

## Sailing along

There has been a very encouraging response to our Tall Ships leaflet outreach initiative.

- A total of **£585** has been donated so far from various sources to cover the cost of producing the *Harbour Lights* leaflets. In addition, 500 leaflets have been ordered directly for use in two other local churches.
- The *Prayer for Tyneside* group is carrying a feature on the leaflets in their latest Prayer Bulletin.
- Permission has been granted to place 500 leaflets in each of the two *Crew Reception Centres*. They will be left on tables for people to pick up, so please pray that this will happen. We are grateful for this 'open door' that God has created, particularly as one of the local organisers has informed me that many other groups have been refused permission to place leaflets in these areas.
- Permission has also been granted to place leaflets in the two main *Tourist Information Centres* in Gateshead and Tyneside, and also in all the local *libraries and art galleries*.
- The idea of a 'goody bag' for the park-and-ride customers has been dropped, however, so this is no longer a feasible outlet for the leaflets. Pray that alternative outlets will be found.
- Pray too for the *quayside distribution* of the leaflets. Arrangements will be finalised at a meeting in the Church on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, at 7.30pm**. Plan to be there, if you can help!



## Sow the seed

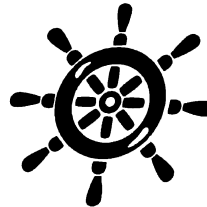
I am hoping that there will be sufficient volunteers to enable us to distribute leaflets on and around the quayside on:

- ⇒ **Saturday afternoon and evening, 23<sup>rd</sup> July;**
- ⇒ **Sunday afternoon, 24<sup>th</sup> July**, at the time of the open-air service in Wesley Square on the north bank of the river, 2.00-4.00pm (see overleaf);
- ⇒ the **morning, afternoon and evening of Monday – Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July;**
- ⇒ the **morning of Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> July**, during the Grand Parade of Sail.

As we distribute the leaflets, I trust we will be inspired by the story of the Ethiopian government official (Acts 8.26-39), who sat in his chariot reading a portion of God's Word as he returned to his homeland following his visit to Jerusalem. The portion of God's Word that he was reading led to his eventual conversion. May that be so for many visiting Tyneside for the Tall Ships race, who pick up the *Harbour Lights* leaflets - crewmembers and tourists alike! A box on the back panel of the leaflet contains my contact details for follow-up purposes.

*On his way home, he was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.*

[Acts 8.28]



In addition to all we will be doing as a church, and with other churches, *take a handful of the leaflets to pass on to you neighbours, friends and work colleagues.*

Pray for the venture, claiming the promise of Isaiah 55.11.

*My word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

[Isaiah 55.11]

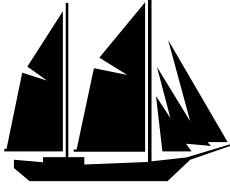
## Seize the Moment!

As mentioned in last month's News Letter, there are several other ways in which we can make the most of the evangelistic opportunity the Tall Ships Race and Festival presents to us.

⇒ **Special services: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July.**

We are planning to hold an *All-age service* at the church on the morning of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July. It will have a nautical theme, based on the '*Harbour Lights*' leaflet. We will bring forward our monthly *International Tea* (normally held on the last Sunday of the month) in the hope that some of the international sailors will be able to be present with us. Our *Evening Service* will also have an evangelistic emphasis.

⇒ **Open-air witness:** A Christian open-air event will take place in Wesley Square, on the north bank of the river, between **2.00pm and 4.00pm** on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July**. I hope many of us will be able to support it, and use the opportunity to distribute the *Harbour Lights* leaflets to those passing by. How about taking a



packed lunch with you, and heading down to the river straight after the morning service!

⇒ **Lunchtime Drop-in, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

We will be laying on a free buffet lunch for crewmembers and visitors, between **12 noon and 2.00pm, on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July**. If you would like to help with the catering, please see Elma. The lunch is being advertised in the crew's information pack, but we will hand out flyers on the quayside too. Let me know if you would like to help with this. It would be good if as many of us as possible were on hand to welcome our visitors and chat to them over the lunchtime period.

Further information about the Tall Ships Race and River Festival is available on their excellent website: [www.tallships2005.com](http://www.tallships2005.com).

### **Welcome Home – and Bon Voyage**

We look forward to welcoming **Andrew Hunt** back to DRBC this month, and hearing all about his year in Laos. A special 'Welcome Home' night is planned for **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm**.

In welcoming one Hunt home, we will be wishing another one *Bon Voyage*. **Richard** will be spending the month of August in the Philippines working with OMF. He will be sharing his plans at our midweek meeting on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm**. Prayer Letters for both Andrew and Richard are available.

### **Keeping Up to Date!**

At our Quarterly Church Members' Meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, we discussed several features of our Church life.

(a) **BMS project.** It has been suggested that we channel our BMS World Mission giving to their recently launched *Para Los Niños (For the Children)* project, which provides pre-school Christian education for some of the poorest children in the world. The scheme was started in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1992 and is now being extended to Mozambique, Angola and Ecuador. We will be launching the project at a special mid-

week meeting in early September.

(b) **Fun and Food for all the Family evenings.**

All sorts of good ideas were put forward for revamping our Tuesday night 'Sowing One' contact-making evenings, including: a musical evening, a talents night, a local history feature, flower arranging, a fashion show in conjunction with Traidcraft, a car treasure hunt, a film night, a beetle drive, a pie and peas supper, and a 'Who wants to be a millionaire' type quiz night. Give me some feedback on these ideas, so that we can identify the ones that will be best supported.

(c) **Our Children and Young People's work.**

Please continue to pray that we will be led to the right staff and structures for our outreach clubs. We are hoping to start one for 15-20 year olds in September, in addition to our two existing groups for 7-11 and 11-14 year olds. We also spent some time thinking about our Sunday School and Bible Class. Feedback from those attending these groups has been very positive, and we are indebted to the tireless work Carol Morton and Elaine Willmore put into running them week-by-week. We discussed how we could encourage those attending our outreach clubs to join us on Sundays. If you have any good ideas, please let us have them!

⇒ You will be glad to know that our **Church Website** is now back on line – thank you, Richard. Please note its new name (see below).

⇒ Thank you for remembering me in your prayers when I was invited to lead prayers at the **Gateshead Council Meeting** last month. I received a letter back from the Deputy Mayor, who was chairing the meeting, expressing her warm appreciation.

⇒ I was able to chat to the Principal of **Gateshead College** at the Meeting, and float the idea of the College having a Chaplain and a Churches' stand at their Freshers' Fair. Prayer that this might be another 'open door' that the Lord is setting before us, in response to the prayers we have made in connection with our verse-for-the-year.

*See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word.*

[Revelation 3.8]

David Hunt