

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

# SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



## Issue 26–Summer (June, July, August)

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### Church Transformation



In a previous edition (Issue 20, December 2010) Spotlight reported that major works of transformation were underway at St. Marks Pentecostal Church, Hillsborough Sheffield. Many members are familiar with the building – where Group meetings, prayer meetings and the Yorkshire Regional Meetings are held- and will be thrilled to see what a warm comfortable venue has emerged. Indeed on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012**, the former Home Secretary and Member of Parliament for Brightside and Hillsborough (**David Blunkett**) formally declared the works complete.

A new room has been created at the rear of the church's large worship area in space that regularly went unused. The conversion has provided a flexible community venue which is already being enjoyed not only by Maranatha but also by a range of local groups including the thriving after school club.

In addition, the ambition project has levelled the floor of the main hall, made structural improvements to the mezzanine level, upgraded the building electrics and installed a new more efficient heating system. Pews, doors and a screen were also disassembled, and removed from the rear of the church. The spare wood comprising mainly pitch pine was revived and recycled to create a new screen, staircase and handrails. The improvements were supported with a substantial grant from the Veolia Environmental Trust made through the Landfill Communities Fund.



In the press statement announcing the ceremony, Pastor Pat Hallam said

*“We wish to thank the Veolia Trust and all that have given so generously, the small businesses for excellent service, our voluntary workers for their hard work and advice along the way. They all made completion of the project possible.”*

David Blunkett said

*“I commend the church and the community for getting so much out of the investment and making the space more user-friendly and welcoming”*



Laurie McNabb of the Veolia Environmental Trust added

*“It is fantastic to see the improvements now complete and open for the whole community to use and enjoy. The new flexible layout enables more groups to use the church for local events and activities, a key part of community integration”*

Thanks be to God for Pat's faithfulness to this vision and for the sheer hard work she herself has put in to see it through.

- Group meetings at St. Marks are held on the second Saturday in each month (4pm)
- It will host the Yorkshire Regional Gathering on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October.



## The Journey from Escalls' - Praise Bus.

In the last edition of Spotlight (Issue 25) Mavis (Conwy group) told us about an open top bus which be touring the country in advance of the Olympic flame. Alison (who will be travelling on the bus) now tells us more.



### How did all this start?

A vision was given by God to a lady who attends Escalls Methodist Chapel, near Lands End. This is the first chapel in from Lands End.

**Vision 1:** A Spiritual Flame going all over the country, starting in Cornwall. This was shared with Escalls church during a prayer meeting and it was discovered that many other visions and prophesies in relation to a light coming out of Cornwall were recorded over a period of some thirteen years.

**Vision 2:** Jesus on the front of an open top bus travelling along the road, (she had no idea what this was about).

Very shortly after the second vision the route of the Olympic flame was announced –  
**Where was it starting? Lands End.**

This was a clear signal to the church that the time had arrived to ACT.

**More Than Gold** were contacted as they have the expertise when it comes to organizing anything Christian around the Olympics. They also were very keen to meet this lady who had the Vision. More Than Gold decided to partner with Escalls on this project, although Escalls would work on all the arrangements for the Praise Bus.

Emails and encouragement have come in from many sources, even outside the U.K. **Escalls** have been contacted by people who confirmed they too, had visions of a light coming out of the Southwest. One particular lady contacted the Archbishop of York's office to inform them of her vision and what she wanted to do! The office already knew of the Praise Bus and put her in touch with Escalls! This lady knew the vision was so real, she was prepared to follow the flame around the U.K. in her van. Confirmation and encouragement has been tremendous from hundreds of churches.

Every decision is and will be made by prayer. All who want to be involved at the centre of this project have to realise this is the only way God will fulfil the Vision.

The aim is to bring the love of Jesus to the nation. We want Jesus' name to be lifted high and we want people to meet with the Risen Christ. We will not evangelize or remonstrate with anyone on the journey but will exercise Jesus' discernment and be sensitive to the areas we pass through. It will be through live Christian praise and worship music that we will ask God to bless all people as we travel through.

