

An Excellent Season

Congratulations to our Under-14 and Under-16 football teams who have both enjoyed a very successful season in the Northeast Churches Together Five-a-Side League.



The **Under-14s** (pictured above) were runners up in their league (Division 1) and also reached the final of their Fair Trade Cup competition. One of our players, Glen McGinty, was the Division's second top goal-scorer with over 50 goals for the season. The players were presented with their medals and their League's Runners-Up Cup by Northeast football legend, Malcolm (Supermac) MacDonald, at a special ceremony on the last day of the season.



The **Under-16** team (pictured above) were also runners up in their league (Premier Division 2) and reached the finals of *two* cup competitions. Like Glen McGinty, our player, Dean Armstrong, was his Division's second top goal-scorer with over 30 goals for the season.

The Interims are Coming!

It has been thrilling to see the way in which God has answered our prayers regarding the financing of our Youth Interims project. We first reported the possibility of American young adults coming across to Gateshead to help with our youth work away back in November 2006. Since that time, we have been seeking external funding for the project from various grant-giving bodies. Over 40 applications were made, but all the initial replies we received were negative. Last November, we were wondering if the project would ever go ahead, as we didn't feel it right to over commit ourselves from our limited General Funds.

But just as we were about to pull the plug on the project, the Lord sent us a cheque for £2,000 from the Sir James Knott Trust! This encouraged us to make an application to the Baptist Union's Green Shoots Fund (for special evangelistic projects). Much to our surprise and joy, we were awarded their maximum grant of £3,000! A further £5,000 was then received from a local charitable foundation, thanks to some sterling work done in America on our behalf by one of Chuck McComb's contacts. We had previously agreed to give £2,000 from our 2007 Thank Offering to the project and this, together with two smaller grants of £350 (our 2007 Tyne and Wear High Sheriff's Award) and £250 (from a local charitable trust), brings the total to £12,600! We praise the Lord for his wonderfully generous provision, which has enabled us to go ahead and invite interims to work with us for an 18-month period, longer than the original 12 months we had anticipated.

Throughout our fundraising period, Chuck McComb has worked tirelessly on our behalf in America, recruiting potential candidates for us to consider. As a result of his efforts and the Lord's clear guidance, we are delighted that three people have accepted our invitation to come across to Gateshead to help us with our youth work.

We look forward to receiving **Matthew Johnston** in mid-July to work with us until mid-December. Matthew (21) is currently majoring in Religious Studies at Wayland Baptist University, Texas. He is in the honours programme, working on a thesis concerning the Moral Character of God, and plans

to study at Oxford University through a Study Abroad programme, from mid-June to mid July, before joining us in Gateshead. Matthew has

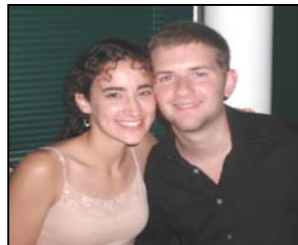


considerable experience working amongst young people, both in the USA and overseas. He lists soccer amongst his interests, and so will be ideally suited to working amongst those with whom we have contact through our two football teams. We are hoping that Matthew will be

joined by another young male adult; one candidate has already expressed an interest in joining us.

For the whole of 2009, we are looking forward a young married couple joining us, **Travis and Hannah Shelburne**,

together with their first child, due early this month. Travis (24) has a degree in Business Administration from Montreat College, North Carolina, and has worked as a management trainee. Like Matthew, he has considerable experience of youth work, both in the USA and overseas. He lists sports, exercising, and biking amongst his interests. Hannah (22) is also a graduate of Montreat College, where she studied Human Services and Spanish. Her interests include hiking and walking, so we will have to introduce her to the delights of Hadrian's Wall!



We are excited at the prospect of these fine young adults joining us to help with our youth work. Please remember them regularly in your prayers - not least, as they seek to raise the necessary finances for which they are responsible (airfare, medical insurance, etc.).

News Round Up

It was thrilling to see so many people present for our **Easter Sunday morning service** – 110 in all, the highest number for any service in recent memory! Our numbers were swelled by a group of 25 guests from Nottingham, who were staying at the Swallow Hotel next door to the church.

At our recent AGM, **Lewis Wilson** indicated that he felt the time had come for the Church to seek a

successor to him for the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. We are grateful for all the work Lewis has undertaken in these roles on our behalf and for his Lord, and would value your prayers as the leadership considers the right person to take over these roles in the coming months.

The AGM also provided an opportunity to give an update on our **Building Refurbishment** programme. Repairs to our heating system have been completed in line with the estimates we had received for the work. It is hoped that the refurbishment of the room over the kitchen will be completed by the end of the school Easter holidays, ready for the Sunday School to use it from the start of their summer session. Our recently commissioned Quinquennial Inspection Report indicates that further work to a number of roofs is needed, together with some pointing of the stonework. The initial estimate for the building work is in the region of £18,000, to which fees and a contingency reserve needs to be added, bringing the total needed to around £23,000 (plus refundable VAT). A further round of fundraising will begin soon. According to how quickly the money is prayed in, the work may need to be phased.

Forthcoming Events

The long-awaited **J John Just 10** mission begins on **Tuesday 22nd April**, for ten weeks. Transport is being provided from the Church for those who need it. Please be much in prayer about this special evangelistic opportunity. Use it well to invite friends, neighbours and work colleagues to hear one of the UK's most gifted evangelists.

We are looking forward to welcoming **Rev Rodney Stout**, one of the Associate Pastors at Charlotte Baptist Chapel, Edinburgh, as our Church Anniversary speaker over the weekend **26th-27th April**; and we are delighted that **Gillian Gartry Roberts**, who provided a concert for us last November, will be with us on the Saturday night as our Guest Soloist. Please make these services a priority in your diary for April!

David Hunt