

Arise Cheshire East

Together in prayer for Cheshire East

Shine!

*"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
That your ways may be known upon earth, Your saving power among all nations.*

Let all the people praise you, O God; Let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth." Ps 67

Dear friends,

Greetings in the precious and mighty name of Jesus. Recently I met someone who had been studying earlier revivals in this nation. He asked me if people here know how to really travail in prayer? Good question.

This week we witnessed the shocking death of a much-loved teacher in Leeds. Daily we see the agonies of those suffering through the conflicts of man's struggle for power and domination over another and others' quests for freedom across the world, and closer to home. However we also saw another "celebrity" brought to some measure of justice through the bravery of some victims whose willingness to find a voice and speak out had given others the strength to do the same.

Isaiah declares that the fast that the Lord really seeks from us is to "loose the bonds of injustice and undo the ties of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free". What does that really mean for us? What would it look like? How can we be loosed to loose the bonds? How and where can we undo bonds of injustice and truly set the oppressed free? How can we become those who break the yoke?

Before Easter some of us spent a day travelling and praying around the borders of our borough. Places we visited included sites of earlier mighty moves of God. It was a privilege to be able to share with different folk in their places about what the Lord is already doing, but also how they are longing for the Lord to move again in power across our land. One group stopped at Mow Cop, a place of a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the nineteenth century, asking for the ancient wells of living water to be truly re-opened. Another group prayed in High Legh for the fire of the Spirit to come on the land. Together we prayed for the wind of the Spirit to blow through our villages, towns, authorities and churches. Prayers many of us would echo for our own lives, places and ministries.

At Easter we remembered Christ's passion for the world and the great weight and consequence of our sin. Surely looking towards Pentecost we desperately need to ask the Lord to bless us, that we might know a return to His ways and His saving power in our lives, homes and nation.

As ever we have much for which we thank the Lord. We thank you for your support and prayer and invite you to continue standing with us in prayer and crying out to the Lord that more of those bonds and yokes would be loosed and broken and so see many captives truly set free.

Shalom,

Carolyn, Robert and team.

"But **strive** first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given you as well." (Matt 6 v 33)

See www.prayercast.com/shine.html



Bless Cheshire East

"We stand in the mighty name of Jesus and bless you, Cheshire East and all your villages and towns that you might prosper under the mighty hand of God. We bless you that justice and righteousness might take their proper place within your boundaries. We bless you that the favour of the LORD might rest upon you and give you peace.*

We bless you that the Father's compassion might fall upon your people. We bless your poor that they might be lifted up. We bless you that the knowledge of Jesus might come in amongst you like a flood. We bless the people of God in Cheshire East that they might rise up with servant authority and become a people of blessing. We bless you that the joy of the LORD might be your strength. Amen." (from Ffald-y-Brenin)

(* you can insert the name of your village or town)

Arise Cheshire East Prayer Drive - Tues 29th March

Thank you very much to all of you who supported the Prayer Drive around the borders of Cheshire East in March. A great day, despite the rain! Whether you drove with us, met us on the way, shared your heart and passion for your community, arranged coffee and cake (at least on our western border) or prayed for us during the day – thank you. Thank you too to friends and neighbours from Stoke & Staffordshire; Cheshire West, Warrington - and Shirley Bowers and team from Arise Ministries in Huntingdon for joining us.

It was encouraging and inspiring to hear the vision and passion of some of the leaders' we met along the way and a privilege to pray with and for them.

Robert led the group travelling south from Lyme Park along our border through the Peak District and west across the southern border. With him were Graham and Sharon from Middlewich and Belgium respectively.

"We called in at **Jenkin Chapel, Saltersford**, where we prayed with vicar Steve Rathbone and Mary Meecham. Jenkin Chapel is a small chapel placed high in the hills on the route where salt was taken from Cheshire on to Derbyshire and Yorkshire. Today it is always open for prayer and many walkers and travellers pass through. Last year over 500 people stopped to rest, to pray and to sign the visitors' book. Do go and visit this summer.

