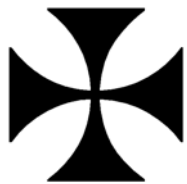


maranatha

Arranging a Maranatha House Meeting



Local initiatives

The purpose of House Meetings

House Meetings are arranged to enable people to share the vision of the Maranatha Community and to discover what it does and how it works.

They enable people to gather together in a relaxed atmosphere in the comfort of a home. The meetings are essentially informal and led by two or three members of the Community.

House Meetings can be held at any time but are usually in the evenings or on Saturday mornings and they generally last no more than two hours. Attendances vary from six to over twenty. The numbers attending do not really matter.

Maranatha House Meetings have been held in locations all over the United Kingdom. They have been times of great fellowship and have often sparked off a range of local initiatives for Christian unity, development of the Christian healing ministry, and moves to renewal of faith in individuals and local churches.

Arrangements before the meeting

Anyone feeling led to hold a House Meeting should get in touch with the Maranatha office and agree a suitable date and place. The office staff will be able to help with designing publicity and will send out invitations by post and email to people in the vicinity of the meeting.

Informing others

It is a courtesy to inform local priests, ministers and pastors and it is sometimes helpful for an announcement about the House Meeting to be inserted in the announcements in local church services and in Parish and Church newsletter/magazines. It may be that friends in the local Churches Together would help in this respect.

The format of a House Meeting

We generally start with tea or coffee and after this we introduce ourselves to each other. It has been found helpful to sit in a circle and for there to be a small low table in the centre bearing a cross, candle and a Bible. The leaders then share the Maranatha vision for unity, healing and renewal and also describe the life of the Community.

There will be times of quiet and also opportunity for participation and sharing. We may listen to a CD or watch some of the videos on the Maranatha Website.

At the meeting every person attending is given a pack containing the current issue of the Maranatha Newsletter, Retreats brochure, Shalom Prayer and other selected material. This is provided by the Maranatha office.

Helpful facilities

A CD player will be needed for Christian music and it may be useful to have a computer or online-TV for playing videos from the website.

If the meeting is at a distance from Manchester, and Community Leaders have been invited, then they may need overnight accommodation.

Follow-up

Soon after the meeting pray together and seek God's will. He may lead you to form a Prayer Cell or a local Maranatha Group. He may call individuals to take an initiative in your local church or to participate in the broader life of the Maranatha Community. Whatever you decide to do, it is important that you are obedient to God's prompting.

Staff in the Maranatha Office are available for encouragement and help with any further initiatives.

The following special folders are available from the Maranatha office:

To: The Maranatha Community, 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT Tel: 0161 748 4858 Email: info@maranathacommunity.org.uk www.maranathacommunity.org.uk

I would like to arrange a Maranatha House Meeting

Name:.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Telephone Number

Email.....

The suggested venue is:

.....

.....

Suggested dates are (give three options)

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We are able/unable to offer overnight accommodation for the community leaders.

◆ **Joining the Maranatha Community**

◆ **Forming & Running Maranatha Prayer Cells**

◆ **Arranging a Maranatha Gathering**

◆ **Forming & Running Local Maranatha Groups**

There is a large range of teaching notes and other Maranatha literature available from the office. Please see the publications list.

We are also able to supply many Christian books and CD's & DVD's from the Maranatha Bookshop. Tel: 0161 747 5672.



One of the characteristics of the Community is its emphasis upon balance – between the personal and the social, between the new and the traditional, the young and the old, words and silence. We endeavour to pray for each other every day.

At the beginning, Mother Teresa wrote to Maranatha saying "If you pray without serving, your prayers will be in vain. If you serve without praying, your service will be in vain. Serve and pray in the power of God's Spirit".

About Maranatha

Maranatha is a thriving community of thousands of Christian believers within all the churches. We are committed to work and pray for Christian unity, Christian renewal and Christian healing.

We are a praying, listening Community seeking God's guidance. We are committed to prayer and action. With the churches down the ages we affirm the Gospel truth that 'Jesus is Lord' and 'Christ is risen'. With increasing urgency we have heard God call us to live and proclaim the simple Gospel and to 'speak to the nation', as the Christian foundations of our society are being rocked.

We are pilgrim people. We travel light. We are open to the Spirit. We are little brothers and sisters of Jesus.

The Maranatha Prayer

God has created me to do Him some definite service: He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission – I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it – if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am. I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends; He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me – still He knows what He is about.

(John Henry Newman)

Maranatha Community UK Office,
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Tel: 0161 748 4858 Bookshop: 0161 747 5672
Email: info@maranathacommunity.org.uk
www.maranathacommunity.org.uk
