon Lloyd and Ruth Rees). With the one place not filled at last year's election and Angela Wilson having already offered to stand down\* prior to Simon's resignation this results in 5 vacancies.

[\*The recommendation in our Rules of Procedure is that one-third of the team (i.e. 4 people) should stand down every year to enable people to take a rest for at least a year after serving up to a maximum of 6 years (2 terms of 3 years)].

Please be prayerful about this and seek God's guidance about who should be joining the team. The final date for nominations to be submitted is Sunday 10th September.

*Angela Wilson*

## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

### AUGUST

Each **Sunday at 10.30am** - Praise & Worship

**Sunday 13th** - 6.30pm 'Special' led by Alan Haswell

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** 7.30 pm. **re-Fuel** - with a relaxed feel!

**Sunday 20th** - 6.30pm 'Prayer Night' led by African Group

**Wednesday 23rd** **Social event** yet to be arranged

**Sunday 27th** - 5.00 pm International Tea and 'Transformation' Video at 6.30pm

**Wednesday 30th** 7.30 pm **re-Fuel** - with a relaxed feel!

### SEPTEMBER

**Sunday 10th** - Last day for Nominations for Deacons' Election

**Saturday 23rd** - **Craft Day** Celebration of skills and creativity.\* See opposite

**Wednesday 27th** - **Members Meeting**, moved to 10am Saturday 7th October.

**Saturday 30th** - **Scout Group Table-top Sale**. 10am to 2pm.

## OCTOBER

**Sunday 1st** - **Deacons' Election**.

**Saturday 7th October** - "Church Business & 'Listening' Day" Some members business but mostly another day like our 'Vision Day' when we can celebrate together and share ideas about the future.

## CRAFT DAY Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

We are planning to put on an all day display of all the crafts we do individually as a way of celebrating the fact that God has made us creative people.

So we invite all those who come to this church in any way to contribute items. So if you have any photos, paintings, tapestry work, needlework that you would like to include could you please let Simon Lloyd, Shelagh Garry or Heather Begarnie know.

*Simon Lloyd*

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Many thanks you all those who have contributed to the copy of Westgate News. This has come at a very busy time with NE1 delaying articles a bit.

I am always on the lookout for articles, personal testimonies, answers to prayer you have received etc. or even interesting articles you find in other churches magazines (though we do need to get permission to use them).

The closing date for articles for the October copy of the News is Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Simon Lloyd*

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