

The Magic of God

As I write, we have just over a week to go before one of our major outreach events of the autumn – an evening with Dave Glover, evangelist and magician, who will be introducing us to ***The Magic of God***.

Saturday 11th October

promises to be an excellent evening of fun and entertainment, but one with a serious message to get people thinking too – the message of God's great love, mercy and grace to us in and through his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Make the most of these last few days in the run up to the event to invite friends, neighbours, colleagues, and family members along to a very appealing presentation of the Gospel.

Tickets (to help us know how many to cater for) are priced at **£2 for adults** and **£1 for under-16s**.

The evening starts at **7.00pm** and will conclude with refreshments from around 8.00pm to 8.30pm to enable whole families to enjoy the night out.

Lord, teach us to pray

In our Small Groups this autumn, we will be looking at some of the great prayers of the Bible – including those offered by Abraham, Hannah, Solomon and Jesus himself, as well as taking a good look at the prayer he taught his followers to pray.



Our Small Groups provide us with an excellent opportunity to learn from one another, in the spirit of Colossians 3.16: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.* They also provide us a forum for developing greater mutual support and encouragement for each other, through fostering deeper friendships and meaningful prayer.

We have arranged two groups for Mondays (both in the evening, in two different homes) and two on Wednesdays (one at lunchtime and one in the evening, both at the Church) to provide people with a variety of days (Monday/Wednesday), times (evening/lunchtime) and venues (home/church) to choose from, so that we maximise the potential for involvement. So, if you haven't yet signed up for a group, let me encourage you to do so!

Prom Praise at The Sage

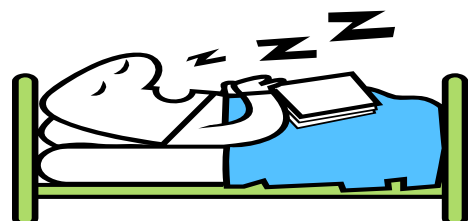
Looking ahead to next month, we are eagerly anticipating a return visit from the superb London-based All Souls' Orchestra, who will be performing Prom Praise at the Sage Gateshead on **Saturday 8th November**. There are still a few tickets left for both the afternoon and evening performances.



The Box Office has only a few seats behind the choir to sell. But if you would like seats for the main auditorium, let me know – for I have my sources!

We are looking forward to welcoming some members of the orchestra to our morning service on **9th November**, which is **Remembrance Sunday**. So, the service will be starting 15 minutes earlier than normal, at **10.45am**, to enable us to observe 2 minutes of silence at 11.00am in common with many other citizens of our nation.

We are hoping to accommodate 12-15 members of the orchestra over the weekend, and to that end, please let me know if you are able to offer us accommodation, as at present we are still a few beds short.

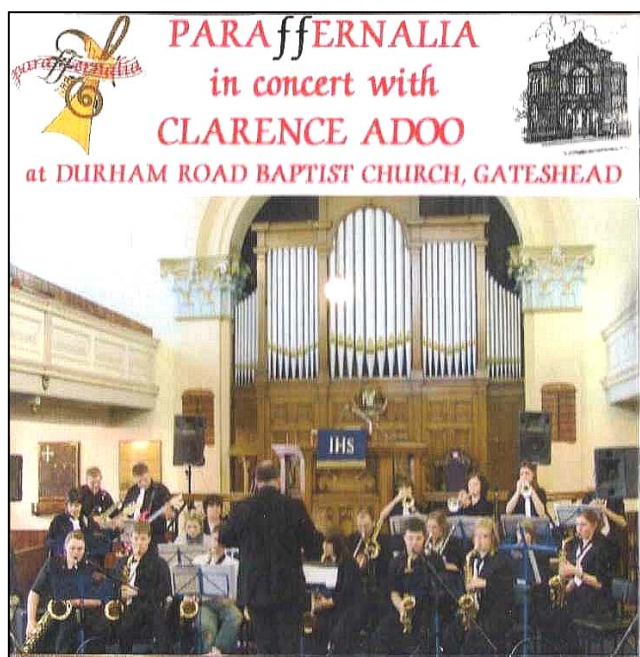


Christmas is coming!

Looking even further ahead, to December, we are delighted that the Gateshead Music Service's Schools' Swing Band, *Paraffernalia*, have agreed to lead us in an evening of *Christmas Music and Carols* on **Thursday evening, 4th December**, from 8.00-9.30pm. Tickets and publicity for the event will become available in due course.



All those of us who were present for their concert with Clarence Adoo in March earlier this year thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The good news is that we can re-live that night all over again! A CD of the evening is now available at the very reasonable price of £3.50. The CD features not only 60 minutes of music from the band, but also Clarence Adoo's remarkable testimony to God's goodness in his life.



The CD is not only a 'must have' item for those of us who were privileged to be at the concert; it's even more of a 'must have' buy for those who missed it! And at a stroke, it can solve the "What shall I buy him/her for Christmas?" problem that many of us will be faced with over the coming weeks!! Please let me know how many copies of the CD you would like to purchase. We have produced 100, but can easily run off some more if required.

Amazing Faith

During our Sunday evening services last month, we spent time looking at the remarkable writings of God's prophet Habakkuk. He lived around 600 BC in the years leading up to the Babylonian invasion of Judah.

In the opening chapter of the book, we are introduced to Habakkuk's burden – *why doesn't God do something*, he cries out in despair (Hab 1.1-4). Why doesn't God step in to right all the wrongs in the world around about me? And how long must I keep on praying about the situation in which I find myself, without anything ever seeming to happen to it? Habakkuk was wrestling with the problem of unanswered prayer, as we often do.

But having spent time in quiet contemplation before God (*The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him*, Hab 2.20), Habakkuk moves on to record one of the greatest expressions of faith in God to be found anywhere in the Bible.

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet
I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
*he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
 he enables me to go on the heights.*
 [Habakkuk 3.17-19]

Habakkuk knew that however difficult life might get for him and his people (as they awaited the Babylonian invasion of their country), God was his Saviour – and that was always a source of joy for him! He also knew that God would be his all-sufficient strength for whatever lay ahead of him – so much so, that a man who began his book in the depths of despair ends it by speaking about standing on the heights! What an inspiration Habakkuk is to each one of us. None of us knows what the future holds – but we know who holds the future, and in Him we can always rejoice!

David Hunt