

Trumpet Call

Effective Christian action for Truth, Justice and Righteousness

GENERAL ELECTION

**Polling
7th May 2015**

**ARE YOU
REGISTERED TO
VOTE?**

IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY

This is an important opportunity for public Christian witness – to drive key issues to the top of the political agenda and to stimulate national debate about the future of our land. Are we prepared to be salt and light during this election?

TOP PRIORITY – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This is a crucial point in the life of our nation. In each of the issues to be raised with Parliamentary Candidates, the question should be asked *'How will your policies benefit the children and young people of our nation now and in the future?'*

THE CRISIS

Improper financial regulation, with greed-driven irresponsibility in lending and borrowing, has brought disaster. **Our real national debt (factoring in all unfunded liability) is £6 trillion - 4 times our GDP, that's £400,000 per average family.** Saving is penalised and debt encouraged. The use of food banks is an indication of emerging poverty. **The real crisis is in the hopelessness of our younger generations. They are the true victims of our national neglect and greed.** Are we ready to weep over the broken walls and lives of our nation and, like Nehemiah, repent, pray and act?

DEMOCRACY AT RISK?

Fewer people vote. 'Political correctness', 'spin', excessive powers of party Whips, the expenses scandal and now the evidence of senior politicians profiting from their privileged positions have all inflamed public anger and discredited Parliament. Further, the precipitate passing of the controversial same-sex marriage legislation, redefining marriage (for which there was no mandate & little consultation), has **seriously undermined trust** in the political process. **A huge gulf now exists between public and politicians, with widespread cynicism, distrust and apathy.**

THREATENED VALUES

The foundations of our nation are Judaeo-Christian and are now under serious threat. They have been systematically undermined over the past 50 years. The rotten fruit is seen in the **breakdown of family and marriage costing the country £46 billion a year.** At the same time Christians are being penalised for their faith.

There is need for a thorough debate about the future of our nation. Our decisions will affect the well-being and health of our country. **There is now a struggle for the soul of our nation. Will you enter into this? It is ultimately a choice between life or death.**

Act Now

Arrange special meetings to pray for the future of our nation and especially for our children.

Identify your local candidates, pray for each one and **WRITE** to them presenting specific questions.

Arrange an all-Party hustings together with local churches.

(See www.ctbielections.org.uk)

Use the letters page of newspapers, social media and local radio to raise specific topics.

Arrange a delegation or house meeting to meet and question individual candidates.

Ensure you and others, especially the young, are registered to vote.

(See www.gov.uk/yourvotematters or check with your local authority).

**THESE ARE A FEW OF THE QUESTIONS YOU ARE URGED TO RAISE WITH THE CANDIDATES.
They are not in any order of priority and you may care to raise other issues.**



Worldwide Persecution of Christians

What steps will you take to defend the basic human rights of millions of Christians worldwide, who are being deprived of their religious freedom and many of whom who are being assaulted, imprisoned, tortured and even murdered for their faith?

See Maranatha Community report 'Global Persecution – The Price of Faith for Christians Worldwide', which was presented to the President of the UN Human Rights Council and senior political and church leaders worldwide.

Education

Will you support mandatory teaching in schools that marriage is the healthiest basis for a family for adults and children according to statistical evidence? Will you support teaching on the complementary and necessary benefits of motherhood and fatherhood?

Will you endorse that the teaching of British values, now required in schools, should be set in the context of historical fact - that they originate in Judaeo-Christian belief, teaching and practice?

Will you support an evidence-based review on the use of 'Mindfulness' in schools?

All the evidence shows that children fare best within the security of marriage, and half our children are now born outside wedlock. 'Mindfulness' (a system of Buddhist meditation) is being actively promoted in British schools and educational establishments.



Sex Education

Are you prepared to protect children from the corruption of so-called 'value free' sex education?

Will you support an inquiry into the possible corruption of children through depraved sex education teaching in our schools?

Children as young as four are being taught about same-sex relationships in a Government-funded scheme.

The Marriage-based Family

Will you do all in your power to ensure that social policies and taxation help, rather than hinder, the marriage based family?

Many couples do not marry because it is financially less attractive.



Poverty in working families

What steps will you take to protect and provide for working couples trying to survive on minimum wage?

13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK. Two-thirds of people who found work in the past year took a job for less than the living wage. 21% of working age adults and 27% of children are living in low-income households. Food banks fed 913,138 people in 2013/14, 330,205 were children.

Abortion

What are you prepared to do to bring an end to the scandal of the destruction of over seven million babies in our country through abortion? Will you work to ensure that schoolgirls are no longer provided with abortion facilities without approval or even knowledge of their parents? Will you work to ensure that all women offered abortion are given full information about the possible physical and emotional consequences?

