

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



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Notes from the Maranatha "Taste and See" Bookshop

By Cath Owen



Here in the bookshop we, the volunteer staff, are usually kept busy by customers who call in for cards, presents and books, and by phone requests and online & email orders. We also prepare small 'bookshops' for Maranatha weekends, Regional Gatherings, and Manchester meetings. In addition to this we regularly have new stock arriving which needs unpacking, adding to the stock database, and displaying. Then there's the till to balance each day, and stock sold to be recorded in the stock database.

I have worked in the bookshop, though not always on a regular basis, since 1997, and have been supported and kept in line by Sylvia, without whose dedication and enthusiasm the bookshop would not exist. It is a real blessing working here, not only meeting and working with members of the community and the wider public, but because it also gives time to listen to and on occasion pray with people - it's so much more than just working in a shop because serving Christ and serving each other is at the heart of everything.

We are always looking for extra helpers, so if you have time and think this may be for you we'd love to hear from you. Also remember that when you order your Christian books etc through our bookshop, either by phone or online at www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/bookshop then all the usual profit that a bookshop makes goes directly to the Maranatha Community.

Manchester Flixton "Third Friday" Maranatha Group By Ellen McCaig



The Ark, Flixton, Manchester

The "Third Friday" Maranatha Group is the local group for the Flixton area, meeting in The Ark, near to where the Maranatha offices are based. During 2010 we shared and prayed through the Fruit of the Spirit. We found as we shared about each fruit a great sense of the Lord's presence. As we shared what each fruit meant to us individually we found this very powerful. Through the months we used Sister Elizabeth's prayer on Spiritual Roots.

During last year we once again brought church and community together by joining with local churches in a day of celebration of all that is happening in the Flixton area. This came together as a form of exhibition held in St. John's church, with stalls from all the local societies, theatre groups, children's groups, churches etc. and we too had stalls: for Maranatha and for The Ark. The day finished with a service and a barn dance.

This year in our Third Friday gatherings we have been led to the theme of the Body of Christ, and we have been using the Maranatha DVD's as our lead into the oneness of the body though Maranatha.

Plymouth (Yealmpton) Maranatha Weekend 17th - 19th June 2011

Testimonies

By Catherine and Phil Griffin



It is my delight to write about the Maranatha weekend in Yealmpton. I (Catherine) have written about seven or eight pages' worth of journal entries about it all, as I didn't want to forget all that God spoke to me about in the coming weeks!

Both Phil and I found it a deeply encouraging and edifying, God-breathed break. We felt God speaking into our present difficult circumstances powerfully, and He demonstrated that He knew us intimately and understood our present needs. We felt so refreshed by the opportunity to be still in God's presence and just let Him speak. So often in church we can just fill up every silence with things to do, talk about or pray to God about, but we don't always make enough time to listen to what He is wanting to say to us about it all. His presence was massively healing, and I spent most of the weekend in tears. I rarely feel safe enough to open up or to cry in groups, but I came to feel incredibly safe with the leadership and the group. God's presence was so peaceful, but so wonderfully exciting! We couldn't stop smiling when God confirmed our calling and our heart's desire to be ministering to others! God's knowledge of us is so amazing, and we have felt different ever since we came back! It was a massive turning point in our faith and personal journeys.

We wish to thank the leadership and the group so much for all that we shared, and for their openness to letting God lead the proceedings. It will be lovely to be in contact with them, and we are hoping to come along next year again! Thank you for blessing us so so much.

By Tim and Elizabeth Dickens

The Maranatha weekend didn't begin as we expected. When I went to collect my wife, Elizabeth from Plymouth station to take her to Yealmpton, she was so ill that she had to be admitted to Derriford Hospital. She wasn't discharged until Saturday afternoon. As Elizabeth was by then resting at home, I was able to join the weekend on the Saturday night for the laying down your life for Jesus session. The Lord spoke to me through the reflective exercise showing how the walls around me had been taken down, now that I had been retired from full time ministry and was no longer under the constraints of being in one place, and I was now given the freedom to respond to God to go anywhere. This was confirmed in the prayer ministry, where the person praying for me said that I would be asked to go to unexpected surprising places! We were very grateful for the conference praying for Elizabeth on the Saturday morning. She was able to join the conference with me for the late morning session on Sunday, and received anointing with oil on the Sunday afternoon in the final session. The words of revelation given to the person anointing her, of hands around her arteries restricting the blood supply, exactly matched her medical condition. We received much love from the weekend. We felt we were in the right place for the right time.

Pause For Thought. By Robert Wilson



God's Amazing Grace.

Our healing comes about through God's Amazing Grace.

"All this is for your benefit, so that the Grace, that is reaching more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to overflow, to the Glory of God."



