

FAITH·HOPE·LOVE



YAMAHA



CHAINLINK

Winter 2023-24

The Magazine of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association UK

winter 2023-24

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Photo by Chandler Cruttenden on Unsplash

From the Editor's Garage

So, the snowy backdrop on the opposite page was what Chris and I were greeted by on our return to England. A tad different to the mild and mostly warm weather in Texas. In my spirit, I was glad to be back home: in my flesh, I was not. In the Bible, apostle Paul writes about the battle between flesh and spirit – Romans 6, 7 and 8.

More recently, following a trip to Devon, we needed AA Recovery to transport us and the car back home. Since the M5 near Gloucester was closed owing to a serious accident, I suggested to the nice man from the AA that he use the same route as we travelled on for the outward journey. It's a lovely ride, or drive, from the Bristol Channel via Chepstow, up the Wye Valley, Hereford, Leominster, Ludlow, Oswestry, etc., back to Liverpool. I've done it several times both ways on the bike, rather than use the motorway network. From the Wye Valley, the weather turned very, very wet and the AA man made a comment about it being a miserable day. Another *red rag to a bull* moment! I had to say, "Naa, it's not at all miserable..." as I was thinking, *"This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psalm 118:24), "...it's a great day – it's just very wet!"

We could have been quite despondent because of the weather and more so because of the breakdown, taking two days to get back home and, owing to a trashed cam belt, writing off the car. But I was not giving way to the flesh, but rather trusting in my spirit that our heavenly Father always has our best interests at heart, so why should we be concerned?

It would seem sometimes that Father seeks to grow us by developing our character in a way that our first thought is not to look to our circumstances but rather look to the One who is above them; where we should be – in heavenly places! (Ephesians 2:6)

As always, keep the tyres on the tarmac, be blessed, and be a blessing!

John



The Wye Valley

At my last meeting with the Exec, it was suggested that we reveal the actual cost of Chainlink magazine if it was offered for sale. We would have to set a price of at least £3.00 per copy to cover the cost of production. Adding the cost of postage for a single copy to a member's address would make a total in excess of £5.00. Since the expense of producing the magazine, at four issues per year, is included in your membership subscription, it is hoped that you would consider the subscription amount good value for money. At the same meeting, a proposal was submitted that we reduce the number of issues from four to three per year in order to reduce the cost of production. It was decided unanimously that, despite the higher cost, we continue to provide four magazines per year, one per season, so that, even during the reduced activity of CMA during the winter season, continuity of fellowship via the printed medium be kept. Ed.

Articles for Chainlink are most welcome, and should preferably be submitted by e-mail to chainlink@bike.org.uk

All images should be **high resolution** (originals from your camera/smartphone) and **NOT** embedded in a text document. Vector graphics are also welcome. Text documents should be unformatted text or rich text format (RTF) files. MS Word, OpenOffice and WordPerfect documents are acceptable, **PDFs are not**.

The sender must have permission for the inclusion of ALL names, addresses and pictures, especially of children, prior to submission and be able to provide accreditation for all material that is not original. The sender takes all responsibility for all content and rights relating to all items that are submitted. If in doubt, please obtain verification from the National Chairman or the Executive Committee. The editor retains the right to correct spelling and grammar as appropriate.

I Speak Jesus

Mike Fitton, National Chairman, CMA UK

'Tell your people to keep reaching out.'

At one time or another I'm sure most of you have heard me share my testimony, especially the occasion when an evangelist from Youth With A Mission (YWAM) first shared the Gospel message with me in the train station at Amsterdam in 1975. I didn't respond to what he said, but I sensed there was something different about this man. I kept the tract he gave me and still have it to this day. That was a very significant moment in my life, but I didn't appreciate it at the time.

I was travelling through Europe with a rucksack. I can't explain why I took the trip, other than to say, I was 'Looking for Answers' - but I didn't know what the question was.

Somehow, I knew there was something missing in my life. I felt empty, utterly devoid of any kind of purpose and unsure of my future.

I didn't know anything about Jesus – BUT I ultimately came to realise, Jesus knew all about me.

For several years, Sandy and I have been on mini cruises to Christmas markets in Bruges with Andy, Naomi, Gary and Pauline. We always had a great time, drank too many hot chocolates, and ate too many waffles dripping with Belgium chocolate! This year, as the Bruges trips have been discontinued, we decided to go to Amsterdam in early December. We caught the P&O ferry from Newcastle to Ijmuiden, then a coach dropped us off in the city for five hours, before we returned to Ijmuiden for the overnight ferry home.

