



Teesside goes SUPERGAY weekender !

Wow....what a weekend. Wow...what an event. Teesside ‘SuperGay weekender’ went a big camp bang. Just look at the delicacies they had lined up for us...

- Saturday 19th September at 11.30 the SuperGay Parade met behind the Oak PH and set off through the town centre. They had asked us to dress up, bring instruments, flags and told us to make an impression.



And MCC Newcastle were there. Bob and Rob (all 6’ ginormous of him) carried the flag which must have been the tallest flag on the parade. I walked with Michael, blew my whistle and told as many people as was physically possible, and in no certain terms that ‘God loved them’. It was noisy, brightly coloured and no one can have been in the town centre at that time who didn't see or hear something. We certainly made an impression !



- The gates opened for the celebrations at centre square at 11.30am with a rousing speech from the Mayor Ray Mallon who incidentally, gave the drag artist Bootly Luv a big kiss on both cheeks... the fun was about to start.



Me & 2 tall gay guys

- We were treat to some of the best acts I have seen at one of these events including The Dream Bears who performed (gay camp men version of the full monty), Alisha Bennet, Camp Vamps, DJ's, TFM were on the main stage and it was a truly friendly, family fun day with stalls, fair rides, food, street performers as well as stalls selling ‘gay goodies’ there was a mix of community and supports groups represented.



Dreams Bears

- The day was rounded off by Annette and George dragging me out to the The Oak PH for the SuperGay Pride Party on the evening.

Now I am not calling myself extra fit but... George and Annette were noticeably absent from Sunday service. Hey who can blame them! We all had a fab time at Teesside’s SuperGay Weekender and I’d like to thank all of you who made the journey from Newcastle to help me, the church and God on the day.

By Claire Liebig-Denham

All Your Diary Dates, Events for September

Pastor’s Report - Harvest for our Future

Bible Feature - Adults of God ?

CLM is coming—register now!

Are you a YAM?

More worship opportunities at MCC Newcastle



Pastor's Report – September 2009

At the end of September, Living Springs MCC in Bath celebrated its 20th anniversary. In those days, the news from MCC headquarters arrived gently on the doorstep by post, along with newsletters from other churches. No internet, no email, no mobile phones, most people did not have a desk top computer at home, or even at work! 20 years ago AIDS was sweeping through the gay communities in the USA and making its presence felt in the UK. 20 years ago, I was 26 and starting a church seemed like a good idea!! I found out about MCC and began a life changing journey.

I could never have guessed, when I helped to start Living Springs MCC all those years ago, that so much would happen in my own life, in the life of MCC as a denomination, and in the world around us. Today Living Springs MCC is a very active member of Churches Together in Bath, it works closely with Julian House, a charity for homeless people in the city, and has outreach events in one of the local pubs, among many other activities. All of this would have seemed impossible or beyond imagining twenty years ago.

Living Springs MCC started because a small group of people were willing to do the work to plant a seed and trusted that God would make it grow. Now Living Springs supports the ministry of Good Hope MCC in Cape Town, South Africa, as it protects Black lesbians from violence and rape. Who would have thought it? Certainly not me!

This month we are beginning the process of reflecting on the journey that MCC Newcastle has taken so far and what God is calling us to be and to do in the next 10 years. What are the seeds that we need to plant now? What are the priorities for ministry? How can we use the different gifts and skills that God has given each one of us? What are the financial and other resources that we will need to fulfil the vision that God sets before us?

We are starting this process of discernment under the title “**Harvest for Our Future**”, beginning on 18th October, with our Harvest Service. Some of you will remember that we started to do a little of this at the worship

service after the ACM this April. We dreamed a little of what MCC Newcastle might be like in ten years time. Children's ministry, our own worship space, an orchestra, more people, are just some of the things that people dreamed about.



It will take all of us to discern what God has in store of us. Then it will take all of us to make it come in reality. We will need to start planting seeds now, to reap them in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years time. As all gardeners know, not every seed that is planted grows in a full and healthy plant. However, if we do our listening to God well and if we use our resources wisely, then many seeds will grow and bear fruit.

Please join in this process. You can share your dreams and ideas in a variety of ways:

After worship for 3 Sundays, there will be boards where you can add your ideas and comment on different aspects of life at MCC Newcastle

In October and November, there will be Vision parties. Bring food and ideas to share

If you are on our Facebook group, you can post your ideas there

If you aren't able to join in any of the above, get in touch with me and let me know what thoughts or suggestions you have

This is an exciting and inspirational time in the life of our faith community. I ask you to really hold Harvest for Our Future in prayer, so that we can really hear God's voice.

