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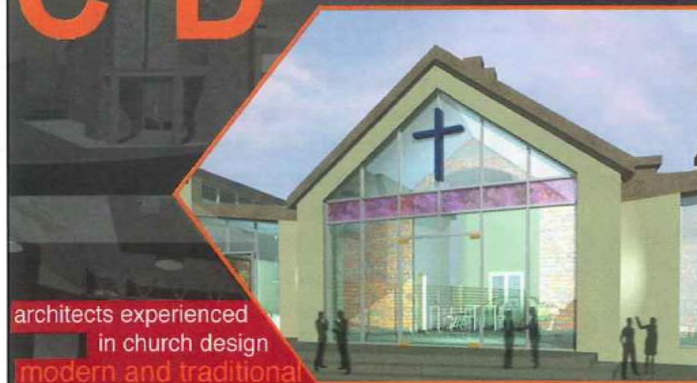
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City Gates
Christian Centre

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Our successful childcare business seeks a strong leader to take us forward: could it be you?

OUR CONTEXT: Ilford is a vibrant multi-cultural centre, close to central London, Canary Wharf and the Olympic site. There is significant new development all around.

OUR CHURCH: City Gates is a growing faith-blessed congregation, filling a local cinema twice each Sunday whilst our new building is prepared. Our aim is to impact the life of those around us with the Hope and Good News of Jesus.

OUR NURSERY is brand-new, purpose built, and already a success story! Open just 2 years, we are now registered for 65 places. We have a great team of enthusiastic staff, Ofsted rate us as 'Good', and parent feedback to our questionnaires is positive; but we want to press on - to be full, to be top quality, to sparkle!

OUR NEW MANAGER?

- passionate, enthusiastic, experienced
- a committed Christian
- excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- able to demonstrate your ability to lead a diverse team
- maintain and drive for high standards
- support and enable our young staff to grow in competence, confidence and quality
- responsible for planning and organising our curriculum.
- at ease using IT.

If you have the qualities and qualifications to succeed in this exciting role, then further information and an application pack are available from our website (<http://nursery.citygates.org.uk>), or direct from the Church Office on 020 8514 0188.

Apply by the end of Tuesday November 9th; interviews will be held on Weds 17th November.

Good working conditions and attractive terms for top quality candidates.

A full CRB clearance will be required; also, in accordance with the Employment Equality (Religion and Belief) Regulations 2003, there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) for the Manager to be an active Christian.

Refocus... Revival

A striking prophetic message paved the way for radical changes at Watford Community Church, and seven years on they are looking towards the signs and wonders promised as they build a well of revival. Church leader **Tim Roberts** explains

Hope springs eternal

In March 2003 we welcomed a dear friend to our Sunday service, a prophetic leader called Peter Stott. I remember at the time encouraging him to preach 'with complete freedom' and simply expected another inspiring talk. ☺

Peter, a widely respected charismatic leader based in Havant, is a man of passion and his words have stirred and challenged thousands of people over the years. However, even after he had delivered his sermon from John chapter 4, I had no idea just how profound and far-reaching his message really was.

You see, he spoke of a widespread economic crisis that would undermine the confidence of our nation, and the nations. He spoke about 'wells of revival' being opened up around the UK that would be places of God's habitation, oases that would bring spiritual refreshing to ordinary people. Peter declared our little town, Watford (a place often mocked by the rest of the nation), as one of those places, and spoke with great confidence that the church we serve, Watford Community Church, would be a strategic part of that. But this prophecy was more than a general encouragement to get us all excited – it was a very specific word that we are seeing fulfilled before our very eyes, seven years later.

Peter said that we would be blessed by God as a resource church to encourage others, that we would have favour with those in local government. Well, since this time we have developed stronger links with our local elected Mayor, Dorothy Thornhill. She is a believer, and with great boldness in the last eight years she has created a level playing field for local churches to be given equal opportunities to mosques and other religious/secular groups to play a part in the local community. Dorothy spoke at our Easter service

again this spring, declaring that we should keep 'turning the volume up' on the Word and work of the Lord.

The prophecy in 2003 said that we would gain credibility with local authorities and be entrusted with areas of responsibility to provide community services. Well, our English language ministry in partnership with the local Women's Centre and Sure Start Children's Centre continues to expand with over a hundred women from ethnic minorities continuing to receive language training, citizenship support and career advice. We have also recently developed the Parents Into Work project to help train and equip parents who want to receive training and avoid welfare dependency. As a result, people are finding jobs and will be starting small businesses.

