

NEW WINE NEW WINESKINS

A NEW thing is happening.

"New" means that we can't see it yet, but we can anticipate it.

God declares that He is the one who is "**making all things new**". (Rev 21:5, Isa 48:6)

Are we ready to respond to this new thing?

Jesus taught us that no one puts new wine into old wineskins, as they are unable to hold it. So in our response we must be willing to change, to be renewed, to behold the new thing.

Same clay, different form

As we submit ourselves to this process of change, our response remains the same as has always been our Community's discipline. Our response is to listen, watch, pray, and then act.

Maranatha — come, Lord Jesus!

A Spiritual Thirst

Many in our culture are thirsty. We instinctively seek out 'water sources' in our search for that life-giving water.

Although church attendance is low in many areas, and Christian faith is publicly undermined by a determined new atheism, interest in 'spirituality' is experiencing a renaissance. Whether through Yoga, forms of meditation, psychic fairs, or 'healing', more and more people are seeking spiritual experiences.

So, why have so many turned their back on Jesus when He promises, "Who ever drinks the water I give him will never thirst"? It is not because they lack thirst. They are seeking satisfaction in new experiences of 'God', but they are drinking from a source that will lead to death.

The 'life-giving water' that Jesus gives is the Holy Spirit. "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**"

Will you be a channel of living water for those who are thirsty and lead them to Jesus, who alone can satisfy ?

Ask, Seek Knock

You say that if we ask
We will receive.

You say that if we seek
We will find.

And if we knock

That the door will be opened.

Lord, we know not what to ask,

Or what it is we truly seek, and

We often stand unsure at the door,

Yet we know that in you we will have

All that we need, and need to know,

And you are the door to life itself.

Maranatha - come, Lord Jesus!

JC

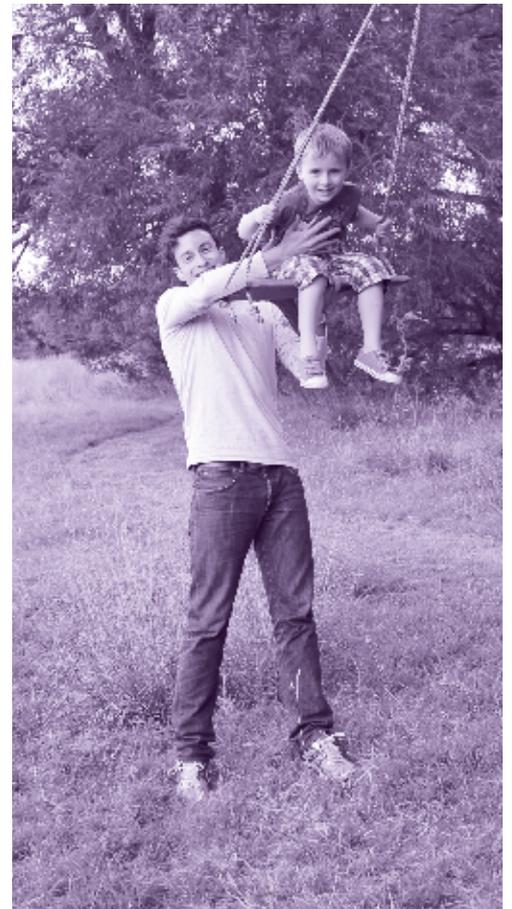
Turning our hearts

Last August Bank Holiday the first Maranatha weekend for families was held at the The House of Bread in the Cotswolds. "**Sharing Laughter, Sharing Life**" was our theme. It was a great weekend of fellowship with

people of all ages. This was an initiative taken in response to a call from God "turn your hearts towards the children". As we shared life together - 5yr olds with 85yr olds - we saw a vision of God's Kingdom where our unity in Jesus is now being expressed as more than across denominations and



different nationalities. As we continue to respond to this new call in the life of our Community, let us all look for opportunities to embrace each other across the generations; and to those who are older, what initiative will you take in turning your heart towards the younger generation today? Will you come on this year's "**Sharing Laughter, Sharing Life**" weekend from **12th to 15th August 2016**, which this year will be at Cloverly Hall in Shropshire ? We would love to see you there.



Communications and Community Development

One expression of our response to God's call, "**turn the hearts of the fathers to their children**", is the imminent launch of our new Community website. Alongside this will be 'The City', a safe, simple and secure equivalent of Facebook, Twitter and email for Maranatha members and friends. We pray it will help us all to develop relationships as we are more in touch with news, prayer requests, concerns and resources.

At the same time our Communications Team is actively pursuing the strengthening of bonds across the Community, especially with those who do not use the Internet. Please contact Sean in the Maranatha office with your thoughts or questions. (Tel 0161 748 4858 or email sean@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

It is My desire for My breath of life
to enter your being at this moment.

