

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)

Hospitality is a big thing to God. It's about turning strangers into friends by opening our homes (and our hearts) to them. It means creating a friendly space for people in our busy lives. You don't have to be a brilliant cook to show hospitality – a warm welcome is much more important than fine food. Sitting around a table sharing an unhurried meal is a time when we often get to know one another at a deeper level.

In the gospels, we often see Jesus as a guest in people's homes. Many of the stories he told centred on dinners. In the parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25), Jesus teaches about how we love God by loving our neighbour, he says *“I was a stranger and you invited me in”* (verse 35). He then explains this by saying *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”* (verse 40).



So being friendly is good, but hospitality is much better. It builds a strong, cohesive community that draws people in and makes them a part. That's why an important priority for us as we aim to see more people saved and added is to foster a culture of hospitality in Gateway. This is the motivation behind the whole-church dinner party planned for **Saturday 23rd January** which is described in more detail below. Make sure you put it in your diary.

And remember You never know who might turn up!

Here's how it will work – we need around 10 people to agree to host a dinner party for between 6 to 10 people and they will just have to provide a main dish. Lasagne, casserole or other one-pot meals work well. All the other ingredients for the meal are provided by the guests.

Over the next few weeks we will approach everyone and ask which of the following you are able to provide: salad, potato (or rice), dessert or drink. At this point we will also gather other info e.g. dietary, transport or babysitting needs. Once we have all of the information we will all have a slip of paper with what we are to take and where we are to take it!

So on 23rd January 2010 at 7.30pm we will all be sitting down to dinner together!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING



And we have a few exciting things for your diaries. On **Monday 14th December** the Community Choir will be performing at Gateway. The event is ticketed and these need to be purchased in advance from the bookshop or Helen Dumville. The price is **£5 per ticket and includes a glass of mulled wine and mince pie**. Any profits will go to CAP.

Then on **Saturday 19th December** we are hosting two fun and meaningful events that we hope will bless us and our community. During the day we will have our **Christmas Fun Day** when we open the centre up for seasonal festivities then in the evening we are hosting the **Riding Lights performance of 'On Christmas Night'**. The performance lasts for 1 hour and is suitable for all ages. The event will be ticketed **£2 children (under 14), £4 adults** and ideal to invite friends and neighbours to. Tickets from bookshop or office.

On **Christmas Eve at 3p.m.** there is a special **Nativity** event for families with younger children (open to anyone though!). Come dressed as a character from the Christmas story and take part in acting out the Nativity. Plus a final special visit from you-know who! Costumes are available if needed.

CHURCH DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Recently we printed out a new Church Directory. Unfortunately we left a few of you out and some of the information was incorrect. We have made some amendments as below for you to add to the address book.

David Brown

3 Aldelph House
Windsor Court
York
YO26 4QF

David 8 October
Mobile 07528136018
Email david.brown590@ntlworld.com

Ruth Price

Flat 2 Westfield House
Hawthorn Terrace
New Earswick
YO32 4AQ

Ruth 15 January
Telephone 760261
Email Ruthprice1068@hotmail.co.uk

Andrew Purser

Andy 10 March
Mobile 07925252043
Email purserag@hotmail.com

Steven Sherratt and Tessa George

129 Gale Lane
Acomb, York
YO24 3AG

Steven 4 June
Tessa 29 October
Summer 29 December
Oscar 30 June

June Watson

16 Lowfields Drive
Acomb, York
YO24 3DG

June 1 June
Telephone 788061

In addition **Harvey and Valerie Dean's** email address is **harval@micklemount.fsnet.co.uk** not **harval@mickelmount.fsnet.co.uk** and **Julie Fairburn's** birthday is **12 May** not 12 June.

Diary – December /January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	1	2 Toddlers 9.30- 11.00 Prayer Meeting 7.30	3 Kidz Club 6.15–7.30 Marriage Course 7.00	4 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 Curve 7.30-9.30	5	6 Worship Service 10.30 Communion and Ministry Fayre
7 Keep Fit 6.00 Gateway Community Choir 7.30	8	9 Gateway Toddlers College Curve 7.30	10 Kidz Club 6.15–7.30	11 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 Curve 7.30-9.30	12	13 Worship Service 10.30
14 Keep Fit 6.00 7.30 Gateway Community Choir Event	15	16 Gateway Toddlers 9.30-11.00	17 Gateway Kidz Club 6.15-7.30	18 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00	19 Christmas Fun Day 10.00 On Christmas Night 7.00 -8.00	20 No morning service Carol Service 6.30
21	22	23	24 3.00 Nativity	25 10.30 am Christmas Day Service	26	27 No service
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 Worship Service 10.30 Communion
4 Keep Fit 6.00 Community Choir 7.30	5	6 Toddlers 9.30- 11.00 Prayer Meeting 7.30	7 Kidz Club 6.15–7.30 Marriage Course 7.00	8 Oasis Café 10.00 - 12.00 Curve 7.30-9.30	9	10 Worship Service 10.30 Unite 7.00
11 Keep Fit Community Choir 7.30	12	13	14 Kidz Club 6.15–7.30 Marriage Course 7.00	15 Oasis Café Curve	16	17 Worship Service 10.30
18 Keep Fit Community Choir 7.30	19	20 Toddlers 9.30–11.00	21 Kids Club 6.15–7.30 Marriage Course 7.00	22 Oasis Café Curve	23 Gateway Dinner Party	24 Worship Service 10.30

Notices



On Sunday 10th January 7.00pm at the Gateway Centre, we are hosting our second UNITE event. UNITE is a city wide event which aims to equip and refuel the church in York. There will be worship, teaching and ministry time. The event is aimed at youth, students and young adults but all ages are welcome.

The Reflect Christmas Carol Concert Saturday, 12 December 2009 - 7:30-9:30 - United Reformed Church, Priory Street, York. A Christmas Carol Concert featuring Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols' and other fine works performed by some of York's finest musicians. All proceeds will go towards supporting Reflect, York's Pregnancy Crisis Charity. Join in with the Choir and Organ in a selection of traditional carols. Tickets are £7 for Adults and £3 for Concessions/Students. For ticket purchase or more information please call 07979 320390.

"HOW CAN I GIVE TO GATEWAY?" The work of Gateway Church is supported entirely by the generous giving of its members. Committed, regular giving enables us to plan ahead and to budget more efficiently. If you would like to give regularly to the church you can do so by completing one of our standing order forms together with a Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer. Both forms are available at the Information desk on a Sunday or from the office. For more information call Wendy on 781983.

FIT FOR LIFE FOREVER 2010—Joan & Faith will be running a new 12 week course starting with a free introductory evening on Tuesday 12th January 7.30-9.00pm at Gateway. The course is based on Sue Prosser's book 'How to Stop Dieting and Start Living' which combines biblical principles with scientific facts. The course will be open to anyone, men and women, Christian and non-Christian if you feel you have an issue with food and eating.

The 12 week course will cost a total of £15 to cover workbooks and materials. If you are interested (or know someone who would be) please sign up at the info point or contact us on 07546580541. There are leaflets on the info table.

CAP

HAMPERS— Donations for the hampers are now being collected and can be left at the information point on Sunday's or to the office through the week.

LIFE CHANGER FORMS— these can be given in at the information desk or posted direct to CAP (freepost envelopes available).

Once again, on behalf of all the families who benefit from your generous support - thank you

From 21 November – 2 January Patty will be in the USA and therefore not in the Gateway office. There may be times during that period in our usual Monday to Friday 9:00am -1:00pm office hours that there will be no one able to answer the phones. However, rest assured if you email the office or leave a phone message we will get back to you.