

all the way to Cheltenham race course for the most anticipated weekend of the Christian calendar.... It was 'Greenbelt time' !!!

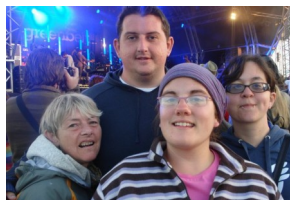
It was the 37th year since Greenbelt was founded and this year's theme was 'The Art of Looking Sideways'. Greenbelt is a annual Christian festival of music, arts, talks and worship. Christians come from all over the country to be amused, challenged, have fun and fellowship and well, just express their love of God. It is why I look forward to it so much and I know many others do too.



A full rainbow appears over Greenbelt

With all our tents up, kettles on (and maybe something stronger!), we all gathered in our "gayzebo" and with a childish excitement looked through the programme and planned what we were going to attend for the next few days. Now, this is where the beauty of Greenbelt comes into it's own...I guarantee that there is something for everyone. There are films, a wide variety of music, visual arts, comedy, literature, talks and panels, worship and spirituality, loads of stalls with food, drink clothes and some wild and wonderful stuff you just wouldn't see anywhere else.

Personally, I like the music, the Sunday worship service, the fellowship of being with a group and Beer and hymns. I know others thrive on the talks and discussions.



Myself, George, Charlotte and Cass at the main stage

I knew on the first evening God was going to be watching over us as a full circle rainbow appeared high above the site. Stuart Townsend is a Christian singer/song writer who has wrote many of the hymns we sing at church on a Sunday. You might remember some of these hymns; *Creation Sings, You Are My Anchor, All My Days, In Christ Alone* and many more.

A group of us were therefore keen to see him sing and despite the event being in Centaur, which is a large purpose built arena, we all queued for about an hour to get a good spot at the front. He did not disappoint . One of the songs he performed was about Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. It was slow, powerful and deeply moving (well it had me in tears anyway).

A crowd of us also sat on the grass whilst they showed the film Grease



All Your Diary Dates, Events for October

PLUS

Greenbelt Report

PLUS

Meet our new staff!

and

Bible feature:

Now, Now, Now is the Time

PLUS

Thoughts from Keith



on what this role might contribute to the work of the Church.

As the CCC, I will be responsible for ensuring that the congregation of MCC Newcastle are offered a variety of appropriate ministries to enhance the overall quality of experience of pastoral care. This extends from the first welcome in church to identifying and providing support for individual pastoral needs as appropriate, and helping to facilitate a range of social activities over the year. The post is primarily a co-ordination role which requires me to liaise with the Pastor, Board and ministry teams where required. I will also offer pastoral support where appropriate.



I hope that my personal and professional background prepares me well for the role. I have extensive counselling and support experience in a broad range of challenging environments and over thirty years of experience in leading and providing personal development and pastoral support / counselling to a range of individuals within the prison community. Frequently, the people I worked with were entirely excluded from society, isolated and without any sense of self worth or purpose.

Having gained so much from my personal involvement with MCC Newcastle, I am keen to contribute to the church's further development. As demonstrated through my commitment to welcome and pastoral ministry areas, I am convinced of the critical importance of effective pastoral care provision for the church community and, by inference, the LGBT community to which I belong.

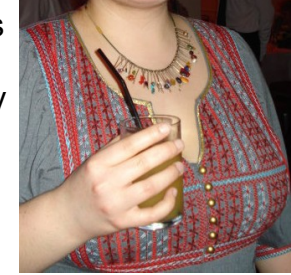
I have experience of managing, developing and coordinating both paid and volunteer team members and I am passionately committed to the principles of inclusiveness and equal opportunities. This extends to all aspects of my life and work. Furthermore, I am familiar with working to strict codes of confidentiality and private matters will only be referred, where necessary, to the Pastor.

My current role as a voluntary leader of welcome ministry and contributor to pastoral support within MCC Newcastle has provided opportunity to develop good insight into the needs of the congregation. I feel blessed to have an opportunity to positively contribute to the future development of congregational care provision at MCC Newcastle.