Allow me to breathe My spirit
who is love,
deep into your heart.

Allow me to breathe My spirit
who is truth,
deep into your mind.

Let My Living Presence breathe upon
and permeate your innermost spirit
and bring you stillness,
peace and healing.

Invite Me to take possession
of your soul
and you will know life without end.
DW

Going Deeper

As turbulence in the world increases, God is calling us to be more securely rooted in Him and more deeply united with each other. He says "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46.10) Membership of the Maranatha Community is firstly a commitment to our oneness as members of the Body of Christ. We journey together primarily through a life of prayer. A new Maranatha prayer folder is being sent to all members and friends. It also available from, the Maranatha Office.

A Prophecy

You will go to the gates of hell
and I will show you the door of
My Kingdom.

You will go into deepest darkness
and I will surprise you with
My shining light.

You will feel the burden of heavy
chains and you will see them fall
noisily to the ground.

You will see the hopelessness of
prison walls and see constraining
doors swing open to the sunlight.

You will see wounded people dance.

You will see the broken lifted up.

You will see the impossibility and cry
it shall be done!

You will see the deepest wounds
healed.

But I need you to be so very close to
broken hearts.

I need first your tears to flow on
parched earth and dry, broken bones.

I want you to hear
the cruel cry of the mob,
the crowing of the cock,
the sound of the coins,
the thud of the hammer on the nails.

I want you to know
the darkness of the hour,
the emptiness of the grave,
the desolation of the anguished
upper room.

I want you to know the reality of it all.

I want you with Thomas to touch not
just the wounds of a stinking world,
but the wounds of your Lord,
who visited and stayed with
and was immersed in
the horrors of a fallen,
broken, cruel world.

Then you will say
My Lord and My God!

The privilege of My touch upon your
wounds and your ultimate embrace,
with My breath upon your life,
will surely open the door
of the Kingdom.

DW - September 2015

Maranatha Lecture

'Faith in Politics?' was the title of the most recent Maranatha lecture. It was given in November by Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Church in the UK. He brought clear insight to the important role of advocacy, which Christians can offer to those in positions of political leadership, with particular reference to the situation in Egypt - his home land. Here the different denominations of the Church have united in a powerful way in their witness for the Gospel. A recording of the lecture is available on the Maranatha website.



New Publications

PROPHECY - God's Messages and God's Messengers

is a new Maranatha briefing paper available online or from the office.

SECULAR HUMANISM - An Appraisal

is a concise report from the Spearhead Group studying this subject. It is available from the office and on the website.

Mindfulness

Mindfulness, a form of meditation rooted in Buddhism, is now being promoted in schools and mental health services. It is paralleled by the thousands of prescriptions for psychiatric medication being issued to children and young people, who have broken hearts and confused minds. Will you join in praying especially for the young of our nation and challenge the promotion of Mindfulness in your local schools and mental health services? A Maranatha briefing on this subject can be obtained from the office at 50p + p&p, or downloaded for free from the website.

*Jesus Christ reveals, not an
embarrassed God, not a confused
God, not a God who stands apart
from the problems, but One who
stands in the thick of the whole
thing with man.*

Oswald Chambers

GROW – Upcoming Teaching Days and Gatherings

Stepping out in Faith

a 'Light out of Darkness' retreat

18 - 22 April

The House of Bread at The Mill, Shipston-on-Stour



This retreat helps you to learn how to listen to God, recognise His voice, reflect on His words and share their experiences. It is conducted in contemplative silence within a framework of teaching and sharing.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AN OASIS IN THE STRESS OF LIFE - PLYMOUTH, Yealmpton Community Methodist Church, 10-12 June

SHARING LAUGHTER, SHARING LIFE Family friendly weekend at WHITCHURCH, Cloverley Hall, 12-15 August

INTIMACY WITH GOD - DUBLIN, Emmaus Centre, 16-18 September

BUILDING WITH THE SPIRIT - a 'Light out of Darkness' retreat LLANDUDNO, Loreto Centre, 17-21 October

Quiet Days 2016

Guided silence, listening, intimacy with God

Huddersfield - First Saturday of alternate months: 5th March, 7th May, 2nd July, 3rd September, 5th November. 10am-4pm

Info: Peter Jackson 01282 438964 or peterhackson@talktalk.net

If you would like to host a Quiet Day in your area, please contact the Maranatha office.

