

Gateway CHURCH



Dec 2010-Jan 2011

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KEEPING IT SIMPLE AT CHRISTMAS

I love Christmas... I love the music, the lights, the food, the gatherings, seeing friends and family, even the shopping. But spiritually, Christmas can be the time when my walk with God reflects the weather outside: cold. It's when I pick up my Bible the least and my prayer time becomes taken over by to do lists. I tell myself that I'll get back on track in January and I usually do.. but I wonder if I am somehow missing something big by letting my walk with God go on hold during such a significant time of year.

Christmas can often be about consumerism, food, fun, stress. 2 Corinthians 11:3 says **"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."** Christmas and life can lead me away from a simple devotion to Christ. This Christmas, I don't wish to be derailed. I want to look to God every day, choosing to put the worries, the joys, the busy-ness of life on hold to connect with him. And the best way to connect with him, is to remind myself of his story.

God's story is about the love of a Father who has tried to get the attention of his children for several thousand years. He's tried miracles, legislation, kings, prophets, slavery, angels, a sea parting, - the list goes on and on. However, humanity was a little bit stubborn and didn't seem to be getting the message. So he decided that he would come down in human form and connect with us face to face. God didn't need to spend thirty three years of his life in human form in an age when the standard of living lacked basic comforts; he didn't need to fast for forty days in the desert and be tempted by the devil; he didn't need to endure the accusations of the religious community and rejection from his own home town. He most certainly did not need to have his hands and feet driven through with nails and be hung from a cross - but he chose us above his own comfort. God has always gone above and beyond to be in relationship with us, no matter what the cost. He know's what is best for us and asks us to:

" Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ..Love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12.29-31

I don't need to stop doing everything else on my to do list. I just need to make sure that these two things stay at the top. We can love God and others, because he loved us first. Let's look to God and let him be first and foremost in our hearts this Christmas.

Patty Engel



CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY



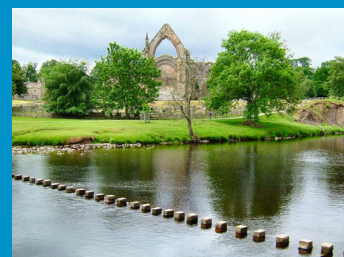
The much-anticipated Gateway Church Weekend Away is now less than 4 months away. The venue is by far and away the best we've ever stayed at; you'll be treated to en suite single, double, triple and family rooms. We're also offering some great discounts for children and students. The weekend is an opportunity to get away together as a church, to invest in our relationship with God and with each other. It's a great time for making new friends and deepening the relationships with old friends. The hotel is situated within 10 minutes walk of Ilkley town centre. It is also very close to several places of interest (Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire Dales).

Chris Frost is our speaker for the weekend. Chris is from Gateway Leeds and speaks with energy and passion that is infectious. Chris has spoken before on our Alpha Course, and also at a UNITE event. At UNITE he had young people praying for one another for healing, and we saw 5 people physically healed. We also had two people make first time commitments to follow Jesus. Be prepared to be challenged and equipped!

Throughout the month of January we'll also be selling raffle tickets to those who are already booked on. At the end of the month we'll hold a raffle and the winner will get to stay in the honeymoon suite at the hotel for the duration of the weekend. With the money we raise, we'll be able to subsidise places for those who can't afford the whole cost of the weekend. So get booked on soon (We're nearly half full) and get yourself in the raffle!



FRIDAY 1st APRIL - SUNDAY 3rd 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



A HAPPY NEW YEAR?

Is there a secret of true happiness? Starting in January on Sunday Mornings we will be taking a look at what Jesus has to say about it.

LOOKING AHEAD

Quiz Night
Saturday 15th January
Men's Breakfast
Saturday 22nd January
9.00am

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 desk.



CAROLS ON THE GREEN
21st Dec, 6.30-7.15pm
hosted by the Quaker Meeting House. Coffee and mince pies afterwards at the Meeting House.

Valentine's Day Dinner



Following last year's success we are planning a 'Valentine's Dinner' on Saturday 12th February (7:30 pm for 8.00 pm meal) in the Gateway Café. Full details, flyers and tickets will be available early in January 2011. The next Marriage Course will be promoted during the evening. Provisional dates for the marriage course are Thursday evenings 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th April.



Gateway Community Choir Christmas Concert

Monday 6th December 7:30
£5

including
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

All proceeds to CAP

TICKETS AVAILIABLE AT CAFE & BOOKSHOP