

November/December 2011

Preparing for Christmas

Some of our longer established denominations have a tradition of celebrating Advent at this time of year. A friend of ours who regularly sends us his prayer letter, and who, like us, is from a less traditional background, has sent out a challenge to take the opportunity of the season of Advent to prepare our hearts and seek God, maybe through fasting.

Can I suggest that we fast our time, giving up something we normally do (like watching TV or reading a newspaper, for instance), spending that half hour (or maybe even an hour a day?) in praying for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in a deeper way in our lives, in our churches, and in our nation, this Christmas Season?

Download a guide to fasting on the **Cumbria Prayer Net website** or download a useful Advent Prayer Guide from

<http://www.eauk.org/resources/advent-prayer.cfm>

Chrissie Greaves
Cumbria Prayer Net



WEMBLEY 2012

Saturday
29th September 2012

Plans are being considered for a national day of prayer at Wembley Stadium.

Join in praying for this event to be confirmed and encourage your local church and prayer groups to plan to be there. Let's join hands across the nation for this National Prayer Assembly.

Your nation needs you



to unite in prayer

Register your support by going to ...
<http://gdoplondon.com/about/leadership-summit/>
or for more information Tel: 08456 528 600

Kingdom Come 2012



During the Olympic and Paralympic year from the 1st January until 31st December 2012, 24-7 Prayer and Alpha are in partnership, jointly inviting the Church to fill an entire year with continuous, night and day prayer.

"We're going to pray in the UK and Ireland like we've never prayed before. In the year when the world will come here for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we believe God wants the Church to 'rediscover God's compassion for the world', and to 'receive again God's call to go into all the world'.

Building on recent, unprecedented years of non-stop prayer in Scotland ('The Big If...') and in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland ('What If...'), we're going to pray together... hundreds, probably thousands, of prayer rooms of every denomination, in schools, colleges and universities all over the UK and Ireland, praying for days, weekends, whole weeks or more. And not just prayer rooms... we're encouraging people to pray in all kinds of ways, in all kinds of places, during this one year – prayer groups will gather in communities and workplaces, people will be prayer walking every local street, others carrying prayer stakes and planting them all over the UK and Ireland. Prayer, in all kinds of places, prayer that spills out into mission and justice. Come and join in!"

For information and creative tools for prayer in your community see ...

<http://uk.24-7prayer.com/kingdomcome/>

Email Addresses

If you are able to receive this Bulletin via email please help us by sending an email to info@cumbriaprayernet.net also noting your postal address and we'll transfer you to the email list. This can also keep you informed if there is a need to send out emergency prayer requests.

Cumbria Prayer Net - Website

Keep in touch with the CPN Website at
www.cumbriaprayernet.net

Prayer Pointers

The key to answered prayer is to be praying in agreement (see Matt 18:19-20), which means a unity in prayer with all believers in your community (i.e. your street, village, town, workplace, school etc.). This may lead to praying with a neighbour or colleague who is of a different denomination.

Praying for your community

What are the important issues or key events coming up in your community? What things can we be praying for to proclaim God's blessing in each situation?

Carlisle Diocese has launched a 10 year mission strategy "By God's grace, to grow God's Kingdom in Cumbria" and "To see our Churches growing Disciples of all ages" The commitment is to work in partnership, with Christians of other denominations. Parishes will be developing local "Mission Action Plans".

Let's find out what's being considered in our local parish's MAP and work together in prayer and action for our community.

More information on Carlisle Diocese website. See ...
<http://www.carlisediocese.org.uk/discipleship.html>

Cumbrian MPs

MPs have a significant part to play in bringing local concerns to the attention of the government of the day. They will have their own website to keep you up to date and from which we can take some pointers for prayer.

Jamie Reed MP Copeland

Labour, Shadow Minister for Health

John Stevenson MP Carlisle,

Conservative

John Woodcock MP Barrow and Furness

Labour/Co-operative, Shadow Minister for Transport

Rory Stewart MP Penrith and The Border

Conservative

Tim Farron MP Westmorland and Lonsdale

Liberal Democrat, President Liberal Democrat Party

Tony Cunningham MP Workington,

Labour, Shadow Minister for International Development

Pray for Schools

We know that there is a lot of prayer for our local schools in the region. Sarah Hulme who is Church and Schools Officer for the Diocese of Carlisle drew our attention to Pray for Schools network. In rural areas the school is often at the heart of the community.



"Every School in the UK a prayed-for School"

"That's the vision of Pray for Schools, a network dedicated to facilitating prayer for every school. Through meeting as a group, holding prayer events during the year, or even praying on your own, you can be involved in making a reality the vision of every UK school becoming a prayed-for school."

More information and resources at ...

<http://www.prayforschools.org/>

2012 Olympics in Cumbria

More than Gold co-ordinates the UK Church's mission and pastoral support for the 2012 Olympics.



Cumbria will host three **Olympic Training Camps** in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. They will be at...

- Hoops Basketball Centre, Barrow
- Kendal Judo Club
- Sheepmount Athletic Stadium, Carlisle

The **Olympic Torch Relay** passes through the county 20th-22nd June. For information & resources

www.morethangold.org.uk/your-church/prayer.html

More than ...

The logo More than Gold is, I presume, based on the verse in Psalm 119 which says: "I love your commands *more than gold*" (v.127); this is a simile often used in scripture. I have been reflecting lately on some of the "more than"s in the Bible, and here are three to encourage and build faith:

We are *more than* conquerors, through Him who loved us. Romans 8 v 37

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably *more than* all we ask or imagine ... Eph.3 v 20

I have treasured the words of His mouth *more than* my daily bread. Job 23 v 10-12

Chrissie



CARRYING HIS PRESENCE IN THE NATION 2012

a residential conference of worship, prayer, encouragement, teaching, empowering & enabling Christians to pray for our nations and our world.

19th - 21st MARCH 2012

The Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Information & booking

<http://worldprayer.org.uk/events/wpc-conference/>

email: office@worldprayer.org.uk

Tel: 0121 633 7393



Global Day of Prayer is 27 May 2012

How can you encourage your local congregation, prayer groups or networks to join on that day in prayer for the nations?

May we see the fulfilment of Habakkuk . 2:14

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

<http://www.globaldayofprayer.com/>