For more information and suggestions as to how you might support this mission, please visit

- [www.thejourneyfromescalls.co.uk](http://www.thejourneyfromescalls.co.uk)
- **More than gold:** [www.morethangold.org](http://www.morethangold.org)



### Pause for Thought.

By Robert Wilson

### Patience.

The cornerstone of Patience  
is Faith, Hope and Love.



**Maranatha Weekend at Plymouth (Yealmpton)**

**Theme**

**HEALING - the way of Jesus.**

**When**

**29th June 7pm - 1st July 3pm 2012**

**Venue:**

**Yealmpton Community Methodist Church  
Yealmpton  
Plymouth  
PL8 2NA**



Healing is central to the life, teaching and ministry of Jesus and should be central in the life of His church today. As we face up to the brokenness in all parts of our society, Jesus calls us to reach out and heal in His name. The weekend will include teaching, worship, quiet time, prayer, and healing ministry.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a family weekend, including children's programme, near the Devonshire coast.

**Standard cost per person:**

**Friday evening until tea on Sunday £25**

**or**

**Saturday only £14**

**Payable with booking form.**

**<http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/weekends-2.aspx>**

Please note this is a non residential weekend though details of local B&B and guest houses can be supplied on request.

Booking form to be sent to:-

**Mrs Joy Davies,  
c/o 166 Elburton Road,  
Elburton  
Plymouth.  
PL9 8HZ**

**Tel: 07813 609317**

**E-mail: [jandr@davies379128.plus.com](mailto:jandr@davies379128.plus.com)**



**CHRISTIANS · IN · SCIENCE**

**“Science and Christian Faith”**

**Residential Conference at Queen College Cambridge**

**13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

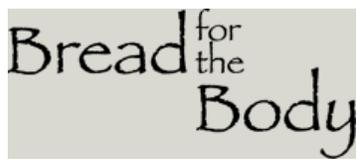


**Have you a special interest in the interface between science and religion?** The Faraday Institute (based at Cambridge) conducts academic research into this interface, seeks to improve the media's understanding of the subject and arranges regular lectures and seminars aswell as offering written material, audio, and video recordings.

Also between 13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> July it will be holding a Residential Conference at Queen's College, Cambridge. Further details can be found at **[www.cis.org.uk](http://www.cis.org.uk)** or by e-mailing **[secretary@cis.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cis.org.uk)**

As Bishop Nazir-Ali has recently stated

*“The proper relation of religion to science is vital. Young people must be taught to appreciate both the experimental methods of science and the ultimate values which religion offers”*



## **Bread for the Body**

Many members of our Community have been blessed by meeting Allyn Benedict. Many have been blessed by his conferences and retreats or have benefited from his books.

Take, for instance, the book version of

### **“Out of the Courtroom into the Father’s House” (Recently published by the Maranatha Community Trust)**

He demonstrates by reference to Scripture how the world is one big courtroom where we are in it, but we no longer need to be of it. Like Jesus, we do not have to be a prisoner. We can be free to be the Father’s child. All people can come near and into His light. The book is accompanied by daily devotional material and is suitable not only for individuals but also for small groups.

### **“Not as Orphans” (Also published by the Trust)**

Not As Orphans has as its subject a life of intimacy with God. Each chapter focuses on a different aspect or characteristic of that restored relationship with God, which in the Gospel of John Jesus calls “eternal life”. It shows the journey of a soul from fearful orphan to precious child of the Father.

There is a third book

### **“To know You” Subtitled: “Poems in Celebration of Revelation”**

Now it is pleasing to report that Allyn has launched his Ministry Website: [www.breadforthebody.com](http://www.breadforthebody.com)

The material (which is developed week by week and which will usually be accompanied by devotionals) will come in a variety of ways . There will be extended teaching in book form, a shorter scriptural study series, meditations and essays, as well as poetry and visual images, which reflect in a personal way on the life which is faith in Jesus Christ.

May we join with Allyn in prayer that this “bread” would go out as the Lord intends and produce fruit in the life of His people.



