

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



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PUTTING THE CROSS IN FRONT OF BRITAIN



Mark Ritchie is a Christian speaker who mixes a unique blend of humor, story telling and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Whilst praying, he saw a picture of Britain as a crowded room, busy and distracted. God told him to walk into the room and put the cross down in the middle. **Some people would accept it, some would reject it, but no-one would ignore it.** Consequently, it is upon Marks heart to put the cross in front of Britan.

In **70 days** he will be walking **700 miles** and (with help from local churches) hosting 30 events with the aim of reaching as many people as possible with the message of the cross. Physically, he will be drawing a cross on the map; from Brighton to Edinburgh and from Wrexham to Hull.

He will begin his walk in Brighton on Sunday 26th August.

The south/north route will pass through Brighton, Croyden, London, Watford, Hitchin, Milton Keynes, Leicester, Nottingham, Chesterfield Sheffield, Barnsley, Wakefield, Leeds, York, Newton Aycliffe, Durham, Newcastle, and Edinburgh.

The west/east route will pass through Wrexham, Chester, Widnes, Manchester, Doncaster, Scunthorpe, and Barton upon Humber and Hull. There are also plans for interim visits e.g. within North Lincolnshire there will be stops at Epworth and Brigg.

Mark will carry on his back a large contemporary metal cross. As people write down specific prayers or details of what they want to lay at the foot of the cross, these can be inserted within the frame.

There are a number of ways in which we could support this witness. Further information can be found on the website.

<http://www.crossbritain.co.uk/index.html>

The Brigg Group and Public Witness By Mike Doherty

We are a small group hungry for a closer relationship with the Lord. At the same time, we believe there is a need for action and look to **Alignment** with those of similar vision. Very much encouraged by the local Catholic Priest, we have joined up with various others in forming a grouping known as **“Life Matters North Lincolnshire”**.

Each year we invite our **local MP** to meet us to discuss matters of concern. We are careful to avoid *“hustings”* and the practice has been to set aside two hours on a Friday – often the best day for MP’s – in a welcoming home environment.

Although the issues have normally been touched upon in previous correspondence, we think it is helpful to everyone to submit a background paper before the meeting. This year the issues ranged from marginalisation of Christianity to marriage, abortion and euthanasia. In addition, to avoid getting bogged down on any particular issue, we presented him at the meeting with a written list of appropriate questions. This enabled him to make relevant observations on each of the topics before we got into detail.

There was no question of trying to “catch him out”. We are grateful that he cooperates with us in this and for the relationship which is being built and were encouraged that he was keen to take away with him a dossier of supporting documents.

At these meetings, it becomes increasingly clear how difficult it is for an MP to take on “the system”; a difficulty exacerbated by him not hearing **one voice** from the Church. He knows that we continue to pray for him.



In our public witness we do **not** always act behind closed doors. Through **“Life Matters North Lincolnshire”** we took the necessary steps to enable a **“Silent Witness for Life”** to take place in July at the side of a major Brigg road (with slow moving traffic). The Police were very helpful, being clear that we were exercising a *“right of peaceful protest”*. In reality, of course, our aim was not another “demo” but to make passing motorists aware that there is a human being in the womb. Banners were displayed, each relating to a stage of fetal development, with captions such as “look daddy, I can wiggle my toes.”

We stood for two hours, maintaining silence at all times. At a rough estimate 500 cars passed in each direction. We were filled with the love of God for each person who passed by, including of course those who made negative remarks. We were especially encouraged in that children of school age were studying intently the contents of each banner.



Many of those who took part had never had such an opportunity for witness in the past. They seemed most keen to undertake a similar exercise next year!

An observation common to each of these initiatives is the importance of stressing that there is still **objective truth**. We cannot but have compassion for those who are tragically suffering as a result of the denial of such truth. God is indeed calling us **for such a time as this**.

If anyone would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Doherty on (01652 655408)



Pause For Thought.

By Robert Wilson

Kindness

*All acts of Kindness have been placed
in our hearts by the Spirit of God*



Maranatha Friends of Malawi Group



Following our second trip to Malawi in April 2012 we have kept in touch through a monthly telephone conference call during which we have shared fellowship, prayed and considered news and issues from Malawi.