37% of all abortions performed in England and Wales in 2012 were repeat procedures. More than 4,500 women underwent at least four abortions, 1,334 at least five, and 33 women have terminated nine or more pregnancies.



Promiscuity and Sexual Disease amongst Children

Will you oppose the use of schools, youth services and so-called 'clinics' for the distribution of contraceptives to children? In the light of rampant sexual disease amongst the young, are you prepared to press for teaching which specifically discourages promiscuity and warns of its dangerous consequences?

In the last 5 years almost 10,000 slow acting implants have been placed by the NHS in girls below the age of consent. The implants have never been tested on under 18's. Young people (15–24 yrs) acquire half of all new sexually transmitted infections and 1 in 4 sexually active adolescent females have an STI, such as Chlamydia or human papillomavirus (HPV).

Assisted Suicide

Will you oppose any legislation which permits euthanasia or assisted suicide? Will you support the vast majority of doctors who do not believe they should be involved in killing their patients? Do you believe that legislation for assisted suicide is safe for our society in the light of what is happening elsewhere in the world?

There are now calls for death on demand. Dutch doctor Karel Dunning says "Once you accept killing as a solution for a single problem you will find tomorrow hundreds of problems for which killing can be seen as a solution".



Arms Trafficking

Will you speak out against the mushrooming international arms trade?

The UK is the second largest exporter of arms in the world. In the last 18 months the UK has licensed arms for 18 of the 'countries of concern' listed in the FCO's Annual 'Human Rights & Democracy' Report. These arms exports are heavily subsidised by taxpayers.

Discrimination against Christians

What steps will you take to reverse the rapidly growing trend of discrimination against Christians in places of public employment and elsewhere? Will you speak out against the imposition of limitations on religious freedom through so-called Equality legislation? Will you work for the abolition of 'hate' crime legislation which makes innocent people vulnerable to investigation and prosecution for legitimately expressing their views?

There have recently been many cases of Christians facing dismissal for speaking about God or offering to pray. Christian symbols have been displaced and Christians forbidden even to wear small crosses.



Islam

What will you do to discourage Islamic separatism in our towns and cities? Are you prepared to press for the outlawing of all Islamic groups which condone or encourage violence? Are you prepared to support an inquiry into existing Shari'a courts in the UK and resist the introduction of Shari'a law into Britain?

Over 85 Shari'a courts now operate in Britain. Shari'a courts discriminate against women and non-Muslims.

Young people with no future

What do you propose to do to help and give hope to the 963,000 young people between the age of 16-24 who are without education, employment or training (NEETs)?

The number of young people in this category constitute one fifth of all young people in the UK. A third of these young people have suffered depression and 15% have a mental health problem.



The European Union

Will you press for the accounts of the European Union to be audited without any further delay? What are you prepared to do to deal with the waste, corruption and extreme bureaucracy which is now so widespread in the European Union?

For 19 consecutive years the European Union has failed to have its accounts approved. £5.5 billion of the EU budget in 2013 was mis-spent and £109 billion out of a total £117 billion was "affected by material error".

Police

Will you press for a more effective police presence on our streets in view of the continuing public concern about lawlessness? Will you press for an end to unnecessary paperwork imposed on the police by the Government?

17% of police work relates to offences such as burglaries, criminal damage and assaults. 35% of police time is spent on 'public safety and welfare'; 16% on anti-social behaviour and 20% on administration.



Global Poverty

Will you press for more effective controls over the way in which overseas aid is spent so that the really needy get the help they need? Will you press for the provision of fresh water to be prioritised.

The UN estimates that 805 million people of the 7.3 billion people in the world (1 in 9) suffer chronic under nourishment. Malnutrition was responsible for 45% of all child deaths in 2011 – 3.1 million children.

Corruption in Parliament

What are you prepared to do to ensure that the British public are never again faced with serious financial misconduct on the part of their representatives in Parliament? What will you do to ensure that former Ministers of the Crown are prevented from exploiting their experience and contacts for personal profit?

Former Ministers have recently been offering their services for £5,000 per day.



Human Trafficking & Prostitution

What will you do to stop trafficking of women and children for prostitution and abuse?

Will you press for the closure of brothels masquerading as massage parlours?

Will you oppose any measures to establish legalised prostitution zones in the United Kingdom?

The number of potential victims of human trafficking in the UK rose by a total of 22% in 2013. Drugs and prostitution add £10 billion to the economy each year – the same as the agricultural sector.

Child Abuse

Are you concerned that there has been a huge increase in the number of reported cases of child abuse in the United Kingdom both recent and historical? What steps will you take to ensure that there are no more delays, lost files and cover-ups preventing the proper investigation of possible child abuse.

1,400 children were abused in Rotherham over a period of 14 years without proper action by either the police or the local authority and recent reports on other places such as Oxford have shown extremely serious shortcomings. There is widespread public suspicion about possible cover-ups of paedophile rings in Westminster.