This would be my second visit to Amsterdam, and I relived the memory of meeting the YWAM evangelist all those years ago. Before we set off, I emailed the Netherlands YWAM office and shared my testimony with them. They were really encouraged to know that their outreach impacted my life.

There are some great places to visit in the city, but as we walked around we saw empty hearts, broken lives and sensed darkness hanging over the streets. We became burdened by the sense of 'lostness' around us and I wondered how many 16yr olds, like me, we had passed that day? Suddenly – we could hear loud praise and worship being sung in a nearby main square! We rushed across and joined hundreds singing along with a large worship band, a full PA system and screens with lyrics.

Amongst many others we sang Charity Gayle's song, 'I speak Jesus'.

*I just want to speak the name of Jesus,
Till every dark addiction starts to break.
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom
I speak Jesus.
Your name is power.
Your name is healing.
Your name is life
Break every stronghold.
Shine through the shadows.
Burn like a fire.*

It was a very emotional time for us all – our hearts were lifted – HOPE was declared, and lives were being changed.

Jesus was present in that place!

He said,

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

The event was organised by a Christian outreach called *Foundation Presence* that seeks to make God's presence visible in this broken world, through worship in the community. They invited a Christian Member of Parliament, Don Ceder, to share his Godly vision for Amsterdam; it was amazing.

I imagine the YWAM worker back in 1975 probably thought I had ignored him, but I

hadn't. As he shared the Truth of God's Love for me, God planted a seed of Hope in my heart. A few years later I realised how far from God I was and I turned over my life to Jesus. His Love was poured into my soul, and that's what motivates me to try and make Him known.

Jesus was the answer to all my questions.

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!' (1 John 3:1)

Maybe we think those we try to reach in the biking community have ignored us? I doubt that very much.

In the Heavenly perspective, God's Word will not return without accomplishing His purpose.

'So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; it will not return to Me void (useless, without result), Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it'. (Isaiah 55:11 Amplified Bible)

I said to YWAM, "Tell your people to keep reaching out."

And in the same way I want to encourage you all; keep going, don't give up ***reaching the world one heart at a time.***

'Dear friends, stand your ground and don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort'. (1 Corinthians 15:58 The Message)

You are not labouring in vain.

God Bless you,
With love,
Mike and Sandy ✝



Links to the full YouTube video of Presence Worship in the Streets:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUCB9Akpbs0&t=2480s>

Official Stuff...

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For a complete and up-to-date list of all UK branches please check out the CMA UK website – see the link in the footer of this page.

The views expressed in *Chainlink* cannot be taken as official CMA policy on any subject. The magazine is published up to four times a year, to provide information for CMA members and to encourage them in their personal walk with God. We pray that this magazine will also stimulate non-Christian readers into thinking more about Jesus Christ, and also seeking Him for themselves.

**The Bible says: 'Seek and you will find'
St Matthew chapter 7, verse 7**



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Why I'm in CMA

John Kent, a.k.a 'Charcoal', North Wales Branch

Why am I in CMA?

As a child I was in the Cubs and then the Scouts which was a great brotherhood. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout, no matter of what colour, class or creed the other may belong to. Being self-employed for the past forty years life can be very lonely—even when things go right—but life is even worse when things go wrong. It's then that you need to be able to share your worries with Christians you can trust to support you in brotherly love. That is what CMA gives us.



What can I offer our ministry?

The first thing I can do is remember I am still a sinner and my salvation is only because of our Lord's *Amazing Grace* to us all when we give our hearts to Him. Secondly, I need to remember that I can only share what my Lord has done for me in my life – it's not my job to convince you to surrender your life to Him, but to let you know what our Lord is offering us as a gift by grace and what he has changed in my life, so that you can judge if it's for you.

How has CMA improved my walk with our Lord?

I think it was November 2005 when I first came across CMA at the *Men's Excel* weekend at *Abundant Life Church* in Bradford. This was where I met up with big Bob & Dave Finan (Topbox's brother), who both made me feel welcome and at home even though I admitted I hadn't owned a bike for twenty years. Dave took my details and passed them on to Colin Pownall and I was hooked from that first Thursday at the Mercury Motor Inn in Lancashire. Over the years in CMA I have learnt humility, to trust the love of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and to trust them with what's happening in my life. I have also learned to trust my Lord for 'God incidents' in all things including my work, where we live, where and how I worship but most importantly trusting my Lord with my personal finances, and, when I was Branch Treasurer, CMA's finances. †

Why the Cross?