God bless

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Penha'.

Bible Feature

Adults of God ?

We often hear the phrase ‘children of God’ but we rarely hear the phrase ‘adults of God’. I was thinking about this question after I heard Mark Chapter 10 Verses 13-15 read out at church the other Sunday.

It tells us of a situation where many of the people were bringing little children to Jesus for Him to lay His hands on them. When the disciples told them off for doing this, Jesus was angry at them saying “let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” And just no one should be in any doubt about the strength of His feelings on this matter He added “I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it” He then took the children in His arms, paced His hands upon each of them, and blessed them.

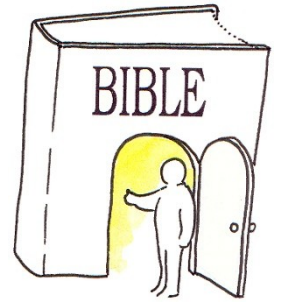


Wow. How cool is that eh ! This particularly appeals to me but, although I am an adult of 48 years old, I often regard myself as childish in many ways. I love flying kites, I love to kick a football around, I love to play games and when I’m with kids I feel and think like a kid. When I was a solicitor, I can recall a time when I was at the county court on a very serious matter and we adjourned for lunch. I went for something to eat, walked past Wilkinson department store and saw some plastic sledges for sale in the shop doorway. Snow was forecast and they were selling fast, so I bought one and then realised I would have to go back to court with the flipping thing !

Children are naive, innocent. Children need protecting, nurturing and to be and cared for. Children need parents they can rely on. Children require unconditional love, not some of the time, but always. God loves each and every one of us. My Mam thinks I’ll always be her little girl and, in much the same way, in God’s eyes we will always be children.

I am presently reading twelve books known as ‘The Left Behind Series’ The books describe the prophesy in Revelations of a time when God will come to earth to take all sincere

Christians to heaven (the rapture). The series continues with the struggle of those left who subsequently become Christians, between good and evil in the form of Satan’s rising to power on earth.



Now when the Rapture first occurs, people just disappear leaving items like pace makers, glasses, hearing aids etc. right where they were. But the important thing here is that no child under ten was left...God took them all up to heaven.

In John Chapter 1 Verses 12-13 explains that if you believe in Jesus you have the right to called a child of God. So all those who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are reborn spiritually and receive new life from God. You can be one of God’s family this new birth. Simply by accepting God and Jesus into your life. I don’t know about you, but I’d be the proudest kid in the world if my parents were God and Jesus (sorry Mam and Dad but you know what I mean). It’s like being put up for adoption and finding out that you’ve been chosen by God and Jesus. How good would that be !

Well you can be. Maybe you already are. If so, you are part of the biggest family on earth having thousand of brothers and sister. Just think of your inheritance; eternal life.

I think Jesus welcomed the children because a childlike trust is essential to enter the kingdom of God. Children have that faith and trust in their



parents and if you have it in God and approach the Lord with a childlike attitude of acceptance, faith and trust you can become one of the family!

Amen.

By Claire Liebig-Denham

Worship on Wednesdays

At MCC Newcastle, we understand that people meet God in different ways and enjoy worshipping in different ways. On a Sunday, we offer “blended worship”. That is, the worship service blends together different church traditions and music styles, along with aspects that are unique to MCC, to create a worship experience that hopefully allows everyone to engage and experience God’s presence.

On Wednesdays, we are starting to offer worship experiences that reflect a more specific style or tradition of worship.

Taizé Service

For quite some time now on the second Wednesday of every month Jonny has been leading a Taizé service in the main church.

The monthly Taizé service is a quiet reflective style of worship involving singing of simple chants, listening to readings and periods of silence. It is a perfect way to take some quiet time out from a busy week. It does not matter if you don’t know the songs, as they are very easy to pick up. If you enjoy a more gentle, reflective type of worship experience, talk to Jonny about the Taizé service.

Kairos Service

New in November will be a **Kairos** Service.” **What is this???**” I hear you asking!

If you attend on a Sunday evening, you will be used to a time in the service when we worship by singing a couple of songs back-to-back, as one of the many ways of going deeper and spending more time with God.

This Kairos service will spend quite some time using music to take us deeper accompanied by the piano and /or guitar. There will also be a time for people to pray quietly or out loud helping the others present to move deeper. We may pray as a group, as individuals or in pairs as the Spirit leads. People may also wish to share something from the Bible – please bring one with you or borrow one from the main church when you arrive - or ask for a song to be sung. We will have a list of songs we know available. You might even want to teach us a new song! (you may have to sing it on your own, if no one else knows it!)