In June we received an email from a member in Malawi Revd Father Gervazio Namba about the poor harvest in his area and the fact the 82 members of the Faith Based Organisation that the parish had established were in need of food and would be in great need particularly from August until the next harvest in February 2013. As we reflected on the need we became aware that the £400 grant we had given them when we were there amounted to only £5 per person which is roughly equivalent to US \$7. A US \$1 per day is recognised at the minimum cost of subsistence funding for an individual. We had therefore provided support for just one week.

Our attention had been drawn to the fact that it is dangerous for people on Anti-Retroviral drugs to take their medication without food. As the members of the Faith Based Organisation are either orphans, the elderly or HIV positive sufferers felt the need to respond.

Over the next four weeks members of the group made contributions which enabled us to forward £1100 to Father Namba which he has promised to use to buy three separate supplies of maize flour to relieve the food shortage. The photos show the first allocation of food being distributed to the beneficiaries in the locality.

If you are interested in joining the 'Friends of Malawi Group' or receiving further news from Malawi,

Please contact Heather Williams on

Phone: 0161 2029236

E-mail: heatherw49@gmail.com



A Blessing for New Horizons

By Philomena Garrett

(From "You're Nearer God's Heart In A Garden")



As you stand on this shore line
Of vast new unknowns
Of distance untravellered, of seeds unsown

I send you this blessing
This autumnal prayer
To fall like the leaves that alight on your hair

That as you embark on this
Voyage for Him
The light that He shines forth will never grow dim

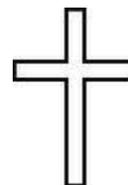
I pray that the hunger
He stirs in your heart
Will reap a rich harvest as you play your part

In His great commission
His unchanging plan
To share the Good News with every last man

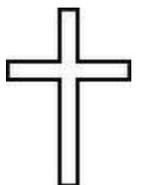
And may you find silence
When storms steal your calm
So you hear a small whisper – The Twenty-Third
Psalm

And may you find welcome
And showers from above
Showers of God's blessing in those whom you love

And when you sail homeward
As you finish the race
May God's love embrace you as you meet face to face.



**Following Me you will
never walk in darkness
(John 8.12)**



The First Stockport Maranatha Meeting By John Noble

The inaugural meeting of **Stockport Maranatha Third Sunday** was a tremendous success with 17 different churches represented.

Dennis Wrigley, Linda Stalley, Rhona Marshall and Catherine Mossey all presented the vision of Maranatha nationally and internationally, with a great emphasis on Prayer, Healing, Renewal and Unity. An amazing byproduct of the evening was how many people were reunited with old friends, some hadn't seen each other for 25 years.

A new Prayer Room has just been completed. Hopefully this will be a useful facility for all of the Churches in the Borough. The Stockport Maranatha Prayer Cell hosted by **Stockport House of Prayer every Friday evening** also continues to flourish and regularly benefits from new visitors.

More information can be found on
<http://www.chelwoodbaptist.org.uk/stockport%20house%20of%20prayer.html>

Dates for your Dairy

Set out below are details of some forthcoming prayer conferences, each based on **2 Chronicles 7.14**. There are of course other retreats, contemplative days etc. detailed on the Maranatha website.

<http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk>

The National Day of Prayer and Worship



Saturday 29th September 2012
Wembley Stadium
2pm – 6:30pm

For more information please visit
<http://ndopwembley.com>



Yorshire Prayer Conference

Saturday 8th September 2012

Jack Lyons Concert Hall
University of York
University Road
Heslington
York
YO10 5DD

Registration - 9:00
Conference - 10:00 – 16:00



Lancashire Prayer Conference

Saturday 22nd September 2012

The View
University of Cumbria
(Formerly St Marks College)
Bowerham Road
Lancaster
LA1 3JD

Registration - 9:00
Conference - 10:00 – 16:00



For more information about these
Prayer Conferences please visit
www.ukprayermovement.net