Alan Brenkley, Norfolk Branch

Why the cross on your back is important

Have you ever really considered all of the elements that kick in when you put on your jacket or cut with the white cross on.

Let's start by considering the scriptures regarding the Cross, Jesus, and prophecy leading to the salvation of mankind.

Starting with the passover lamb in Exodus 12:46 God made it clear no bones should be broken. John 19:36 confirms Jesus did not have any bones broken which was common practice in crucifixions.

Mark 15:21 tells of Simon being ordered to help carry the Cross. Most Christian films have Simon telling the crowd that it is not his Cross.

The next important scripture is Matt 5:14-16 telling us that we are the light of the world and should let that light shine before others so they will glorify God.

Linking those scriptures together in our lives is essential and gives a clear message. Many bikers have had broken bones, so the sacrifices you make to get right with God count for nothing.

Do you carry the Cross gladly knowing that it should have been you and not Jesus on the Cross for your sin? Are you a shining light in the world or only wear the White Cross at CMA events?





The last scripture is the one I would ask you to really take to heart.

Luke 23:39-43 tells of the two criminals being crucified with Jesus.

The first mocked and insulted Jesus whereas the second asked the Lord to remember him. Jesus told the criminal he would be in paradise with Him that day. Amazing when you consider the fact that the first person receiving the promise to be in paradise with Jesus was a criminal. The criminal never went to church, studied the scriptures or got baptised.

Back to us and as I have said our sacrifices are nothing without His grace and mercy. Carry the Cross on your back with respect for Him.

Remember when you are at a local bike meet those at your side will have the option to receive or reject the Cross. The one you speak to tonight may not get home or see tomorrow, so be a shining light so that others may accept the offer of salvation. †



A Year in the Life of Hants & Surrey Borders Branch

Jaimee Nix, Hants & Surrey Borders Branch

2023 has been a busy year, our branch has grown and our friendships continue to develop. I thought it an encouragement to us all, but our branch in particular, to reflect on our activities and pray for the fruit of our labours to see souls saved through our conversations and connections.

The pattern of our meetings is as follows:

1st Monday of the month is our branch meeting at St Pauls Church in Addlestone Surrey.

3rd Monday is Spokes, our biker social at North Camp Methodist Church.

2nd Friday is Links, a biker outreach at Mick Ayton's church in Wallington, closer to outer London.

Last Saturday of the month is a breakfast ride.

Summer months, Wednesday evenings Rykas, and other bike meets at weekends.

We have two *WhatsApp* groups, one for general banter (usually bike related) and the other for rideout plans, especially when organising ad hoc rides. We are blessed with many bike nights and biker cafés. There are the occasional seaside jaunts or meet-up with Ian, our furthest recruit from Kent. And we do where possible try to join with other branches to help.

In some respects, it helps to be single. I am so deeply grateful to the longsuffering spouses who support our branch.

I've started with December Spokes 2022 so I can get this article to *Chainlink* in time. Mince pies, nibbles and carols with alcohol free mulled wine. Friends and spouses usually attend. We will be repeating said frivolity again this year.

31st December 2022, our breakfast ride was to a Garden Centre, specifically so that Sandy the dog would be allowed inside. You would not believe the weather – we were mad! It hammered down with rain with some flooding around. Sandy wore his Sou'ester but his dog bed still filled up with water by the time we got there. We all (nine of us) had a good breakfast with the conversation mainly about waterproof and/or warm bike gear. We dried out only to venture into the wet again. One of our companions had never ridden in bad—never mind foul—weather. Baptism springs to mind.

He did well.

Monday 9th January, first branch meeting of the year. Generally, our format is:

7.30pm, arrivals, drinks, biccies, nuts, catch up, chatter.

7.45pm, opening prayer and worship songs courtesy of Chairman (Jay Stedman) on guitar.

Secretary/Treasurer's reports (me). And, since midyear, Road Captain's report (Andrew Merrett – a.k.a. *SatNav*) who also became our official branch photographer. Hence the number of selfies.

Chaplain (David Bonny) brings a scripture to share. Today it's from *Romans*. In a nutshell, be encouraged, God is for us and has given the power of the resurrected Christ to indwell us, irrespective of how we're feeling.