Probably the most remarkable theme of all from that prophecy was the promise from God that, in a spiritually dry place like Watford, he would establish a physical well that people would be drawn to. Peter said, 'I believe you will receive such strong favour from the local authorities that they will release finance to you' (we've received a £190,000 grant for our Parents Into Work project) '...and even property.'

Peter spoke of scaffolding being taken down to reveal a building with a transparent frontage, a building that does not look like a normal church, but a facility where people on the outside could easily see the life within. As I sat there on the front row, in the school hall we had been very happily renting for over ten years, I remember thinking, 'that was nice... not sure we want a building, but we may think about it one day.' Other leaders who were there also thought, 'inspiring message – not sure we want to take on a building project.' So we respectfully filed the prophecy away.

A matter of months later it was evident that God was up to something. We began to be stirred about our long-term future in the town centre. We began to look ten-

tatively at buildings that were up for sale and, by 2005, we were seriously looking at our options. We put in a few offers to refurbish some less-than-ideal properties to use as a church and community centre. All of these failed. However, something was drawing us to a residential area near the town centre called Watford Fields and the Holy Spirit inspired us to hold a few fun day outreach events.

Little did we know what God was up to! By the spring of 2006 we had a strong rapport with several of the community officers at Town Hall, and one day, as we walked the neighbourhood in question, I was told about some land that was being made available.

The land was called Watford Springs. It was a Council-run swimming pool that had to be prematurely demolished. Before that it had been the site of the nation-

God was serious about his plan and in a matter of months we'll open

ally-acclaimed Benskin's brewery, with rumours of natural springs underground. The Council officer said, 'They're asking for community groups to bid for some of the land; the rest will be sold for housing.'

Would we be called upon to build a purpose-built church and community centre on Council land in the town centre, a piece of land renowned as a place of refreshing? Four years on, that is exactly what we are seeing. God was serious about his plan, and in a matter of months we will be opening phase one of The Wellspring Church Centre, a £1.7m facility in the heart of the town.

We trust the church will be a place where people will drink deep of God's grace and power, a base of ministry and

MAYOR GIVES HER BACKING

Mayor Dorothy Thornhill has thrown her backing behind all that God is doing in Watford Community Church.

She said, 'Your patience has finally been rewarded – the end is in sight

and, despite several setbacks, God has seen you through it. Now I look forward to all that good community work I know you will deliver in the Watford Fields area. In his name, keep going!'

prayer, praise and outreach that will impact many. Phase one includes a number of activity rooms, offices, an auditorium to seat around 200 and a community café. Planning permission has been obtained for a significant extension that nearly doubles the square footage and makes the most of the site which lies adjacent to Lower High Street and the Watford Museum.

Major work is underway immediately next door to The Wellspring on a housing estate of over 120 houses and flats – within a year over 300 people will be living on 'The Springs' estate and driving down a road we have been privileged to name 'Wellspring Way'.

We are so excited about these God-given opportunities. Ephesians 2 talks about the importance of building on the foundations of the apostolic and prophetic, and our understanding of this has been deepened over these years. At several points the going has been so tough, akin to climbing Mount Everest when the higher you climb the less oxygen there is to breathe, yet the words of this prophecy have reminded us that God is doing something here. He has started something that he will finish; he had ordered this, and he will pay for it!

At several points over the last four years we have heard the affectionate 'chuckle of God.' One of these times was in September 2009 when the builders had finally started work on site – we were called over to the site to see that those digging the foundations for The Wellspring had discovered a 15-metre-deep, stone-lined well! Yes, immediately underneath the foundations is the principal water source for the famous brewery that once stood there and, though we built over the well-head, we take it as another powerful sign that God meant what he said: This was all his idea. God laughed that day!

There have been so many times when we have seen the Lord come through, not least in February this year when our target for the 'final' gift day for the building had to be stretched to £107,000 due to unforeseen financial challenges. Incredibly the offering that day totalled £108,700!

Often the leadership team here have echoed the prayer made prominent by David Shearman: 'Lord, we want you to do something so spectacular here that only you can get the glory.' And that is what we are seeing.

Tim Roberts is the senior minister at Watford Community Church



WHAT'S IN STORE?

At the end of Peter Stott's prophecy about all this there is the promise of an outbreak of signs and wonders as a well of revival is uncapped.

There is also a profound challenge: 'You're in for a marathon, these things will not happen right away... this is going to take every bit of guts, grit, perseverance and prayer that you can find – I'm not selling you an easy job, I can tell you.'

The Lord has spoken.