

Gateway CHURCH



September 2010

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“Any idiot can face a crisis... it’s day to day living that wears you out.”

So said Anton Chekhov. I see his point. In a crisis you have only one big problem to think about. In contrast, everyday life is much more complicated. So many things to deal with, attend to and worry about. It’s hard to stay focused on what’s really important.

In Luke 10:38-41 we read the well-known story of Martha and Mary. Martha “was distracted with much serving”, while Mary “sat at Jesus’ feet and heard his word.” When Martha complained to Jesus, he gently clarified for her the most important priority, explaining that “only one thing is needed.” What Martha was doing was good, but Mary was focused on what really mattered.

The thing is, everyday life with all of the challenges it involves, is where God shapes us, blesses us and invites us to bless others in his name. If we’re going to live everyday life well, and not be worn out by it, we need to make sure that whatever else we do, we’re not neglecting the one thing that’s needed - a living relationship with Jesus. He is the vine and we are the branches. Christianity is not merely a belief system. Jesus is our life.

In the midst of all the demands on our time and attention, we need to regularly make time to do what Mary did - be in his presence and hear his word. Not in order to win God’s favour - we already have that

because of Jesus. But to become more captivated with Him. To receive more of his transforming grace into our lives, and to express more of that grace to others. To live everyday life purposefully and fruitfully.

Is there a time and a place in your everyday life when you are able to shut out distractions, be in the presence of the living Christ and absorb his word? God knows your circumstances and he’s not a stern taskmaster standing over you with a whip. He’s a good and gracious father who wants you to know how much he loves you, and how you can live everyday life in the light of that wonderful reality.



As we return to the busyness of a new school year, make room in your schedule for the one thing that’s needed. If you’re not sure how to go about it, we have some resources in the bookshop that will help you get started. Ask the others in your life group what they do. Be accountable to one another. Make a decision that you’re not going to let every day living wear you out any longer!

During last year's week of prayer I was struck by something written on the wall in capitals: 'Break my heart for what breaks yours'. Afterwards, I prayed that for a long time and felt God speaking to me about the mums who come to Gateway toddlers.

On a Wednesday morning we work really hard to make people feel welcome, build relationships and create a toddler group that people enjoy attending. This is something that I believe is so important, as toddler groups can be intimidating and cliquey. However, though we would love to have opportunities to talk about Jesus, this very rarely happens due to the nature of a toddler group.

I felt God really challenging me on how I was going to have those conversations as his heart was for these women. I felt that we needed some kind of social event pre-Alpha that women would want to come along to. So with the help of others I organized sing-along-a Mamma Mia in May. Six toddler mums came (this is a really good turn-out compared with things we've organized in the past) and loved it.

On September 11th we do it all again with sing-along-a Grease! My prayer is:

- that I'm amazed by how many non-Gateway ladies come
- that it is even more fun than last time and
- that there is an openness to what we're ultimately about: Jesus.

We have a daytime Alpha starting this month and I would love to see some of our toddler mums coming along off the back of the Grease sing-a-long.

Rachael Bulley



GIVING 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 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 table or in the office.



CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY
FRIDAY 1 APRIL - SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2011,
 The Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Prices for the weekend are as follows:

- ADULTS - £95
- STUDENTS - £60
- 12-16 - £55
- 4-11 - £35
- 0-3 - FREE



You can book on to the Weekend Away by returning a booking form, available at the information desk, with a deposit of £10 per person. You can then pay the rest in either a lump sum, or a monthly standing order. Cheques are payable to "Gateway Church". Chris Frost is now confirmed as our speaker.



Strictly Dance Club recommences on Saturday 24th September. We are looking forward to seeing last term's attendees so we can refresh what we learned and to take things a little further. New members will be most welcome whether they are beginners or

already dancers. Instruction is given at each session. This is an ideal activity to which you can invite your non-church friends and the cost is only £2 per person per session (Students £1).

The dates to put in your diaries for the term are:

- Saturday 24th September 7.30-10pm
- Saturday 9th October 7.30-10pm
- Saturday 6th November 7.30-10pm
- Saturday 4th December 7.30 - 10pm (Strictly Christmas Party Dance or Dinner Dance. Details to be finalised)

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life

alpha.org

Tuesdays starting 28th September 7.15 at Gateway. This is a great way to introduce friends and family members to Christianity. We would also be very grateful for any assistance in preparing meals. There will be sign up sheets for guests and for help with cooking. For more information contact the office.