Chairman's report. Feedback from events. Much hilarity ensued when discussing the previous wet breakfast ride. Plans and dates of rides, meets and upcoming events were put on the calendar, one of which is Liss prayer for biker meetings starting again 12th January. The biker meetings are being renamed Christian Bikers Hub. Chairman going, all welcome.

AOB discussion about our website page needing updating and merchandise suggestions, etc., in preparation for the year ahead. Everything must, and does, fit on our bikes. Banners, gazebo, table, Bibles, etc. No cars necessary although, later in the year, Mick acquired a trailer for his Goldwing, which now enables refreshments and chairs to be added. Thanks Mick.

8.50pm, prayer.

9.00pm, end. Timings can be a bit fluid but it's nice to have structure. This one finished at 9.15.

Monday 16th January, Spokes at NCMC. 7pm to set up, 7.30 official start until 9pm. We are opposite a pizza shop, consequently very often there is pizza among the biscuits on offer. We are blessed with being able to store our stuff in the office of the church. They finally got round to fitting hefty shelving along one wall up to the ceiling. Our stuff is comfortably accessible. We took advantage of the evening to sort through our stuff and throw out old earplugs and very old magazines and made an inventory of what we have and need. While inside the building the temperature outside was dropping fiercely and

flurries of snow had started. By the time everyone got home they sent back photos and comments of some icy conditions and close calls but everyone was safe. The following week Elisha informed us it was -7°C going to work on her bike that morning.

Later that week Paul Soares informed us of the passing of a dear biking friend with a request for riders to attend the funeral procession. Those who were able duly complied.

Sat 28th January, breakfast ride to the Departure Lounge Alton, meet at Newlands corner. A nice day for a change. News that Rykas, a favourite biker haunt was up for sale.

6th February, branch meeting. So cold some of us went by four wheels although most of us ride all year round. (I just find heated gloves a bit bulky.) Our branch funds are with Barclays Bank and I've had serious threats from them about blocking our account since taking on the Treasurer role last April. It took until September before I could access the account. I had spent an hour on the phone today to an Indian call centre only to find CMA HSB didn't exist! It prevented us from buying merchandise or resources until it was settled. I liaised with our retired Branch Treasurer, thanks Peter Redman. Suffice to say it took another month before I had complete access to our funds. I also spent time with our National Treasurer to guide my preparations for end of year accounts ready for our AGM and the tricky issue of getting the Gift Aid sorted. Thanks Phil. I eventually spent all our funds on rent, resources and merchandise.

20th February, Spokes. The roads outside the church are being repositioned, consequently road cones and barriers multiplied everywhere, with confusing diversions. This situation became a matter of concern in the spring when we were unable to park bikes at the front of the building and access became very difficult. It certainly put off any potential visitors. Those of you who attended the SE Regional will remember the chaos.

25th February, breakfast ride to Blackbushe Airport Café. Covered outside seating helped accommodate Sandy the dog. The sun was shining with a freezing breeze.

10th March, first Links bike meeting of the year at Wallington 7.30 - 9pm, run by Mick at Holy Trinity, his church. Good attendance by bikers plus three from God Squad who are interested in supporting the venue on a regular basis.

12th March, ad hoc ride after church to meet up at Rykas for coffee. Jay and Ian went on to see the Knife Angel at Guildford Cathedral

afterwards.



Links bike meeting

13th March, branch meeting. Jay shared an extract from 'Healing the sick' by T.L. Osborne, prompted by the sicknesses and deaths recently. 'When praying for/with sick people are our expectations too low? Absolute belief has absolute power.' Jay then shared his own miracle of healing.

20th March, Spokes. Everyone pitched in to create two assembly lines. Ear plugs, visor wipes and tracts into clear plastic bags and assembling inserts into the keyrings from merchandise. Thanks Kobus, you helped too. Resources have been divided between five members so we can share the load, bringing everything to an event. We each have a resource box with the same contents. The spares, banners and feathers are kept at NCMC office. Wendy is a wiz at getting gazebo, chair and table on her bike with her resource box, although no one can top Kobus, from TV Branch, when it comes to loading a bike.



Branch resource box

The pattern of our meetings continues but from here it is easier to give highlights of the rest of the year. I didn't realise there was so much.

3rd April, branch AGM with Communion and chocolate eggs thanks to Wendy. Message related to a sense of spiritual attacks on CMA and other Christians, division, sickness, folk splitting away from fellowship. Prayer ensued.