Each service will have a theme and be semi-lead / guided to ensure that the service is always a safe space and that we move as the Spirit dictates. This could be different at each service and so I am sure no one service will be the same.

So why Kairos?

Kairos comes from the Greek for “the right or opportune moment, a moment in time”; The Right Time. For us this is the right time to meet with God and when God will meet with us, the time for us to communicate, learn more and go deeper.

It is our hope and desire that this is another opportunity for us to meet with God where we are at and to go deeper and have our hearts and lives changed through this meeting.

Want to know more?

Why not come along and join us on **Wednesday 4th November @ 7.00pm** in the Main Church. Service length will depend on how we are led, but if you need to leave after a time, don’t worry. Please just feel free to leave if we haven’t finished.

Still not sure? Speak to Mikee, Charlotte N, Hannelie or Charlotte W, who will endeavour to give you more Details, or contact us via the MCC Newcastle Facebook group.

YAM (*yām*)

-noun

1. the starchy, tuberous root of any of various climbing vines of the genus *Dioscorea*, cultivated for food in warm regions



2. MCC Newcastle's new social group for young adults (18-30s), to include activities around the region, chat, food and wine.

**“YAM are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ”
Galatians 3:26**

If you would like get involved in YAM, contact Charlotte N, either through the Facebook group or via email: laydelegate@mccnewcastle.org.uk

CREATING A LIFE



THAT MATTERS

Another Chance to Go Deeper!

Creating a Life that Matters is an opportunity to really take time out to explore your own spiritual journey. The course is split into 3 modules, each is six weeks long, with a break in the middle. There is one class per week.

The three modules are:

Rediscovering Relationship with the Sacred - where we look at our relationship with God and how that is influenced by what we have been taught and have experienced.

Rediscovering Relationship with My Self - we explore some of the influences that have shaped us and find out more about the self that we want to become, in relationship with God and with others.

Rediscovering Relationship with My Passion - our passions make us most aware of our personal power, energy and joy. We explore ways to use our passion in service through the church.

MCC Newcastle will be running **Creating a Life that Matters** on **Thursday** evenings, starting 19th November 2009 with a meal and introductory session. You need to **register before** this evening and pay something towards your fees.

The course is delivered as three modules, each of six sessions, with a week's break between sessions 3 and 4. There is an additional introductory session at the start of the course. **Each session will run from 7pm – 9pm.** You need to register for the whole course, it is not possible to just do one module.

Course dates are:

Rediscovering the Sacred: 19th November (pre-session for whole course), 26th November, 3rd December, 10th December, 7th January, 14th January, 21st January

continues on page 6

CLM continues.....

Rediscovering your Self: 11th February, 18th February, 25th February, 11th March, 18th March
25th March

Rediscovering your Passion: 13th May, 20th May, 27th May, 10th June, 17th June, 24th June

The course fees are set at three different levels. You choose the level at which you can afford to pay.

Prices for the complete course are: **£80** (High waged), **£60** (Waged), **£30** (unwaged).

It is possible to pay in instalments if you need to, but it is better if you can pay in one go, if you are able to. See Katie Marsh for more information on paying by instalments.

Booking forms are available at church, on the MCC Newcastle table, next to the kitchen hatch!!

For more information about CLM, talk to Cecilia or email her at pastor@mccnewcastle.org.uk

News from the Board of Directors

The Board is elected by the members of the congregation to be responsible for the administration, policy and finances of the church. At its last meeting, the Board co-opted Katie Marsh to serve as Treasurer until the Annual Congregational Meeting in April 2010.

Katie has previously served as Treasurer and stood down at end of her term in April 2009. However, she has been willing to consider serving in this position again, so the Board would like to say a big Thank You to her!

The Board is currently working on improving financial reporting to the congregation and we hope to publish regular financial updates in the newsletter from next month!

Our Mission

The Metropolitan Community Church in Newcastle upon Tyne is a Christ-centred and inclusive community, with a commitment to spiritual and personal growth through worship, prayer and action. We seek to provide a welcoming and accepting atmosphere, and aim to proclaim Christ's message of liberation for all. We work towards a transformation in the understanding of Christianity and its relevance to contemporary society.