The foundation stone for the work I hope to do will be the views and needs of the congregation I will serve. I am very excited to be hosting the first 'Listening Lunch' at the Tyneside Coffee Rooms on 20th Sept. This will provide congregants with opportunity to meet with me, in an informal setting, to chat about pastoral support needs and social arrangements. I will be listening carefully! Following this, I intend to issue a questionnaire covering all aspects of the role. This will provide further opportunity for congregants to tell me what they think about how the church should provide pastoral support and social activities. I would encourage everyone to return these and to feel free and welcome to express their views about what we might do better or do for the very first time.

I have a deeply held belief that every individual has something valuable which they can bring to the work of the church. My role will be to try and tap into the amazing skills and qualities that you all

rooms, filling in tithe reports for the treasurer, making sure our emails are responded to, and checking there are enough staples and stamps in the office! I am helped in these tasks by Margaret, our very own "Office Angel" who comes in on a Monday morning.



As well as these regular tasks, I have been developing ways of improving communication between the office and church leaders, and the congregation. You may have noticed the new "sliding" PowerPoint presentation at the beginning and end of Sunday worship, informing everyone of who we are as a church and what is on this month. I have also been updating our online listings to make sure the information other organisations hold about us is accurate. I look after our facebook group too, which can be found by going to www.facebook.com and searching for "MCC Newcastle UK."

In the future I hope to work with our webmaster on updating the website. I also hope to create a second monthly diary for the church which will let people know what other LGBT organisations are doing and how they can get involved. Sometimes people come to church and it is the first time they have encountered an LGBT group. I think it would be great if we could let these people know what else there is across the region. I will be working with Kate, our new Congregational Care Co-ordinator, and Cass, who has been putting together our very own directory of local LGBT groups, to do this.

Communication is my forté, and my degree in Modern Languages was key in teaching me essential skills. I have already written one email in French to a visitor to MCCN! This new role is constantly evolving; please let me know if you have any suggestions in the admin area— we can have a cup of tea in the office and chat about staples!

God Bless,

Charlotte N

Kairos
'go deeper'
A free flowing charismatic worship experience.
We meet bi-monthly on a Wednesday.

MCC
Metropolitan Community Church
Newcastle upon Tyne

DO YOU CARE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD?

Oppression
Injustice
Abuse
Prejudice
Disaster

Copapo on August 5th when a cave-in trapped them 2,300 feet (700 metres) underground. On August 8th rescue workers began drilling bore-holes into the mine to try to locate the miners. It took until August 22nd to detect any sign of life, when rescue workers heard tapping on the drill. It's estimated that the rescue operation will take between three and four months. The operation involves drilling a 2.5 feet wide hole to extract the miners. The 33 men are trapped in a mine shaft shelter the size of a small one-bed roomed flat. When discovered they had little food and were surviving on 'two little spoonfuls of tuna, a sip of milk and a biscuit every 48 hours'.

Since being discovered the miners have been sending messages up to their loved ones. The oldest miner, 63-year-old Mario Gomez, told his wife that he was confident all 33 men would survive. "Dear Liliانا, I'm well, thank God. I hope to get out soon. Have patience and faith," it read. "I haven't stopped thinking about all of you for a single moment."

If estimates are correct and these guys are trapped in the mine until Christmas, they are going to need all the prayers, support and reassurance they can get over the coming weeks and months.

On the 15th September 2010 the wife of one of the 33 miners trapped underground in Chile gave **birth to a baby girl, who has been named Esperanza - the Spanish for 'hope'.**



An emotional ceremony was held full of song, music and tears when relatives of the trapped workers marked one month since the cave-in entombed their loved ones deep underground.

In Chile most people are Christians, both Catholic and Protestant and the proportions vary drastically depending on region, class and background.

However the principal denomination in Chile is

air share, a very human bonding process. It is a unique, intrinsic capability to express together, whether it be in song, talking or in prayers, a primary God-given right to meet human needs. What greater feeling is there for any human being than being satisfied?



We all need, require, want, love and desire grace and peace. These are the fundamental to our body, mind and soul. Who knows better what we require than our Creator, Maker and God? God knows what is best to satisfy you because he made you.

GOD is love, light, hope and truth so I'm telling you that *must* believe in Him, have faith that He can satisfy you and you will be satisfied !

