

PASTORAL CARE

The Gateway Elim Church has been enriched by the ministry gifting to encourage and develop the people of God. Pastoral care is vital to us because we want to be there for you. Your first point of contact is your Life Group leader; however, via the Church office or on personal numbers upon request, the team is available.

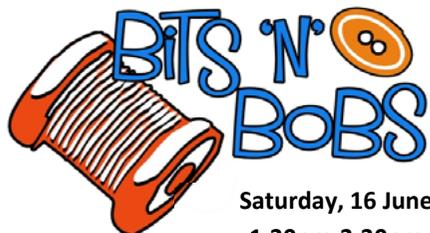
- Pastors Marty & Rebeca
- David & Denise
- Phil & Vera
- Alistair & Nadine
- Pastor Don & Doreen
- Pastor Jim & Margery
- Pastor Andrew

We are here to serve you.

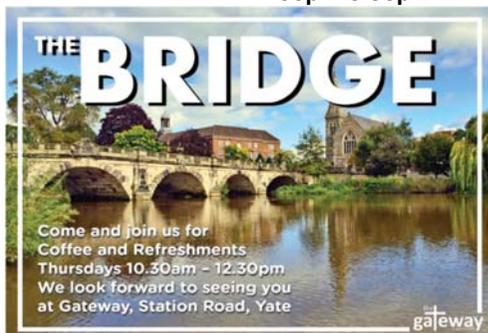
Life groups form an important part of Church life at Gateway.



Speak with David or Denise Nicholas to find out more.



Saturday, 16 June
1:30pm-3:30pm



Come and join us for Coffee and Refreshments
Thursdays 10.30am - 12.30pm
We look forward to seeing you at Gateway, Station Road, Yate



Little Blessings
Parents & Tots
Tuesdays 10:00am - 11:30am



Fridays
6:30 - 7:30pm
School years 1-6. An action packed night with loads of fun, games & prizes



See programme for full details of what's on.
Watch social media for special messages.



Prime Time
...an opportunity for all over 50s to spend quality time together
Every other Tuesday at 2:00pm
Speak to Don or Doreen for more details

the gateway **Life**

ELIM CHURCH

To the Gateway family

'Fit for Purpose Church'

The book of Acts has been called 'A Tale of Two Cities', not Paris and London as in the Dickens classic but Jerusalem and Antioch. The first 13 chapters of Acts are based in Jerusalem but from then on the central Church for the advancing of the Kingdom of God became Antioch. Why was this? The Jerusalem Church was an exciting place to be with new members joining the Church every day, many outstanding miracles, great grace and no needy person among them because of the great generosity in sharing. The ministry team consisted of twelve apostles who conducted daily teaching sessions in homes and in the Temple with growing multitudes of new disciples spreading the message of salvation.

By the time we get to Acts 11 the Jerusalem Church had been in existence for about seven years but it was still confined to Jerusalem – Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth were still waiting for the gospel to come to them. The martyrdom of Stephen changed all of this and the nice, exciting and familiar gatherings in Jerusalem were broken up by fierce persecution. Out of the fire of persecution something wonderful happened - the 'refugees from persecution' scattered to many places and wherever they went they took the gospel message and some of them ended up in Antioch where a new and very exciting chapter in the progress of the gospel began to be written.

Jerusalem was a great Church but it had a fatal flaw – the members were all Jews. There was a plan and purpose in the heart of God that Jerusalem could not handle and it would take a new expression of Church to cope with an integrated Church consisting of Jews and Gentiles, male and female, slaves and masters united equally in Christ – a place with no gender, social or religious divisions.

God is still seeking 'fit-for-purpose' Churches that will capture what is in his heart for all people; Antioch was one such Church that was willing to accept the disturbance of change to enable them to embrace God's purpose. We live in a world of accelerating change, especially in its attitude to Christians, the Church and God. The climate of hostility will intensify and Paul's prediction of 'The Rebellion' in 2 Thessalonians Ch 2 will become a reality. This developing anti-Christian climate will force changes on Church and how it is done. Christians in countries like China and North Korea are very familiar with Church without buildings and paid professional leaders but the dramatic growth they are experiencing is testimony to their willing response to the need for change.

What about us? Our Pastor, Marty, is endeavouring to lead us through change to have a Church that is as comfortable in small groups as in large gatherings. For the first three hundred years the early Church owned no buildings and the normal meeting place was in homes. Growth always brings change so it is important that we have the right wine-skins to handle the fermentation of the advance of God's expanding Kingdom and this will include well-run, well-structured small group meetings where seasoned saints and raw converts can grow and learn together to become a 'fit-for-purpose' Church.

Much love
Pastor Jim Dick

the gateway

ELIM CHURCH

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A Branch of The Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance
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