Next pause for prayer was **The Cat and Fiddle Inn** (the highest pub in England) and at **St Mary, Bosley**, before arriving at **Holy Trinity, Mossley**, above the town of Congleton. Here Rector David Taylor did us a great job in terms of spiritual and practical support. We prayed for the town and area of Congleton. Several more joined the drive at this point.

We travelled on to **Mow Cop**, the high point which was the site of the great spiritual outpouring in the nineteenth century on the Cheshire Staffordshire border. Here friends from the Beacon House of Prayer in Stoke joined us and Rev. Gilly Hubbard, Vicar of St. Thomas Mow Cop.

Then we continued on to **Alsager Community Church** meeting a number of folk there before continuing on to **St Bertoline, Barthomley**. This Saxon church was infamous for a Civil War massacre and an important point for prayer for forgiveness and healing from the blood shed. Next stop was **Englesea Brook Museum and Chapel** where the leaders opened it up especially for us and showed us around.

The convoy stopped briefly in **Audlem** and then at the **Gamekeeper's Cottage at Combermere Abbey** on the Shropshire border. Here Melanie Camu lives who welcomed the team.

Five cars in the convoy by now continued in the drive north along the Cheshire West boundary to **Peckforton Castle**.

Meanwhile Carolyn's group with Nick Gerrard, Shirley and Vanessa left Throstles Nest Farm travelling the northern border and then down our shared border with Cheshire West. At each place we stopped we prayed the blessing from Ffald-y-Brenin.

First we drove through the hills above and around Lyme Park, passing High Peak School, pausing to pray high in the hills overlooking the Cage at **Lyme**, the Cheshire Plain and **Disley**. We prayed for truth, justice and righteousness to be established and for leadership to come up to a higher level. Descending from the hills down through Disley and via Hazel Grove we drove in to **Poynton**. At the iron "gateway" saying "give way to all" we prayed instead "Give way to Jesus", and proclaimed His authority. We paused at Poynton station to pray for the village.

At **St Chad's at Handforth** we were welcomed by Will Marshall the curate and had a brief time to pray for the church's ministry and the town. Many exciting projects are based here, including the Aroma Café. We prayed that the Lord's hand would be stretched forth from this place and that the Aroma of Jesus would spread from out here.

Moving on to **St John's, High Legh** we were welcomed by Rev Jennifer Croft, Cllr. Steve Wilkinson and others at this lovely old church in the heart of the Cheshire countryside on the borders of East and West and Warrington. A recent fire had resulted in the re-building of part of the parish centre. Now a weekly prayer meeting is held for the community and prayer especially for healing on the land. A lovely sense of the presence of the Lord was in the place. As the fire burns and cleanses the land we prayed for fire of the Lord to fall in High Legh and to spread across the land. Zechariah 10.

Friends from the West and from Warrington joined us here and we travelled on to **Middlewich**. We paused outside Dalton House to pray for *Cheshire East Children's and Family Service* based there. We were reminded that in years gone by Cheshire's powerful families had been involved in sending its children off into slavery and much wealth had been generated through child labour. We asked for forgiveness for Cheshire and blessing on the work of all those in CEC Family Services. At **Middlewich Community Church** we were welcomed and supplied with coffee and cake by Rev David Moore. It was so inspiring to hear of his ministry in the church, town and beyond and to be able to share and pray for him and he for us. As the host venue of the launch of the Hidden Treasure Report it felt good to be back.

Driving on through the borders, the mist and the Cheshire Plain, (in contrast to the hills of the Peak District) to the historic village of **Bunbury**, we met **Rev Tim Hayward** who is building some lovely links into the community, both old and young. Bunbury is an ancient village and St. Boniface Church roots go back to Saxon times with links to influential Cheshire families. A shrine of the founder, a stone statue of a sleeping warrior, dominates the southern end of the church, which was once seen as the focal point for 12 surrounding villages represented by 12 carved angels in the building.

Tim's parishes also encompass the chapel at **Peckforton Castle**, our final stop. There we all met up. 8 cars arriving, not quite simultaneously, at this high point over Cheshire. We spent time together in the chapel praying again for the people and places we had visited and asking once more for the Lord's blessing over Cheshire East, and for neighbours and friends represented amongst us.