I was over the moon to hear that one of the miners was thanking God for his well being and urging people to have patience and faith. I don't know if there are any other believers in Christ, down in what must be a hell hole, but I do know if they call out to God for help they are sure to receive it.

We may not get the exact help we are asking for, but, it will have God's life time guarantee to be in our best interests and therefore, satisfy us.

We, as Christians, are all disciples of Christ. Just as Jesus sent the disciples out on a mission to spread the Good News of Christ, we must do so also. The parable of the sower, the weed, the mustard seed, the pearl and the net are all examples of the benefits of believing in, and the need for, and to, spread the Gospel of Christ.

People have to accept and experience God in their hearts, bodies and souls, not tomorrow but today! You know the Creator's world is being abused by humanity, even though God chose us to be its custodians. Time is running out. The 33 men trapped will no doubt be freed eventually but what world will they be freed to; a world of God loving people who love, respect and share everything God made within it or, a world that is used up, spent, disappearing? A world where humanity is facing extinction because of separation with it' Creator God.

Your choice, your move, God says "checkmate"

who goes to MCC is very friendly and helpful. When I joined back in 2009 I was shy and thought I would not be suited to it but I was very wrong and I am meeting people of all ages and sexes and backgrounds. The colder months are now coming back and I hope this won't deter people and more people will come and join in. This month has been great with lots of events like the Harvest Festival, the Squash, Art and God and Listening Lunches (see October's newsletter for reports about all of these!) Of course we are also celebrating Young Adult Ministry's (YAM) one year birthday. It's been made for the younger (and young at heart) generation to get socially involved in becoming closer and it's a good laugh. We have different activities once a month for everyone to join in such as ice skating, picnics and watching movies at the local cinemas. In September to celebrate YAM's birthday we all went out for a meal and to sing karaoke.



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

We also receive donations from time to time.

Thank you to the person who regularly sends anonymous donations to the church office.
We know that you read our newsletter!
Thank you for your most recent donation.

Sunday service	Attendance In August
Week 1	29
Week 2	30
Week 3	25
Week 4	30
Week 5 (Greenbelt)	18
Average Sunday attendance	26
No. of different individuals attending over month	41
Offering in plate	£282.77
Offering through standing order	£1950
Total monthly offering	£2232.77
Budget for 2009/2010	£35,520.00

Thank you to everyone who completed a Gift Aid form, which allowed MCC Newcastle to claim back the tax that you paid on your offerings to the church. We were able to claim back **£5011.74** in Gift Aid for 08/09.

If you would like to start a Standing Order or want to sign a Gift Aid form, they are available every Sunday, by the kitchen hatch!

WORSHIP

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.

W.O.W! (Worship on Wednesday)

Kairos worship service (6th October) *Kairos* means “God’s special time.” This is our free flowing, charismatic worship experience. In October we are meeting in a new space – ring the MCC doorbell and you will be ushered through to a mystery location! Come along, all are welcome! Contact Charlotte West for more details.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Amnesty/Social Justice Group

Combining the work of Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org) and UFMCC Global Justice Ministry (www.ufmcc.com), this group aims both to seek justice in our own communities and address global justice issues in partnership with UFMCC (United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.) Join Cass at the Stateside Diner on Pink Lane for a meal and to discuss our future actions.

SOCIALS

Listening Lunch

Kate, your new Congregational Care Co-ordinator, would love to meet the congregation! On the 18th October she will be available to share lunch with anyone who wants to join her (venue to be confirmed). Come along for fellowship and lunch, caring and sharing.

YAM (Young Adults Ministry) is for everyone from 18 – 30s. We have a social once a month. On the 29th October we are going out for a meal in Durham. Meet at 6pm in Durham market square. All are welcome to come, whether you are a regular YAM-mer or not! Chat to Charlotte N if you need more info.

SQUASH How many people can we squash into Mikee and Jonny’s home for a social time?? Join M and J after our service for drinks, nibbles and fun at their home in

October 2010

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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	18 Listening Lunch 12-2pm Venue TBC			21 Amnesty Group 7pm Stateside Diner	22
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					29 YAM Social 6pm Durham Market Square
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