

A Big Month

November is a month we have been looking forward to for a long time as a church. Our thoughts and prayers have been focussing on our special autumn outreach event, *An Evening with Syd Little*, on Friday 18th November. Tickets have been selling well. Over 130 have been sold so far (at the time of writing), with interest being shown from places as far afield as Seaton Delaval, Ferryhill, Ushaw Moor, Jarrow and Heworth! Half the tickets have been taken up by our own folk, and half by people from elsewhere. Our final numbers could exceed the 150 mark, which would be marvellous!

Please continue to be much in prayer for the event. Use the Prayer Cards we have produced to cover every aspect of the event, and join with us on **Wednesday 16th November** for a special time of prayer at the church, from 7.30-8.30pm.



People will be given an opportunity to respond to the event in several ways.

- For some people, we are praying it will be a **'now' moment** when God calls them to commit their life unreservedly to Jesus Christ. Such people will be offered a copy of the excellent booklet *Knowing God Personally*, either from myself, from Syd Little, or from Chris Gidney
- Other people may wish to **explore matters further** before making a decision, and so for them we will be offering *The START Course* on Wednesday evenings, commencing 23rd November. This is an excellent introduction to the Christian faith, which many of us have enjoyed participating in during the earlier part of the autumn.
- *Everyone* will be given a **response card** to enable us to gain some feedback on the evening. And everyone will be given a **flyer** advertising our Baptism Service on Sunday evening 27th November and our Christmas activities. The flyer will also give details of the START course.

Other Events

As well as looking forward to our *Evening with Syd Little*, a number of other significant events are taking place during the month of November.

- On **Tuesday 8th November**, we are holding our monthly *Fun and Food for all the Family Evening*. Margaret Vickers will be demonstrating how to make some **flower arrangements for Christmas**, and we will also have all our normal **games equipment** on hand.
- **Wednesday 9th November** is our **Church Members' Half Annual General Meeting**. This is the meeting at which we set our budget for the following year (2006), and estimate our income and expenditure for the year after (2007), to enable us to complete our Home Mission grant application early in the new year. It is an important meeting, and I hope as many people as possible will manage to attend it.
- **Remembrance Sunday** falls on **13th November** this year. Our morning service will commence at 10.45am (15 minutes earlier than normal) to enable us to observe the customary two minutes of silence at 11.00am.
- We are anticipating holding a **Baptism Service** on **Sunday evening, 27th November** at 6.30pm, preceded by an *International Fellowship Tea* at 5.30pm. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage those we have invited to the Syd Little Evening to attend an evangelistic church service with a difference!



Christmas is Coming!

The shops have been stocked with Christmas goods for several weeks now, but the challenge for us Christians is to take every opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas with those who see it as little more than a spending spree or an end-of-year party time.



Here are some details of the activities we have planned.

- **Christmas Coffee shop, Saturday 3rd December, 10.30-12 noon.** A good opportunity to drop-in for a chat and some refreshments.
- **Carol Singing around the streets.** Provisional dates are two from **Monday 5th, Thursday 8th and Monday 12th December.** We are also looking at the possibility of doing some carol singing in the town centre on **Saturday 10th December.** See Val Hill for further details.
- We have also been invited once again to provide carols at **The Swallow Hotel** on **Christmas Eve, 24th December.** Let me know if you are available to take part in this unique outreach opportunity. Last year, it resulted in some of the hotel guests attending our Christmas Day All-age Service.
- We are planning two **Christmas Specials** on consecutive Tuesday evenings in early December. The first will be for the Larkspur Crusaders group and their parents, on **Tuesday 6th December.** David and Joan King will be organising this and would appreciate any help people can give them. Then the following week, on **Tuesday 13th December,** we will be holding a Christmas Special for our own church contacts and friends. We plan to



have some quizzes and games, some carol singing, and show a film with a Christmas message.

Our main Christmas services will be as follows:

- ⇒ an **All-age Service** on **Sunday Morning 18th December at 11.00am;**
- ⇒ a **Christmas Carol Service** on **Sunday Evening 18th December at 6.30pm,** preceded by an *International Fellowship Tea* at 5.30pm and followed by coffee and mince pies! Andrew Hunt is planning to form a singing group to provide some special Christmas items for this service. Rehearsals will begin later this month. See him for further details.
- ⇒ a **Christmas Day All-age Special at 11.00am** on **Sunday 25th December.** There will be no evening service on Christmas Day.



Pray without ceasing

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for the Yefimenko family during their difficult time of uncertainty. We have received a letter from the Immigration Minister, Tony McNulty, indicating that their case is being reviewed further. Please continue to pray for a positive outcome for their situation.

David Hunt

PS Have you checked out our new **Church website** yet? We are grateful to Richard Hunt for upgrading it over the summer. It is open for viewing at www.gatesheadchurch.co.uk.