5th April, new owners take over Rykas Café at Box Hill, Dorking. Over this year they have revamped the site and introduced a regular Wednesday evening bike night. We try to support this with a future view to having a stand in the car park. The menu has improved, so have the prices.

9th April, Easter Sunday. Mick's wife Rachel and son Andrew baptised at Wallington Church – all were welcome. Jay called in at Rykas after church to introduce CMA to the new owners.



Rachel & Andrew's baptism

17th April, Spokes. Bit of an altercation with the new minister made us question whether God was giving us a nudge to move elsewhere. The roadworks and traffic cones were making it difficult to show a CMA presence. The evening had a cloud over it. I was reminded to always claim the ground and cleanse the area in Jesus's name, wherever we set up, which I now do. Churches are just buildings and, in the past, I've experienced tangible enemy presence in a

couple of them. I was later asked to write an account of the altercation for the governing body, but we saw no reason to make it an official complaint. However, a few months later it got sorted. We have an advocate, David Betts, a chaplain to the military community. He supports NCMC and his desire is to see our outreach grow in the neighbourhood. There are two large motorcycle shops, bikes and gear, in walking distance from the church.

May Bank Holiday weekend, NABD rally. Last one for camping as it's too expensive for organisers. Mick and SatNav went and supported North Cheshire HJ's. Next year it will be a day event.

21st May, HSB joined TV Branch at Rose's church. They were taking the service.

17th June, CMA SE Regional at NCMC. Help set up. Jay also helped with TV HJ's at the Lion Rally.



Lion Rally

19th June, Spokes was visited by Chris Arthey. Some of you may have read his book, *Highway 35*. He and his wife both lost their left legs in an horrific bike accident in America. They travel around giving talks of their faith journey back to health and their Hi-Tech prosthetics.

2nd July, Brooklands – our main stand of the year. Jay, our chairman, joined CMA from meeting us there. Elisha's first run up test hill, achieved. Jay's Harley too. Ross from the IoW always joins us here. He is still a member of our branch and actively supports the work of CMA on the Island. He was accompanied by Matt, also a CMA supporter. We were joined by another new recruit, Jason.

8th July, National Rally. Three from HSB went. I had previously been prevented from bringing Sandy.

29th July Calne Bike Day. Whole town welcomes bikers and they could park everywhere and anywhere, and we did! Wendy rode my bike so

Sandy could come. I went pillion with Kobus owing to a brief health issue preventing me from riding. All the Bibles put in Sandy's dog bed were taken. Wish we had taken more.

1st August, Elisha had a serious accident. Bike written off. Several injuries and required surgery. Damaged wrist is still not healed as I write in November and has had to change her job. She is loving her new bike, though to date, the insurance is still not settled, prayers please. Rykas now uses marshalls to control behaviour, although HA's presence soon calmed things down.



Calne bike day

12th August, The Gate Pub. HSB stand in the car park of their charity fundraiser. Colourful biking communities gather, rock music, hog roast etc. We have developed friendships with the regulars over the last six years. Unfortunately, Jay became ill and ended up in hospital for a couple of weeks, with more weeks recuperating.



The Gate pub

28th August, CMA Bristol first bike event, three HSB attended. Nine ride-outs this month.

3rd September, Brighton Burn Up, five members went, some joined HAND Branch to help with their CMA stand.

4th September, Crispin from Essex Branch and Lydia have been visitors over the past couple of months because they were attending Ellel Christian Training Ministries nearby in Farnham.

7-10th September, CMA at Dolau Afon attended by two members – glorious weather. Forgot it was Wales. Same weekend two members camped at 'The Forge', a men's Christian fellowship weekend with a CMA stand.

24th September. CMA HSB joined TV Branch to lead the service at Staines Baptist Church. Must have been OK because we have been invited back.



Staines Baptist Church

October has been a quiet month – bit of a relief really!

October has been a quiet month. Bit of a relief really. Temperatures outside quite low or dreadfully wet. Rykas stopped until the spring but open as usual during the day. Just branch meeting, Links, Spokes and ad hoc rides will continue into next year.

12th November, HSB took part in NCMC Remembrance Service and Parade as usual. It's a killer on the clutch hand. Missing two bikes, their owners in Wales again. David Betts wrote an encouraging message to us thanking us for our participation and witness. †

North East Regional Meeting

Howard Robinson, North York Moors & Coast Branch



On 20th January, members from five CMA branches: Tyne & Wear, West Yorkshire, S. Yorkshire & N. Lincolnshire, N. Yorks Moors & Coast, N. Yorks Vales & Dales gathered for pre-meeting fellowship.

