

APRIL

IT'S FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY'S COMIN'!

Once in a while, someone preaches a sermon that becomes a legend. One such sermon was preached some years ago by the pastor of a mostly-black church in Philadelphia. In the congregation was well-known evangelist Tony Campolo, who was so impacted that he publicised it at every opportunity. The essence of the preacher's message was one line, which sums up the message of Easter. Here's a short extract:

"It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'. It's Friday, and my Jesus is dead on a tree. But that's Friday, and Sunday's comin'. Friday, Mary's crying her eyes out, the disciples are running in every direction like sheep without a shepherd. But that's Friday, and Sunday's comin'. Friday, some are looking at the world and saying, "As things have been, so they shall be. You can't change nothing in this world!" But they didn't know that it was only Friday, and Sunday's comin'. Friday, them forces that oppress the poor and keep people down, them forces that destroy people, the forces in control now, them forces that are gonna rule, they don't know it's only Friday, but Sunday's comin'. Friday, people are saying, "Darkness is gonna rule the world, sadness is gonna be everywhere," but they don't know it's only Friday, but Sunday's comin'. Even though this world is rotten, as it is right now, we know it's only Friday. But Sunday's comin'.

On the worst of Fridays 2000 years ago, Jesus the Christ, the Lord of Glory, the only begotten Son of God, the only perfect man, was executed on a cross. Satan thought that he had won the victory. He had destroyed the Son of God. He had overturned the verdict God had pronounced in the Garden. The one who was to crush his head had been utterly defeated. That was Friday.

But now it's Sunday. Just about dawn there's an earthquake. The angel of the Lord rolls the stone away from the door of the tomb and sits on it. The guards posted there to keep the body from disappearing are shaking in their boots. And the lamb that was silent before the slaughter is now the resurrected lion from the tribe of Judah. He is not here, the angel says. He is risen!

It's Sunday, and now everything has changed. The crucified and risen Christ has defeated sin, death and hell. The way to God is open to everyone. God's grace is freely given to all who believe that Jesus Christ died for their sins, was buried and rose again. It turns out that the worst of Fridays was God's best for a lost human race.

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. According to N T Wright, *"it is the central event of world history—the moment towards which everything was rushing and from which everything emerges new"*. It ushers in God's glorious new creation of freedom, peace and joy and summons all people everywhere to become part of it.

Easter is about God's victory over the forces that hold people in chains and his rich welcome to all humankind. As Easter people we are called to celebrate that in glad and uninhibited worship and in making his kingdom known in all the world. **Sunday's here!**

GATEWAY SNAPSHOTS

Gateway Community Nursing



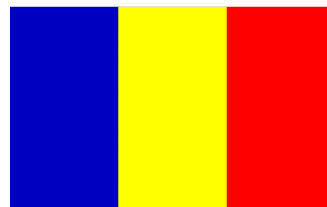
Recently Faith Turner and Joan Linley have become our Gateway Community Nurses. They are here to help and support local people with their health - not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual. Both Faith and Joan are registered Nurses and have a vast array of medical experience. They are excited to be able to bring use their nursing abilities to serve the church and the community.

Gateway Kidz Club



Our Gateway Kidz Club has been up and running for a few weeks and is off to a very positive start. Weekly they have up to 18 children playing games, singing songs and learning about God. A few of the kids who have come on Thursdays have even visited on Sunday mornings! One of the leaders commented about the club "We have had some great nights and I really feel that God is in it, He is making it happen." A few more people have joined the Kidz Club team which has been really appreciated. Please pray that God will continue to bless Kidz Club and establish a good consistent number. The leaders would also like direction for the way forward!

Curve Romania Mission Trip



This year a team of young people from Gateway are heading out to run a Kid's Club with a Children's Day Centre in Constanta, Romania. The centre provides food, showers, medical care, educational assistance and fun activities for over 30 Romanian street children. The team is excited about this opportunity to show God's love in a very practical way. The trip is 22nd to 30th May. Josh Brassington, Erin Coward, Emma Fairburn, Lucy Miller, Rob Yates and Patty Engel will all be going. The team would value your prayer and would also like to invite you along to a fundraiser for the trip on **2nd May, 7.30pm at Gateway**. They'll have delicious Romanian food, a bit of Music, and be auctioning off a few things ranging from guitar lessons and babysitting to Taco Salad. Tickets will be available nearer the date.

