

# YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER PROJECT



## PRAYER UPDATE AUTUMN '09

*He said to them "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"*

*Mark 16 v15*

## First the Goodbyes

Many of you will be aware that Matt Priestland has now left the Church in the Westlands having spent 4 happy years as our Youth Outreach Worker.

Matt has taken up a post at a Primary School in Stoke whilst he studies on the graduate teacher training programme.

He is also very busy preparing for his marriage to Fi next Easter and in looking for their new home in the North Staffordshire area.

- Please give thanks for Matt's hard work with us over the last four years and for the contacts he has made, particularly in the schools
- Give thanks for all those who have been brought closer to God through Matt's work
- Pray for Matt in the exciting challenges facing him in his new career.
- Pray for time and space for him to be diligent in preparing for this work
- Pray for Matt and Fi as they prepare for their wedding next Easter and as they search for the home they will share together in their married life

## A new chapter

The Youth Outreach Worker Management Committee has been working hard to find another new Youth Worker, but when the search started there were not many spare ones around!

An initial advert appeared at the beginning of June and 12 expressions of interest were received. 4 applications were received, but having given careful consideration to them all the committee decided, for a number of reasons, not to shortlist, but to re-advertise.

Adverts in external publications do not come cheap and continual advertising also brings with it the risk that potential applicants will begin to think that something is wrong with the job! Consequently our second advert is only just about to appear.

The advert will appear in the *Youth Work* magazine due out on 13 November, with a closing date of 8 December and a potential interview date of 16 December. It has also been sent round 42 informal contacts and visits have been scheduled to some of the colleges who are likely to have people finishing Youth Work courses next summer. It will appear on our own website and on other websites shortly.

Please pray for this recruitment round and for all the work involved.

## We are looking for someone with

- A growing dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ
- Teacher / pastor gifting, used to teaching the Bible
- Experience in Youth Work, ideally in a non-church context
- An ability to work on their own, as a team player and to inspire a team of volunteers

We would like to fill the post as soon as possible, but are prepared to wait until next summer for the right candidate

Please bring this to the attention of anyone who you think might be called to this work.

- Please pray for the right people to respond
- Pray for the Management Committee as they manage the recruitment over the next few months (their names are listed on the back of this leaflet)
- Pray for the Young People who still need to be reached with the Gospel

## Interim Arrangements

Gerald, Shaun, and Robert are keeping in contact with the schools and are looking for any offers of help from members of our congregations to assist them with this.

We do not necessarily need to do the work in the way it was done by Matt as we are very much hoping that a new person will do it their way. The new appointment will see a new beginning, but it is very much hoped that some work can be undertaken in the meantime, particularly in the schools.

Harvest assemblies have recently been taken and school carol services will soon be upon us

- Please pray for Gerald, Shaun and Robert as they take the lead in this
- Pray for the strength to cope with this extra burden
- Pray for suitable people to be able and willing to assist with the work
- Pray for the work in Church and those who have already agreed to take on extra work

## The Youth Outreach Worker Management Committee

Bob Bell

Gillian Elks

Rev Robert Fisher

Rev Gerald Gardiner

Mark Hatcher (Diocesan Youth and Children's Advisor)

Stuart Jackson

Rev Shaun Morris

Please pray for them, encourage them and offer them your help

- Pray that they will continue to strive to seek for God's will in all that they do and that God's spirit will fill them in undertaking their task
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for the committee to make considered decisions and to appoint the right person for the post at the right time
- Pray for the huge responsibility they take on in their role