## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral Care is a vital part of Gateway family life and we want to be there for you. Your first point of contact will always be your Life Group Leaders.

Life Groups are held in our homes where we come together as a church family to learn, to grow, to fellowship and to share.



If you are not part of a Life Group and would like to know more, please contact the church office for more details.



### CARERS' SUPPORT

#### Carers

If you have any issues you would like to discuss, need help, advice, assistance with completion of Benefit forms and Appeals or support at Tribunals please contact David and Denise through the Church Office (01454 322616 option 0) and we will do our best to help you.

We are also available to pray with you and "just to listen" and will respect your privacy.

David and Denise











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# To the Gateway family

Tis the season to be jolly..... tra la la la la, la, la la la! I hope you can hear my dulcet tones in your ears. Christmas is coming; some people like Christmas, some people don't but I want to encourage you to think beyond yourself this Christmas.

Tis the season like no other to remind people why we celebrate Christmas; as some people say, "Jesus is the reason for the season". Being an ambassador for Christ and His Kingdom isn't a seasonal job, it is a daily opportunity to bring reconciliation of man to Christ, yet Christmas presents us with opportunities to invite people to Carol services, Nativities and Plays which will point them towards Jesus as the Messiah, like no other...... A shout out for our The Bethlehem Story!!!!

Often, we can go about our business and not interact with the people around us, it can become the way we are!

Yet the Bible is very clear - who will know, who will have heard about Jesus being their Lord and Saviour if nobody tells them (Romans 10:14). We are also exhorted with the knowledge that Jesus says, "whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).

Praise God we live in a country where we can still share our faith and not end up being martyred. Yet we live in a country where less and less people have heard the gospel message, **THE** Good News. As we step out to speak it can be scary, but I am reminded of God's words to Joshua as he stepped out into new ground, "be strong and courageous". The early church echoed this desire when they faced persecution and prayed "grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus" Acts 4:29–30.

I want to pray over you, that as we move into the 'Christmas season' that God will encourage you, strengthen you, give you the boldness and the courage to share your story of Jesus to those that the Holy Spirit brings across your path and gives you that ever-knowing push forward. That you experience the joy afresh of pouring His light into someone else's life, that you see firsthand the power of HIS GOSPEL in action through you!

God's richest blessing

Pastor Marty & Rebeca