2 Corinthians, 4 v 15.

Manchester "Brunswick" Maranatha Group

By Charles Parker



From the early days of the Maranatha Community we have been holding all-day Saturday gatherings for members of the community in the Manchester area on the **first Saturday of every other month (Feb, April, June etc)** which are often attended by members from further afield. Until mid 2008 these were held at Harpurhey United Church. However we moved in 2008 to Brunswick Parish Church, just south of the city centre, in order to bless and encourage the development of Harpurhey's Children's Club which was also running on Saturday mornings. Brunswick church is a similar style of building (1960's brick construction) which has seats in a horse-shoe-shape around a central floor space, which enables us to seat a good number of people while maintaining our *"in the round - no one is any more important than anyone else"* seating arrangement, which is so important in any Maranatha gathering.

I have been coming to the Manchester gatherings for over 10 years, having been invited by our regular worship leader Paul Barnsley to play in the music group, which was my first contact with Maranatha. Meeting from 10:30am to 4pm gives a relaxed feeling to the day as there is time for people to bring testimonies and words from the Lord to us (having first shared them with the discernment team) in between the times of worship (partly pre-prepared and partly spontaneous) and the invited speakers. This year our theme has been *"Aspects of Love"* and we have heard from several people with various ministries in Manchester and further afield, including City Centre Ministry to Homeless, Street Pastors, and River of Life Church in Uganda.

On 1st October we're not meeting at Brunswick because we're inviting everyone to come together from all over the Community to the National Assembly, which we're holding at Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church as this seats more people. The attendance at our regular Manchester Gatherings has been declining over the years, but we still regularly get over 40 people coming, and we know from recent testimony that the meetings are not only a blessing and empowering time for those who attend, but we are spiritually blessing the area in which we meet, where new things are happening in the churches and surrounding communities.

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRIES

- **The Maranatha Assembly** (1st October)
- **The Vision and Regional Meetings**
Sheffield (15th October)
London (12th November)
Plymouth (26th November)
- ***"Joining Heaven and Earth in Worship"***
(Bawtry Hall 16th – 18th September)
- ***"Prayer – a Way of Life"***
(Llandudno 28th – 30th October)
- ***"Light out of Darkness – Stepping Out in Faith"***
(Llandudno, 3rd – 7th October)
- ***"Walking with God in the Desert"***
(Llandudno, 3rd – 8th October)
- ***"Living in the Father's House"***
(The Ark, 2nd – 5th November)
- ***"Out of the Courtroom and into my Father's House"***
(The Ark, 16th – 19th November)

For more details please:-

- Visit <http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk>
- or Phone: 0161 7484858 (Maranatha Office)

IN ADDITION PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING

- **The Yorkshire Prayer Conference**
(Central Hall, University of York, 10th September)
- **The Lancashire Prayer Conference**
(University of Cumbria, Lancaster Hall, 24th September)

Details of both are available on the internet and in the former case from

Rev. Vivian Firth
Rosdene,
North End
Raskelf,
Easingwold,
North Yorkshire
YO61 3LF

A small number of Maranatha members attended the Yorkshire Event in 2010 which focused on **2 Chronicles 7.14**. This year's event comes highly recommended.

PASSION CAKE

On the morning of 7th May, as people entered the church hall for the Leeds vision meeting, they were warmly greeted and guided towards refreshments. There they encountered slices of scrumptious home-made cake, known as passion cake.

Some thought this was a “*must*” for lunchtime. Others, however, could not resist. When lunchtime came, there was none left! Those who did partake clearly experienced a treat. In fact, because of the number of requests received for the recipe, **Colin Chappelow** (Leeds) is kindly passing it onto all Spotlight readers.

Under these circumstances, was it not the duty of the reporter to try it out? Having done so, he can confirm that it is as good as it looked! Moreover, I understand that at their meeting on 23rd July, the Community’s Trustees sampled the cake. Does this amount to an official Maranatha endorsement?!

Details of the recipe are set out below enjoy!

RECIPE

10oz p. flour
1tsp. Salt
1tsp. Bi carb
2tsp. B. powder
6oz soft brown sugar
2oz chopped walnuts
3 eggs
3 ripe bananas mashed
6oz grated carrots
6 fld. Oz. corn oil

METHOD

Mix dry ingredients, add carrots, bananas, walnuts, eggs and oil and beat for 1 min. Divide between 2 large sandwich tins or 8/10” tray.

Cook at Gas no. 5 – 375F – 190C for 25-35 mins testing if resistant to touch after 20-25 mins, if so cake is ready

FILLING AND TOPPING

3oz soft butter
3oz cream cheese
6oz icing sugar
½ tsp. vanilla essence.

Beat everything together and, use ½ between cakes and ½ on top decorate with walnuts.