BE ONE – LOCAL GROUPS - find a local group near you

England

CHISWICK 2nd Monday, monthly, chiswick@maranathacommunity.org.uk

ECKINGTON, PERSHORE 3rd Thurs. monthly, 7pm eckington@maranathacommunity.org.uk

GRAVESEND 4th Tuesday, monthly, gravesend@maranathacommunity.org.uk

HALIFAX / HUDDERSFIELD 4th Wed. monthly, 7.30pm. halhub@maranathacommunity.org.uk

HARROGATE 1st Friday monthly, 7.30pm harrogate@maranathacommunity.org.uk

LEEDS 1st Tuesday, monthly, 7.30pm leeds@maranathacommunity.org.uk

LINCOLN Thursday weekly 2-3.30pm lincoln@maranathacommunity.org.uk

MACCLESFIELD 2nd Wed. monthly, 7.45pm macc@maranathacommunity.org.uk

MANCHESTER - DAVYHULME 'First Sunday' monthly, 7.30pm. 0161 748 485

MANCHESTER - FLIXTON 3rd Friday, monthly, 8pm. info@maranathacommunity.org.uk

MANCHESTER - CENTRAL First Saturday of every other month 11am, 0161 748 4858 info@maranathacommunity.org.uk

MARKET HARBOROUGH last Fri. monthly, 10am markharb@maranathacommunity.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM 3rd Mon. monthly, 7.30pm nottingham@maranathacommunity.org.uk

PLYMOUTH plymouth@maranathacommunity.org.uk

ROMILEY 3rd Saturday monthly, romiley@maranathacommunity.org.uk

SCUNTHORPE Thursdays twice monthly, 7pm scunthorpe@maranathacommunity.org.uk

SHEFFIELD 2nd Sat. monthly, 4pm sheffield@maranathacommunity.org.uk

TAUNTON 3rd Fri. monthly, taunton@maranathacommunity.org.uk

THE MARCHES, SHROPSHIRE, bi-monthly, 2nd Saturday 12.30-4.30pm themarches@maranathacommunity.org.uk

TWICKENHAM 3rd Tues. monthly, 8pm twickenham@maranathacommunity.org.uk

WAKEFIELD 1st Fri. monthly, 7pm wakefield@maranathacommunity.org.uk

WEST DARTMOOR 2nd Saturday, monthly wdartmoor@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Wales

MOLD 1st Mon. monthly, 7.30pm, mold@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Scotland

HELMSDALE Fri. evenings, 7pm helmsdale@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Northern Ireland

BELFAST info@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Republic of Ireland

FERMOY 2nd Wednesday monthly 8pm fermoy@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Uganda

ENTEBBE Asher Kalema: lifegospelchurch@yahoo.com

Other Local Contacts

bodmin@maranathacommunity.org.uk
falmouth@maranathacommunity.org.uk
matlock@maranathacommunity.org.uk
midlands@maranathacommunity.org.uk
london@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Scotland

MAYBOLE maybole@maranathacommunity.org.uk

Wales

ANGLESEY anglesey@maranathacommunity.org.uk

PRAY – Maranatha Prayer Cells

UK Prayer Cells



Prayer Cells

meet in the following places: Abergale, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Aylesbury, Ballynoe, Banbury, Barnstaple, Bedford, Belfast, Bideford, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bodmin, Bolton, Bradford, Bridgnorth, Brigg, Brighouse, Bury, Bury St. Edmunds, Cheadle, Colwyn Bay, Congleton, Cork, Craigavon, Craven Arms, Deal, Dunlavin, Enniskillen, Fermoy, Folkestone, Gravesend, Grimsby, Halifax, Harrogate, Hassocks, Hayling Island, Helmsdale, Hemel Hempstead, Hendon, Huddersfield, Largs, Ledbury, Lewes, Little Hampton, Lincoln, Lisburn, Liverpool, Macclesfield, Manchester, Mallow, Matlock, Much Wenlock, New Eltham, Newark, Northampton, Norwich, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Otley, Plymouth, Prudhoe, Redditch, Rochdale, Rye, Sale, Saltash, Scunthorpe, Sheffield, Shipley, Shrewsbury, Shannon, Southall, Stockport, Sudbury, Sunderland, Sutton Coldfield, Teignmouth, Tilloucultry, Todmorden, Tottenham, Trowbridge, Uxbridge, Wakefield, Wantage, Warrington, Wellington, Westbury, Wick, Worcester, Yelverton, and in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Israel, Malawi, Malaysia, Spain and Uganda.

START A PRAYER CELL

Could you for a prayer cell in your area? - just 2 or 3 people, preferably from different churches meeting weekly in a home.

You can see from the map where the gaps are in the UK. It would be good to have prayer cells in Cumbria, Northumbria, and the Scottish Borders, as well as in mid and south Wales (and elsewhere).

Please contact the Maranatha Office if you are able to start a Prayer Cell.



102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT Tel: 0161 748 4858 Fax: 0161 747 7379
email: info@maranathacommunity.org.uk www.maranathacommunity.org.uk