## **Conwy Group By Mavis Mutrie**

Conwy Group had a visit from Rhona Marshall (after the much-blessed weekend at Loreto Centre "*Rising up as Eagles*" which took place on 30<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April)

Our worship leader Lynn chose the Welsh revival hymn to open: "*Here is Love, vast as the ocean*" and after we had sung it together, one member asked Lynn to sing it again in Welsh – it was absolutely beautiful! She followed by praying, again in Welsh for our nation. Rhona gave her power-point presentation on Uganda, which included some very moving moments, and shared of her work over there. She had a huge stall of articles to show us, which gave us a flavour of life in Uganda. Mark picked up the drum and accompanied the following worship songs!

Andy (from Warrington) had joined us and gave a powerful testimony of God's intervention in a life- situation "*Stand still and see the salvation of your God*" - Andy did, and saw God mightily at work! In the afternoon Rhona shared "*Ripple effects*" - a powerful power-point presentation ending with the Shalom Prayer - its beginnings and what has followed since. I think every Group should have a copy! It is a useful teaching, sharing, discussion tool. We were glad to have Sarah from Portmadoc with us and a lady came in late in the afternoon and shared she had a brain tumour. She welcomed us praying for her. At the end of our day together a young couple walked in who incredibly live in a tent in the town. They shared with us over a cuppa and biscuits and we prayed briefly with them.

We give thanks to God for a much-blessed Maranatha day.

## Maranatha in Malawi 2012 By Clive Woolford



Praise God for an amazing visit to Malawi and thank you to all who have been praying for us over the months prior to our visit as well as whilst we were there. God's provision, as always, was awesome. The minibus, provided by a lovely couple, Andrew and Enance, served us well. Fuel had been stockpiled for us and our driver Cosmas negotiated the roads magnificently – certainly a challenge – and he was a real blessing to us throughout our stay.

Due to the President's death just prior to our departure and the inauguration of Joyce Banda as the new President, the state of the nation was very much on people's minds. As we talked with Bishops, Pastors and Leaders we heard of their hopes and fears for this new stage in their Nation's life and we were able to share with them our message of Unity, Renewal and Healing, praying with them and encouraging them in their work and assuring them of our prayers for them, their President and for their country.

One of the special joys for us was getting out into the villages and meeting with the people, so joyful and welcoming. Despite their lack of material wealth, their faith and love of Jesus shone through.

We visited the projects set up after Maranatha's 2010 visit and it was good to see the difference it had made to these communities and to identify areas where help was still needed and improvements could be made. It was good to see the well which had been built after the last visit, in working order and much cherished by the people. We met with twenty two Pastors at a Pastor's Fraternal who only possessed two Bibles between them and so we were able to provide for their need. In fact, by God's providence, we were put in touch with the man who ran The Malawian Bible Society and were able to source one hundred Bibles, mostly in Chichewa, but some in English which we placed throughout our visit, as we felt led. Thirty three copies were given to young people who were being confirmed at St. John's Church, Ndirande on the Sunday morning

Some very special times were shared when we saw people being led by God to pray and work together so that they could make a real difference to the places where they lived and it was an especial joy to talk with them about being part of one family in God and seeing His power released when we unite in love and prayer to seek His way for ourselves, our communities and our nations.



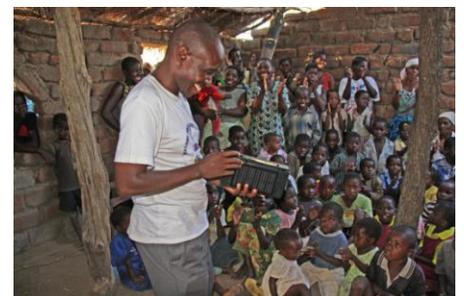
Whilst in Phalombe we visited a Faith Based Organisation (FBO) set up in the Parish to support those suffering with HIV, Orphans and the Elderly. They had so little but a team had been set up to go into homes to care for those who could not care for themselves. Food was in short supply and sustainability difficult but in faith they continued. Here we had the great privilege of praying with people, individually, and the sense of God's presence there was amazing, I'm not sure who was more blessed, them or us. Here our prayers were also answered about where to place the knitting wool, patterns and needles which had been donated. A chance remark by Heather to one of the ladies established that this was what she did, taught the ladies to knit and once again we saw God at work by allowing Him to direct us.



