

THE MARANATHA COMMUNITY PRESENTS:

SPOTLIGHT

News & Views for Local Groups, by Local Groups!



Issue 30–Summer (June, July and August)

Editor: Matthew Doherty, Address: 1 Clover Court, Brigg North Lincolnshire DN20 8FE Telephone: 01652:655408 E- MAIL: matthewdoherty@talktalk.net

MARANATHA REGIONAL GATHERINGS

The theme of this years gatherings has been and will for the time being continue to be

**The PEOPLE of Britain
The POWER of Jesus Christ the Saviour**



Each gathering is “a call to all who will come together as **PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL** to worship, pray, listen and respond to the Lord’s call, for the sake of His Name, for the sake of His Church, for the sake of this Nation, for the sake of our children.”

Following the meeting in County Durham, further meetings have been held in London (the Emmanuel Centre) Randalstown and in Warmington (near Banbury). Over the course of this issue of Spotlight, there will be gatherings at:-

- **Lincoln** **Bailgate Methodist Church** **LN1 3AR** **10:30am-4pm** **1st June**
- **New Ferry (Wirral)** **St John The Evangelist Church** **CH62 5BJ** **12:00pm-4:30pm** **8th June**
- **Fermoy** **Time and Venue to be confirmed**

A **National Gathering** is planned for **13th July** at St Margaret's Church, Erdington, **Birmingham B23 5RR**.

Subsequently, there will be gatherings in

- **Taunton (21st September),**
- **Sheffield (14th September)** Please note the Sheffield date has been changed.
- **Market Harborough (16th November).**

More information will be found on the Maranatha website

www.maranathacommunity.co.uk

MARANATHA IN DURHAM

By Mike Doherty



Willington Methodist Chapel (near Crook) was the venue for the first of the 2013 Regional Gatherings. It was held on Saturday 13th March and was truly a fellowship of the Saints.

We arrived at lunchtime, to receive a warm greeting and an excellent bowl of soup. Then, songs of praise and worship were sensitively led by Richard and Olwyn Morris. We sought to give God all the glory and honor throughout the day. As we did so, there was a strong sense of God creating an army of worshippers.

The new Pope had just taken office and the new Archbishop of Canterbury was on the point of doing so. We were encouraged by how much they had in common and unity was a focus of our prayer.

Also, we agreed to stand against the spiritual assault on the nation. In particular at this time, the Same Sex Couples Bill was challenging the centrality of marriage in our society. We knew that as we stood firm we could take courage from the words of Jesus prominently displayed in the Chapel, *"I will never leave you or abandon you"* Although we cannot simply sit back, His love indeed endures forever!

As always, there was opportunity for personal ministry. In addition, Linda asked each person if any single word had been imprinted on their heart. These included *"power"* *"encouragement"* *"Justice"* *"Love"* *"listening"* *"looking up"* *"sincerity"* and *"shalom"*. Moreover the following statements were made:

"When I do things with other churches I represent my church. When I am with Maranatha, I represent Christ".

"I like the inclusivity of Maranatha which is not constrained by church bureaucracy but which also does not produce conflict between the two".

"Maranatha deals with the realities of life in straightforward ways"

"I left the Maranatha gathering feeling so, so, special. The whole event was about Jesus".

"There is no other place where I am filled and lifted up by the Holy Spirit".

"Maranatha is as the church is meant to be"

"Maranatha is my family where I can be me and know that Jesus loves me as I am"

"In Maranatha there are lots of different people with lots of different gifts, being Jesus for other people".

"In Maranatha I know the strength of being together to worship Jesus in oneness"

If you live in the North-East and would like to find out more about Maranatha in the region, please contact

richardmorris@btinternet.com

Pause For Thought.

By Robert Wilson

Tenderness.

*Show your tenderness to all in such a way
that they may see all the fruit of the Spirit in you.*



WEEKEND RETREAT

"AN OFFERING OF WORSHIP"

"KINGDOM LIVING IN TODAY'S WORLD"

The following is a poem written by **Susan Weather** who composed it on the Loreto Llandudno weekend "An offering of Worship" (22nd-24th March).

As the wind blows across the hills
So God blows His people according to His will.
As the snow glistens white on the mountain tops
So are God's people, whose sins He has blotted out.
As the rain falls on the fields
So God's blessing falls on the church.
As the summer sun shines
So God's love burns for the one He loves.



Psalm 51.7b and 8 says

"Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness that the bones you have broken may rejoice".

Pam Webb writes:-

Loreto Lets go Oh no There's snow....

The snow played a significant part of our weekend retreat in Llandudno. Firstly some people from Hereford cancelled and two local people who hoped to attend were deterred by the weather. Another brave individual was forced to turn back on Friday due to road conditions but arrived safely on the Saturday, along with keyboard and other essential equipment. Prayers by candlelight, and mountain goats searching for food in the gardens, against a backdrop of freshly fallen snow on the mountains around the Loreto Centre, gave a special atmosphere to our gathering... We shared fellowship, food and hot water bottles and we experienced power failure affecting the heating and lighting. We were aware that in spite of some cold and inconvenience Gods Holy Spirit helped us to worship and indeed "hear joy and gladness". There was prophecy, poetry and praise during our worship as well as dancing and a time for craft activities whilst at Loreto. The formal worship took place in two local churches; Our Lady of the Star of the Sea on Saturday and on Palm Sunday at Holy Trinity.