Month At A Glance - April

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|--------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| 30 Gateway Community Choir 7.30 | 31 Alpha 7.30 | 1 Gateway Toddlers 9.30-11.00 College Curve 7.30 - 9.30 | 2 Gateway Kidz Club 6.15-7.15 | 3 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 | 4 Holy Spirit Day Alpha Curve No Slumber Party | 5 Worship 10.30 Palm Sunday Oasis Social 3.00 -5.00 Easter Crafts |
| 6 Gateway Community Choir 7.30 | 7 Alpha 7.30 | 8 Church Prayer Meeting 7.30 | 9 | 10 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 Good Friday Office closed | 11 | 12 Easter All - Age Worship 10.30 |
| 13 Easter Monday Office Closed | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 Church Weekend Away | 18 Church Weekend Away | 19 Church Weekend Away |
| 20 Gateway Community Choir 7.30 | 21 | 22 Gateway Toddlers 9.30-11.00 College Curve 7.30 - 9.30 | 23 Gateway Kidz Club 6.15-7.15 | 24 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 Curve 7.30-9.30 | 25 School of Leadership 9.00 -12.30 | 26 Worship Gathering 10.30 Fit for Life 4-6 pm. |
| 27 Gateway Community Choir 7.30 | 28 | 29 Gateway Toddlers 9.30-11.00 College Curve 7.30 - 9.30 | 30 Gateway Kidz Club 6.15-7.15 | 1 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 Curve 7.30-9.30 | 2 Romanian Trip Fundraiser 7.30 | 3 Worship Gathering 10.30 Oasis Social 3.00 -5.00 |

Church Weekend Away

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th April 2009

Our weekend away to Cliff College is fast approaching. Our Guest Speaker is Martin Ruddick whose theme will be *The Love of the Father, the Sacrifice of the Son and the Power of the Spirit*. Arrival is from 5.00pm and a buffet meal will be provided from 6-7.30pm. Bedding is provided. The weekend will finish with Sunday lunch. If you are in need of a lift or are happy to offer someone a lift there is a sign up sheet at the information point or speak to your life group leader. We look forward to seeing you there!

Alpha Update

Alpha is going well people who are attending are really responding and enjoying it. Please pray for the Holy Spirit Away Day on Saturday 4th April when we will go to Thirsk.
Alpha 1 finishes 7th April

Coming soon...

Exercise Class at the Gateway Centre
Monday's 6.00pm -7.00pm.
Contact Janet Dixon at 332544.

Fit For Life Course

Starting Sunday 26th April

Many of us struggle with learning how to say no to food we don't need and how to escape the guilt and shame of a diet mentality. This is a twelve week course designed to help you pursue a healthy lifestyle. Join us Sundays 4-6pm at Gateway. Please sign up at the Info point or contact Faith Turner at 798601 for more information.

Praying for our Church

If we are to see God move in power in us and through us as a church we need to be praying. Each week a prayer bulletin is produced to keep you up to date with the prayer needs in the church and give you pointers as to how to pray. This is available at the information desk on Sundays, but it can also be emailed to you. If you would like to receive the prayer bulletin by email please speak to Bridget Hunt or email her at bridgethunt@ntlworld.com

Inspire

CAP Event Saturday 17th October

Come and be inspired by what God is doing in people's lives through the ministry of CAP. There will be worship, testimonies, encouragement and opportunity to be involved. King's Church Manchester
Book your free tickets today by calling 01274 760560

Via Luminosa

6th -18th April 7.30-10pm

'Visions' which is attached to St. Michael le Belfry, is presenting an art walk, *Via Luminosa, The Easter Story in Light*. The walk begins near Micklegate Bar and ends at York Minster.

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