Our days, ordered by prayer, were full and tiring as we visited projects, hospitals, churches and schools. At times it was just heart rending to see people existing on so little and not even enjoying the basic rights, such as education, that we take for granted, but for all that, they had a joy in their Lord that we can only dream of in this country and maybe as we seek to enable them in a small way we might recognise just how far away from our Christian roots we are in this nation.

We are one family in God and we need to learn not only to give but to receive from our brothers and sisters in Christ that we may truly be One.

Our sincere thanks goes to each of you who gave us items to take with us or gifts of money, all very gratefully received and the greatest gifts we can continue to give to the people of Malawi are our prayers. Thank you.



## Uganda Trip in 2013

Planned Date: Late July / Aug 2013



Rhona is planning to organise a 2 week trip to Uganda in the summer of 2013 if enough people are interested.

The cost is estimated at approximately £1,200 which includes flight, transport, food, and accommodation.

It is advised to speak to your GP about Malaria tablets and injections before travelling.

There will be an opportunity to meet Pastor Asher at the Maranatha group in Entebbe and some of the Jinja people who used to be at the Taste and See Café. Sadly the Jinja Café had to close due to very high overheads.

If any one who like to have this Ugandan experience please contact Rhona Marshall on

**E-mail: [rhona\\_cru@talktalk.net](mailto:rhona_cru@talktalk.net)**

## A Prayer for Malawi 2012



Lord God, Creator of the universe,  
The One who is our Father,  
We praise you for the inheritance of this land.  
We thank you for all the good things that have happened over the years;  
We offer to you all the sadnesses and pain.  
We pray for wisdom for all in positions of authority.  
We thank you for all men and women of integrity and honour who seek to serve the nation with diligence and humility.  
Because you are a God of justice, we pray that justice may be upheld throughout Malawi.  
We pray that all who hunger will be fed;  
We pray that all who are sick will be cared for;  
We pray that the vulnerable, the elderly and little children will be provided for;  
We pray that you will bring hope, faith and love in abundance to all the people of Malawi, for whom you care so much.  
May the peace, the love and the joy of Jesus be the priceless possession of the people of this nation and this mighty continent.

## Paula and Clive Mc Combe



Have many of you – especially in the North West – remember Paul and Clive? They attended Maranatha meetings up to 10 years ago and then left the country! They've been tracked down to the delightful Abruzzo region of Italy (see red on map), where they now live and let a self – catering holiday apartment. Mavis (Conwy Group) met them recently and confirms that they still take an avid interest in Maranatha.

If you would like more information, [www.monteviste.co.uk](http://www.monteviste.co.uk) is their website.



## Retreats and Quiet Days

Many can testify to the blessing obtained from attending the Community's Retreats and Quiet Days. Mo Surry says:

“I have just returned from a Light out of Darkness retreat at Douai Abbey praising our Lord yet again for His amazing grace to us that He should choose to reveal His love and purposes to us in such an awesome way. What a privilege to pick up the invitation He has offered to all on ‘**Light out of Darkness**’ and ‘**Deeper with God**’ to enter into a deeper place with Him! Yet again, He has used the tools that these retreats are, to bring healing, comfort, hope and challenge as His great blessing. We stand in awe, wonder and praise yet again. Alleluia! The lives He has changed will bear fruit to His glory!”

“The new developments in ‘**Light out of Darkness**’, ‘**Waiting with God**’ and ‘**Deeper with God**’ are proving to be Holy Spirit inspired. He is moving amongst us to our sheer wonder and delight at His power. ‘**Out of the Courtroom**’, all the weekends and Quiet Days are incredible opportunities which give time to reflect, learn and grow and our God is to be praised for them. Meeting with God has to undergird everything that we are and do.”

It would be so good if more were able to attend.