Finally we headed home with a strong sense of the importance of the day in the life of the Kingdom for Cheshire and the nation. Things revealed and relationships built, but with much more to do and places to which to return to see His Kingdom come and His will done.

Another significant step forward in the wider East Cheshire vision, we believe. Thank you again for your fellowship and support.

Robert and Carolyn



*"Is this not the fast that I choose: To loose the bonds of injustice, To undo the thongs of the yoke,
To let the oppressed go free, And break every yoke? Isaiah 58 v 6*

**"39% OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEING BULLIED HAVE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME SOMEBODY GAVE THEM A VOICE?"**

The Anti-Bullying Charity *Ditch the Label* has published the results of their Annual Bullying Survey 2014. A survey of over 3,600 young people across the UK aged 13-18. It makes for sombre and sobering reading. Key Findings include:

- 45% of young people experience bullying before the age of 18.
- 26% of those bullied have experienced bullying on a daily basis.
- 40% of respondents reported being bullied for personal appearance
- 36% reported being bullied for body shape, size and weight.
- 39% have never told anybody that they are being bullied.
- 51% were not satisfied with the bullying support that they got from teachers.
- 34% reported being bullied for prejudice based reasons (homophobia/ racism/religious discrimination/disability discrimination/cultural discrimination)
- 63% of respondents with a physical disability were bullied, and were more extremely socially excluded.
- 61% of respondents have been physically attacked.
- 30% have gone on to self-harm as a result of bullying.
- 10% have attempted to commit suicide as a result of bullying.
- 10% of respondents reported they had been sexually assaulted.
- 83% said bullying had a negative impact on their self-esteem.
- 56% said bullying affected their studies.
- 41% of those who had never been bullied achieved A or A* grades in English. 30% of those who had been bullied in the past achieved an A or A* in English. 26% of those being bullied achieved an A or A* in English. The trends were similar across Science and Maths.

<http://www.ditchthelabel.org>

School years are supposed to be the best years of the your life. Sadly for many that is not the case. School is not the only place bullying occurs but for too many it is there experience, and not only student to student. We thank God for individuals and initiatives tackling and speaking out about this issue, seeking to combat it and to equip others to do so.

Please pray

- for those who have or are experiencing bullying in whatever context, for their protection and healing.
- for those who currently feel unable or intimidated about speaking out, including parents/guardians.
- that when people try and speak that they are listened to and their concerns acted upon.
- for young people whose friends are being bullied or self-harming, for someone to talk to and to know how to respond.
- that these issues are taken seriously and real solutions and significant changes in school culture and other environments.
- that those in authority will take this issue seriously and enable and encourage more people to speak out and act together to combat it.
- The conference being organised this summer to try and address issues of cyber bullying and drugs in schools across Cheshire East. Praise God for this and pray for all involved and the preparations.

"For this reason I bow before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts being rooted and grounded in love." (Ephesians 3 v 14 – 17)

Children, young people and families. Thank you for your prayers for the developing relationships and work across our area and the new partnerships, projects and ideas emerging. There is still much more potential and a great deal of hard work required to take things forward to really make a significant difference. To see restoration in the lives of our children and young people and for them to encounter the love of Jesus.

Please continue to pray as we explore new ways of working together, for discernment and wisdom. That those things which are truly of God will move forward. Please give thanks and pray for all those working with children, young people and families in whatever role and sphere.

Drug Proof Your Kids: Praise God that despite many obstacles this was launched in Knutsford just after Easter. We had a great mix of parents, helpers and staff from Cheshire East Council as well as the team from Poynton. We give thanks for this opportunity, the partnerships developing and the families that will be supported through this initiative. Please pray for all involved and for the whole area concerning alcohol, drug and other addictions.

Carer and Toddler Groups, Pre-Schools & Children's Centres: Each week literally thousands of babies and toddlers, along with their parents or carers attend a church-based group where they are introduced to the love of Jesus and supported in their early months and years. We give thanks and ask the Lord's blessing on all the amazingly dedicated and gifted leaders and volunteers who give hundreds of hours of care, compassion and wisdom to young parents. Pray also for our *Children's Centres, Health Visitors* and others and for the increasing links and understanding between these, as well as the work of charities such as *Homestart*, helping young families.