Thanks to everyone taking part and using their various talents and gifts. Letters of appreciation were given to the staff which were written on cut-out birds, hung with ribbon, lovingly prepared beforehand.

THE QUEEN'S RESPONSE TO:

THE BIG QUESTION

Copies of "*The Big Question*"; *what on earth are we doing to our children?*" are being widely circulated by the Head Office and by local groups.

Linda Stalley sent a copy to Buckingham Palace and here is the reply:

"The Queen has asked me to thank you for your letter of 25th February, and for enclosing the Maranatha Community's report "*The Big Question; what on earth are we doing to our children?*" as well as copy of "*A Shalom Prayer*"

Your very kind words to Her Majesty were much appreciated, and I am to say that Her Majesty is most grateful for the assurance of your prayers.

The Queen sends her thanks and warm good wishes to you and to all the Members of the Maranatha Community".

NORTH WALES MARANATHA GET TOGETHER

By Mavis Mctree



Members of the Conwy group met up with Anglesey Maranatha members at Christine and Peter Garbutt's home in Malltraeth on Thursday 18th April.

Christine shared with us how the Lord had so clearly led her and Peter to move there.

Three words that God had given them were Worship, Creativity and Community and already the vision He gave them was being fulfilled.

They host a weekly worship meeting in their home. The fields belonging to their property now contains a large wooden cross, another part of their God given vision, where visitors can meet with God in prayer.

They freely offer the field for Christian events. An evangelical mission is organised for this summer. They have transformed their garage into an art studio where Christine's art work is displayed. Many members of the community have already visited and classes and workshops will regularly take place.



Both Peter and Christine Garbutt have also become members of the local community group in the village.

We enjoyed a "take and share" lunch as well as sharing in worship and excited Thanksgiving and prayer for the Lord's continuing work on Anglesey.



LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS

Have you considered attending a Light out of Darkness Retreat? Or attending another one?

There is a Retreat at the **Loreto Centre** on **9th -13th September.**

There is also **Light Out of Darkness 2** Retreat which is held at:

- **Boars Hill (Oxford)** on **3rd-7th June**
- **Loreto Centre** on **30th September – 4th October.**

Futher details are to be found on the Maranatha website. The article on page 5 written by Mo Surrey may help you make up your mind

LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS RETREATS

By Mo Surry



The Light out of Darkness retreats have been getting better and better. Just when we think it is the best one ever, God surprises us again with the way He graces us during these times. In 2009 we felt He was asking us to divide the course into 2 retreats (though the 1st retreat can stand alone). This enables us to make the most of the material from Sr Kathleen O'Sullivan's book but gives even more room for the Spirit to move freely amongst us. Many people in the Community, and beyond, have been blessed by these retreats over the years, and I personally can say how the Lord transformed my life when I first did it in 1991.

The developments that have taken place in the last few years are awesome. I would recommend the **NEW** retreats even if someone has done Light Out of Darkness before. We are hoping to give opportunities in the future, to people who have done the retreat, for training in the leading of local weekly groups.

One retreatant said recently that this was the best 'discipleship' course she had been on in a long time. Opportunities are opening up for us to take the retreat further afield and we are amazed at what God is doing amongst us.

Below are some of the comments we have received:



"I have just returned from Light out of Darkness April 2013 at Douai Abbey. I have never been on a guided, silent retreat before; though my wife has been encouraging me to go on one for a number of years after being greatly blessed herself on it. I signed up because I felt the Holy Spirit nudge me, as well as my wife."

I am really glad I went. If I wrote down all the ways I was blessed on this Retreat it would take several pages. It occupies 10 pages in my journal.

So, briefly, I really enjoyed it because; Excellent teaching. Sr Kathleen's book is written in accessible bite size chunks and is scripturally based. Very challenging and stimulating. Powerful silent fellowship: good sharing times with open, honest Christians of all persuasions.

It was very well led by Mo Surrey and Mariane Grinter who combined authority in the Lord with empathy towards the retreatants. We were genuinely aware of the presence of God and His love.

The setting was gorgeous, particularly the church, which is world-class. Last but not least, the food was nice and the monks were friendly. I would definitely recommend this to people and would hope to go on 'Light out of Darkness 2.'

"Light out of Darkness was life changing!"

I would say this to all those who are thinking about knowing their Father's love in a deeper way – just come. He's waiting to have a deeper relationship with you and you in turn will have the same with others."

"This course will transform your Christian life and improve prayer

The silence makes it easier to focus on God for yourself. I would encourage anyone to choose to come and be with the Father with no interruptions, no responsibilities and pray, love and worship in His presence. A very special time."