

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

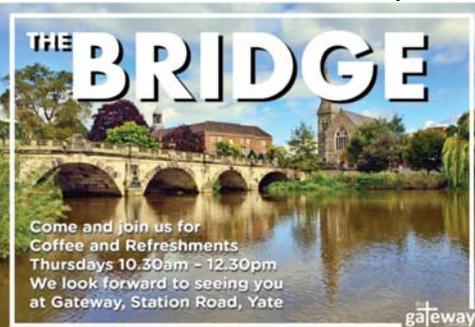
Life groups form an important part of Church life at Gateway.



Speak with David or Denise Nicholas to find out more.



Saturday 26th May
11:00am-1:00pm



THE BRIDGE

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

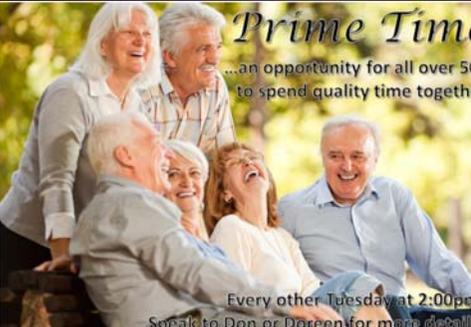


KIDZ KLUB
School years 1-6. An action packed night with loads of fun, games & prizes



gateway youth

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
ELIM CHURCH

Station Road, Yate, Bristol, BS37 4PH
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A Branch of The Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance
Registered Charity No. 251549

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the gateway **Life**
ELIM CHURCH

To the Gateway family

Praise God, the sun is shining, has spring arrived? It is lovely to see the blue skies and the clouds with the sun shining high. Just as the sun shining transforms where we live and has its impact so we impact where we live and walk as His light shines out of us. You bring His light into the darkness, what a privilege and joy.

In Matthew 5:16 it says, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." I love this verse, the Father of Lights sent His Light into the world through His Son so that we could shine for Him. It begs the question, how am I shining, how are you shining? Another verse that springs to mind is the one where it says it is His good pleasure to give us the Kingdom.

Often I feel we are bombarded by messages that try to control us and stop us from being all that God has made us to be; these start as soon as we are born and can be so subtle. We used to singing in the school playground, "sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me!" But truth be told, words can often leave hurts and scars far deeper than sticks and stones could ever. Thankfully we have an antidote to those words; it's called the Bible, God's word. God's word tells us who we are in Him. When words come in to put us down, we're no good, we've only ever failed, we're not beautiful, we've got no qualities, we'll never amount to anything we need to remind ourselves what He has said and is saying. Often it isn't just reminding ourselves but chewing on His words as they get from our heads to our hearts and begin to permeate our being.

When I was at school there was that spoken/unspoken - people who did Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Maths didn't tend to do French, English or Geography and History. People got categorised into Arts.... Sciences etc. Which led to a thought that became enforced and strengthened, we might even call it a stronghold! That I wasn't good at languages, that I couldn't learn French (which was the language you had to learn up to GCSE's at school), my brain was wired for the sciences. With this thought burnt into my thinking, I can remember the first time I was in Brazil, in two weeks I learnt one word 'obrigado' (thank you), that was it, I had no interest in learning Portuguese, at the end of the day I was a science person. Fast forward just over a year and God is calling me out of dentistry, N.Ireland to Brazil. All of a sudden I knew that if I was going to serve God faithfully I was going to have to speak the language! Oh No! Waves of thoughts, like I can't, I'm not able, languages aren't for me came rushing in.

God says whom He calls he equips, but no magical download of Brazilian Portuguese came. Yet God is not a man that He should lie, He gave me the discipline to study, He gave me the discipline to keep on trying when many laughed (in good nature) but that can really hurt too. He gave me the strength and perseverance to endure, to overcome the mental barriers until I was understanding, communicating and even preaching. It wasn't an overnight fix, there were frustrations and setbacks along the way but His light did shine.

I have been so encouraged by the testimony nights that we have had and also hearing one to one how God is causing so many to take those steps in making themselves vulnerable and trusting in Him as they break through the barriers and share God's love with friends, neighbours and colleagues, stepping out and doing things they've never done before. It is refreshing to hear that you are being light to the world. I would just like to encourage you to keep on going. It isn't easy but His character is being fashioned in and through you. Keep on coming into God's presence, keep on staying dependent on Him, He is your strength. Remember it is HIS good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Often we find our light begins to dim as we do it in our own strength.

Much love

Pastors Marty & Rebeca