Education: A recent report showed that the gap was growing in attainment between those on free-school meals and those not. Please pray for the work going on now to develop new vision, strategies and even institutions to address the educational needs of all our children.

Please continue to pray for all our schools, for wisdom and integrity for all heads, teachers and all staff and students and governors especially through times of transition. Pray that our schools may be places of safety, free from bullying of any form where our children can grow and enjoy learning and be Christ-centred centres of excellence. Pray for the Christian witness and wisdom in our schools for staff and students alike. Pray for all those facing exams and important life-choices at this time.

Beanstalk, a national literacy charity, begins a new chapter in Crewe. Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs is Beanstalk's Cheshire ambassador and asks for prayer for this charity which works within 25 schools in the Cheshire and Stoke area including Underwood, Oakfield, Pebblebrook and Monks Copenhall in Crewe and St Oswald's in Worleston.

Area manager Gail Washington said: "Our vision is a nation of confident children who can read and grow up to lead successful lives. Sadly we lag behind many other countries when it comes to reading standards. In England, one in seven children leave primary school with below average reading skills. There can be many reasons. Busy lifestyles, coping with other challenges, disrupted schooling and, in some cases, having parents who are not confident readers themselves. All can lead to a child falling behind.

We change this by working with primary schools to provide high-quality literacy support through trained volunteer reading helpers. We recruit, vet, train and support volunteers to work in primary schools with children who have fallen behind with their reading. Beanstalk is working to raise its profile in South Cheshire and offer more support to children, particularly in Crewe.

A call has gone out for financial support and **more volunteer reading helpers are being sought**. To find out more or how to volunteer, visit www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk call 020 7729 4087.

Caring for our older generation

Ageing Well.

As Christian communities we have much to celebrate and offer in terms of honouring, caring for and active involvement with our older folk in many, many ways. Many of us rely on the support and prayers of an older mentor. But we also face the challenges of how to ensure the dignity and good quality care of and engagement with our older population. We are probably all increasingly aware of the magnitude of these challenges and of the failings and shortcomings in the services we are able to offer and access; without even considering the incidence of outright abuse. No one is immune to these things or in possession of easy solutions.

In Cheshire East the **Ageing Well Programme** is aimed at addressing a wide range of significant and long term issues and initiatives that will impact the ability of us all to: *Prepare for a good older age; Live well in older age and Access appropriate good quality services when needed.* In the last couple of years we have been able to work and pray closely with colleagues in health and adult social care and charities such as the CAB and Age UK. In 2012 Go Project ran a conference "Embracing our older generation" as together we began to explore the needs of our older and ageing population. In 2013 we helped lead and host two mini conferences addressing the issue of loneliness and isolation. The *Link, Act Connect* events brought together people from across the area sharing good practice of what different communities were doing to combat isolation and care for their more vulnerable residents. As well as those involved from churches there are several Christians involved who are there in other official capacities.

These events have helped us build links, relationships and understanding. They have encouraged people in the good work they are doing and made some useful connections to help increase the awareness and effectiveness of what is already happening. But I think we are all aware that we need to make a step change in what we are able to do and the impact we all have.

The Ageing Well Programme team is having an away half day on 9th June to review progress and plan the way ahead. Please pray for us. Please pray also for guidance and inspiration as to how to address the problems of loneliness and isolation in the borough. Pray for those you know who are lonely or suffering ill health and for those who care for them.

Caring Together.

There is currently a major review taking place about the way health and care provision is made available to people across the borough. There are three main strands to this: 1) Enabling individuals to be better able to take care of their own health in the first place; 2) providing more services in the community, for example through GP Surgeries, pharmacies and community groups so people are less reliant on hospital-based services and 3) working to see a transformation in the training and practice in health care as a whole with care and compassion at its heart.

You can join the discussion by going to a **Panel Event at Congleton Town Hall on 21st May from 6.00pm.** Contact 01625 242511 or email join@caringtogether.info. You can also find out more about how to contribute your views to the discussion on the web site www.caringtogether.info.