24 hour Drinking

Will you press for the reversal of the 24-hour drinking rule which has led to so much social disorder in the last year?

Alcohol costs the NHS £3.5 billion per year. Home Office figures show 104 town centres became trouble spots since the change in law and 400,000 people have been fined for being drunken and disorderly.

TWO SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT BY MARANATHA IN JANUARY 2015: 'A Matter of Life or Death – The Struggle for the Soul of Our Nation' and 'Values – The characteristics of our British national identity. BOTH AVAILABLE FROM THE MARANATHA OFFICE.



Drugs

Will you support policies aimed at creating a drug-free society rather than so-called 'harm reduction'? Will you press for clear teaching in schools about the factual evidence of the way in which cannabis damages the brain? Will you press for strenuous efforts to be made to dismantle the national criminal network of drug dealing which now involves most schools?

Cannabis doubles the risk of developing psychotic disorders including schizophrenia; users do worse at school and heavy use appears to impair intellectual development. 1 in 6 teenagers who regularly smoke the drug become dependent on it.

Immigration

What will you do to ensure the introduction of a fair and properly planned immigration policy? What will you do to deal with gross injustices faced by genuine asylum seekers? What will you do to ensure that legitimate visitors to our country are not faced with unwarranted delay, expense and bureaucracy when seeking to visit this country? What will you do to ensure that convicted overseas criminals are deported?

Fewer than 1% of immigrants who illegally overstay in Britain have left after being contacted. About 240,000 immigrants are now thought to be missing after thousands of forgotten case files were discovered. Meanwhile many Christian asylum seekers have been sent home to terrible persecution..



'Hate' Crime

Do you approve of the imposition of 'thought policing' through legislation? What will you do to ensure that the police are not put in the impossible position of having to respond to trivial and irresponsible complaints about the expression of legitimate religious views?

Innocent people are being harassed and sometimes targeted for the personal views they have expressed.

Gambling and Casinos

In view of the huge social problems caused by gambling, will you oppose the establishment of any more casinos in our country?

It is estimated there are 450,000 problem gamblers in Britain. The advertising of betting on television has grown seven-fold since 2008 and Online betting is easily accessible. £13 billion was put into machines by the poorest 25% of England's population in 2013, and more than £400 million was lost. The country's 55 most depressed boroughs contain 2,691 betting shops – far more than wealthy ones.



Television Standards

Will you press for television and radio companies to halt the continuing stream of foul language, sex and violence broadcast? What steps will you take to prevent children from being corrupted by sex scenes on TV?

Public opinion polls have repeatedly shown that the majority of the British public want less swearing on broadcast programmes and are concerned about excessive violence and sex content.

Use of Internet for child pornography

Do you want to protect people and particularly children from corruption on the Internet? What will you do to stop child pornography on the Internet?

A judge has blamed unrestricted access to online pornography for a 'very worrying' increase in child sex offenders after hearing the case of a 12 year old boy who raped his 7 year old sister after he had watched pornography on a friend's Xbox.



National Debt & Bank Misbehaviour

What steps will you take to reduce the burden of debt being passed on to our children? What steps are you prepared to take to ensure that huge mis-selling and foreign exchange rigging scams are stopped in the banking industry? What will you do to bring to justice criminals in the banking industry who at present largely go unpunished?

Banks are sitting on millions of crimes that will never be investigated, letting criminals get off scot-free, because once customers are compensated the banks prefer to keep details of fraud confidential.

Waste of Public Money

What are you prepared to do to halt the outrageous and continuing waste of public funds which is constantly being recorded by the Public Accounts Committee in the House of Commons?

Nearly £120 billion of taxpayers' money - £4,500 per household - was wasted or spent on useless projects by the Government in 2011-12. The abandoned NHS patient record system has so far cost the taxpayer nearly £10bn. The final bill is likely to be several hundreds of millions of pounds more.



Hospitals & Care Homes

What steps will you take to ensure greater accountability and transparency on the part of hospital Trusts and the owners of care homes for the elderly, some of which have failed so appallingly in recent years? What steps will you take to protect whistleblowers?

Cases of alleged mistreatment or neglect of elderly and disabled people in England rose by a quarter to 172,530 in the year to April 2013. 9 out of 10 care homes and hospitals failed to provide the proper treatment for dementia sufferers. In some cases of hospital mismanagement hundreds of people have died needlessly.

'Trumpet Call' is the campaigning arm of the Maranatha Community. UK Office: 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester, M41 6JT.
email: trumpetcall@maranathacommunity.org.uk Tel: +44(0)161 748 4858 Fax: +44(0)161 747 7379 web: www.maranathacommunity.org.uk
Maranatha is a movement of thousands of active members of churches of all denominations throughout the United Kingdom.