Registered charity number 1093009

MCC Newcastle would like to extend a very warm welcome to all readers. We hope you enjoyed our newsletter which is published on a monthly basis and can be found in colour on our website www.mccnewcastle.org.uk

However, we are obliged to state that nothing in this newsletter either; written, said or otherwise, purports to represent the Metropolitan Community Church in general. If you have any comments about either content or presentation please contact the Editor who welcomes any contributions, but reserves the right to edit as deemed appropriate.

Events and Activities

New This Month! Number 1. Harvest for Our Future

What is God calling us to be and to do over the next 10 years? The current MCC Newcastle vision statement takes us to 2010. What is your vision for the next stage of our journey? What are the seeds we need to sow NOW, so that they will grow to harvest in the future? What is each of us willing to give to make the vision a reality? Come to a vision party - share your food and your ideas! Join in the discussions at coffee time. Enjoy our worship on the theme of Harvest for Our Future. More Vision Parties in November!

New This Month! Number 2. Student Service

This is our worship to particularly welcome students who worship with us regularly, or perhaps are coming to check us out for the first time. It is sometimes hard to be away from home and it is great to mix with a diverse group of people of different ages and backgrounds. Our new Young Persons Outreach team is organising publicity for this service, so come along and enjoy it.

New This Month! Number 3. Witton Gilbert Pilgrimage Walk

The North East is awash with Christian history. Join Charlotte and Hannelie on this short walk (about 3 miles) from Durham Cathedral to Witton Gilbert, learning about the Christian history of the area on the way and re-tracing the steps of ancient pilgrims. Email jezre_el@hotmail.com for more information.

Sunday Worship

MCC Newcastle meets **every Sunday** for worship at 6.30pm. We meet at St. James United Reformed Church, Northumberland Road, Newcastle NE1 8JF in the church hall. Our worship services are open to all.

The **Scarborough Group** meets on the **second Sunday** of every month at 4.30pm at the Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough. Join us for worship and a fellowship meal.

The monthly **Taizé service** is a quiet reflective style of worship involving singing of simple chants, often in Latin, and periods of silence. It is a perfect way to take some quiet time out from a busy week. Jonny is leading this worship, so see him for more details. The Taizé service is in the main church every **second Wednesday**.

Socials

18 – 30 Social Group – this group needs a better name! If you are between 18 and 30, then contact Charlotte N at laydelegate@mccnewcastle.org.uk or via our Facebook group, to see what you want to do as a social this month!!

Tea with Dorothy (TWD) is a group for the more mature amongst us.

Tea with Dorothy in Newcastle meets on the **first Saturday** of every month, from 2 – 4pm at Martha and Mary's Cafe, Chillingham Road, Heaton. Pop in for a cuppa and a chat.

Kite Flying – Bring your kite and enjoy Tynemouth Longsands. We will meet at the Crusoe cafe end of the beach at 11am. If you don't have a kite, come along anyway!. Contact Abby at social@mccnewcastle.org.uk for more information.



Social Action

****Operation Christmas Child***

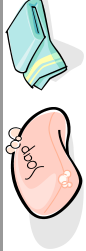
Last year, we collected loads of shoe boxes filled with goodies for children overseas. We are doing the same this year AND also collecting extra items that are needed to supplement the boxes that come into the warehouse. In September, we are collecting soap (Not liquid!) and a flannel. Pop an extra one in your basket or look out for "buy one, get one free offers"! For more info, contact Abby social@mccnewcastle.org.uk

For more information, phone/text the church phone (Cecilia or one of the church leaders)
07770 543407

or visit www.mccnewcastle.org.uk

MCC Newcastle, c/o St James Church, Northumberland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JF

MCC Newcastle October 2009



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 C at SRT meeting	2 C at SRT meeting	3 Tea with Dorothy Heaton 2 – 4pm A social for the more mature among us C at SRT meeting	4 Sunday Worship 6.30pm, church hall C at SRT meeting
5 C at SRT meeting	6 C at SRT meeting	7	8	9	10 Witton Gilbert Pilgrims Walk Meet 11am at Durham Cathedral See Hannelle	11 Sunday Worship 6.30pm, church hall Student service
12	13	14 Taizé Service 7pm, main church	15	16 18-30s Group Venue to be confirmed – check the facebook group!	17	18 Sunday Worship 6.30pm, church hall Harvest Service – Harvest for the Future
19	20 Vision Party! 7pm Bring and share at Claire and Annette's - Thornaby	21	22	23	24 Kite Flying Tynemouth beach, Crusoe end. 11am with Abby	25 Sunday Worship 6.30pm, church hall Harvest for the Future Deadline for articles for newsletter
26	27	28	29	30	31	