Please do pray for this initiative; for the consultation currently taking place and for the active involvement of Christians in the thinking and shaping of how services are developed in the future. Pray for all those working in a caring and medical role, as practitioners, managers or support staff and volunteers. Please pray for our hospitals, medical practices, hospices and care homes and all those living and working within them in whatever role.



Breaking the yoke. At a recent public meeting in Poynton the Chairman, Mayor Gabor Bartos, a Christian, publicly apologised for the way that a resident had been treated by Councillors and staff at a similar event before he took office. A mother had raised serious concerns about the issue of the availability of drugs and associated bullying and intimidation in the local high school and community. This had taken great courage. She and her husband and other parents had already spent several years trying to get those in authority to listen and to help them and their children but had felt constantly belittled, let down and even victimised for speaking out. Again at the town assembly she felt belittled and intimidated.

Tragically within a few months of that meeting her son had taken his own life. You may have read about it in the media.

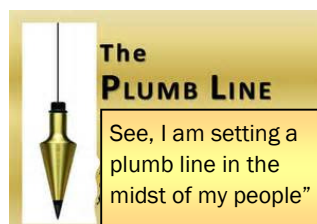
In his Mayor's Report, Councillor Bartos said *"It has been a difficult year ... We had the sad death of a young resident ... And on behalf of the Council I would like to offer our sincere condolences to his family. Last year at the Assembly the family criticised the handling of their complaints to the High School and the police. Responses from the Town Councillors and officers proved to be ill informed and unnecessarily dismissive and for that I would like to apologise."*

At last year's meeting, a parent spoke out. At this year's meeting the Mayor spoke out. One example of a step towards loosing the bonds of injustice and undoing the ties of the yoke?

Please pray; for the protection of all those seeking to confront injustice and oppression and that others will find the courage and a voice, or others to speak for them; that those in authority or with responsibility will listen and respond with humility. We thank God for those who are seeking to respond and to make a difference.

Please continue to pray; for those in roles of leadership, power and authority in all walks of life; for the raising up of more leaders who like David, are men—and women—after God's own heart; that truth, justice and righteousness would be established within all power structures and authorities and that "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on them—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord." Isaiah 11.

Pray that Cheshire may become a place of healing where people experience the true Shalom peace and wholeness, integrity and justice of Jesus.



"Look, I am about to do something new. Now it begins to happen! Do you not recognize it? Yes, I will make a road in the desert and paths in the wilderness." Is 43 v 19

KNUTSFORD

The Lord is doing exciting things in Knutsford. Praise God for the new opportunities and links across the town and particularly on the Longridge estate. By some measures this is one the areas of greatest need in the borough.



The *Welcome Church* based on the estate and led by minister Rev. Ben Clowes and Julie King works hard and often very creatively amongst the community. Ben is excited by developments and signs of new growth and life and prayer in the church and cafe. A new pastoral worker will soon be based in the church cafe and as well as starting DPYK at Knutsford Academy a new counselling service is being launched shortly to strengthen the ministry of *The Welcome Church* and *Charity*. This already runs many invaluable projects for local residents. These include a debt advice and support service, a job club, food and nutrition training, adult education, strong women, dedicated dads and youth projects as well as providing a place of hospitality, all overseen by Operations Manager Marie Fox and Cafe chef, Elenor. The work is also supported by Knutsford Methodist Church who have recently taken on a new youth worker. Pete Davis from Crawley has previous experience of setting up street pastors and will be spending some of his time supporting young people from Longridge and Shaw Heath.

Links across community partners including the Children's Centre, the Housing Associations, the local primary school and charities are strong and soon to be strengthened as plans to build on the existing good practice here and in Wilmslow are further developed with the support of Cheshire East Council.

We give thanks for all that is happening but please pray for a miracle. However, we have big dreams. We don't just want to see some lives and families changed but the whole community transformed. Streams flowing in the dessert. The Welcome Charity is seeking a new Treasurer and Trustees and church and charity are having an away-day soon to pray and plan for the way head. Please pray for them.

Please also pray for Knutsford Academy where sadly the Principal is having to retire due to ill health. Please pray for his family, the staff and for decisions regarding the Academy's future leadership.

CONGLETON

On Friday 23rd May **Congleton Street Pastors** are being commissioned and will hit the streets on 27th June. Please pray for all concerned and all the street teams in Cheshire East.

ALSAGER

Coming soon. Visit of The Message, In yer face and others. Please pray for plans and preparations—and for Toby and Helen heading off meanwhile to Peru for a well earned sabbatical!

Also for the plans to develop new sporting facility on old MMU site.

Revive worship and prayer and guest speaker. 2nd Sunday in the month. 6.00pm @ Wellspring Methodist

OURS TO SHARE Congleton Bible Weekend 2014 Guest speaker: PAUL WILSON*

Friday 20th June @ 7.30pm. St Stephen's.	"Anointed Ambassadors"
Saturday 21st June. 9 am Breakfast @ United Reformed Church.	"Why Me?"
Saturday 21st June. 4pm -5.30pm @Wellspring Methodist Church.	"Compassionate Community".
Saturday 21st June. 7.30 pm @ Cross Street Pentecostal Church.	"Marginal Ministries".
Sunday 22nd June @ 6.30pm. Trinity Methodist Church.	"Congleton's Commission"

For more information: 01260 289373

Great to have Paul back in the area. Paul was Minister of Knutsford Methodist Church for many years before leaving to take up a full time role with Methodists Evangelicals Together. Paul chaired the *Hidden Treasure in Cheshire East* team and helped launch and host the first Arise Cheshire East Prayer Gathering!

Rural and farming life and economy

We praise God for the beauty and life of the Cheshire Countryside, both its Peaks and Plains. We thank Him for his protection through some of the extremes of weather other parts of the country have experienced. We continue to pray a blessing on the land and for forgiveness and healing where in the past, or present, there has been conflict, violence and bloodshed.

We pray also for those ministering in these areas and especially, when in the midst of the apparent affluence and tranquillity, there are also people experiencing loneliness and isolation, hidden poverty and unseen domestic violence and abuse.

Please continue to pray for the ministry and team in the **Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy**.

Pray for those involved with and affected by new developments and the **Local Plan**; for wisdom, grace and integrity in all interactions, discussions and decisions and for health and strength for all those working on these important and far reaching issues. For the Lord's good will and righteousness to prevail.



The rural hub named 'Cheshire FRESH' will offer a range of business, education, research, leisure and retail opportunities to support the rural economy.

Cheshire FRESH is a unique concept that will form a focal point and centre of excellence for Cheshire's rural economy and the food & drink industry.

A new Auction Centre for Cheshire will anchor the development and ensure the survival and expansion of two of Cheshire's leading auction markets - Frank Marshall & Co. of Chelford Market and Wright Manley of Beeston Market.

Fiona Bruce asks for prayer for this major project that will be of real benefit to the local and much wider community. "This unique concept of providing an attractive, accessible venue for people to come and enjoy seeing livestock and horticultural training in action, complimented by a range of country food shops and rural product retailers has the potential to add substantially to the tourist economy of the area."

Also included in the mixed-use development's plans is a machinery dealership, business and office areas, a hotel, restaurants and leisure facilities. The project has the potential to generate up to 700 jobs."

Please pray that this project will come to fruition.



Nantwich is also home to Reaseheath College, one of the leading specialist land-based Colleges in the UK. Please pray for all the staff, students—and animals! & the wide variety of life and activity of the College

There are countless shows, country fairs, fetes and family fun days taking place over the next few months celebrating the diversity of life in Cheshire. These are great occasions for all sorts of people to get together and meet, and try out and learn new things. These events attract 10,000s visitors, from across the country as well as Europe.



As well as being opportunities for fun and relaxation, for many they are also key sales and trading opportunities on both a small and very large scale and are key events in the rural and farming economy of our area, nationally and internationally.



Dorfield Hall, July 30th 2014

Both the Cheshire Show and the Nantwich Show have Show Chaplains and host Christian services, hospitality and prayer.

Please pray for these events; for all the preparations, **the weather**, the success and safety of the events and for all they encompass and represent. Pray for a vibrant and powerful Christian ministry, witness and prayer.