I, Howard, opened the meeting in prayer. Ian, with his trusty guitar, led us in worship. I don't know about anyone else who was there but I felt the power of the Holy Spirit move between us, cementing our love together. For me, the worship in CMA has always been special because we are family.

Mike Fitton brought the word. Mike as always was very encouraging but he also challenged us in our personal outreach.

The five branches gave their reports, which was also very encouraging hearing the different ways branches are reaching out, including: a bike maintenance programme with the youth at West Yorkshire, Biker Church services, stands at various events, Holy Joe's, Whitby Regatta N.Yorks Moors & Coast, and more. From old established branches to new, the work goes on.

We had a refreshment break – whoever made the cakes, a big thank you goes out from us all.

Mike as
always was
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In the second session we had information updates from Mike and Naomi. These covered: Branch leadership training, Membership workbook and Spiritual growth courses and The Charity Commission, i.e., use of CMA funds. This is a big issue affecting every branch so we all need to get our heads around this.

After this, we all went outside for the group photo, taken by paparazzi George from Tyne and Wear Branch. Thanks George. Then we broke for lunch which allowed time for us to catch up with friends old and new.

The third session was 'Offering Hope to the Motorcycle Community'. We broke off into small groups to discuss why and how we do this. Interesting and relevant ideas came from the feedback. One thing that stood out was that if we don't have the Gospel hope, then we can't share it.

Time ran out all too quickly. We closed in prayer and worship.

'And a wonderful time was had by all' ✝



Howard and Denise



Three Degrees

Steve Wilds, South Yorks & North Lincs Branch

Tell God, He is waiting for your requests.

The winter months tend to curtail our biking to some extent. I have a rule that three degrees is the limit, three or below means the bike stays in my garage. Only in exceptional circumstances do I break that rule. In truth this is IAM advice. Over the recent cold spell in early December my bike was due for service. I was concerned that the temperature might mean having to delay and, getting an appointment in the garage these days can take weeks. Anyway I made it a matter of prayer especially as we had some mornings down as low as minus three.

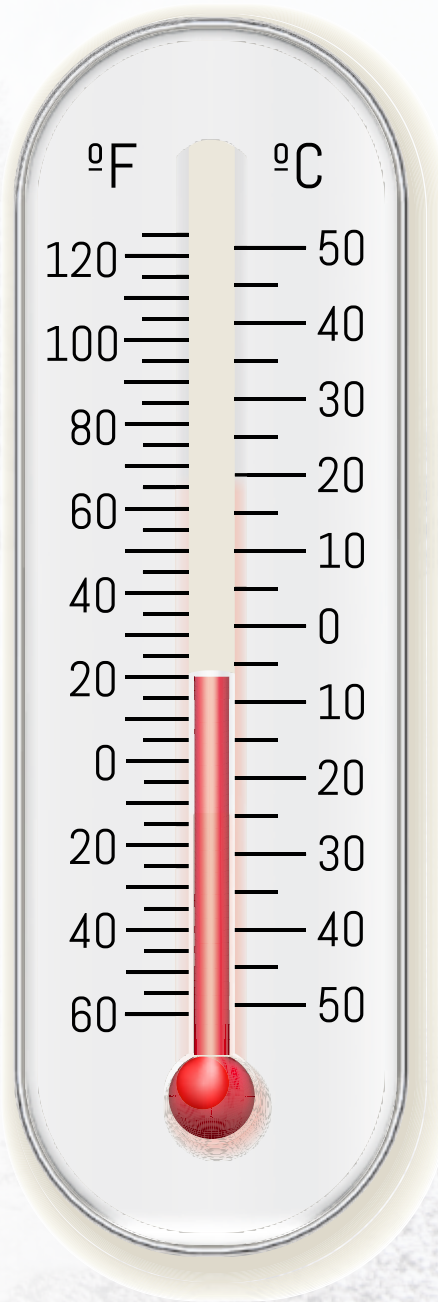


Image by macrovector on Freepik

On the due date I got up, expecting the worst. My garage had been in touch saying they were happy to rearrange, but that just delays things yet again. I looked at my phone for the local weather and, praise God it was four degrees. I know this is just a small and almost insignificant issue, but I truly believe that God is interested in every aspect of our lives, even the minutia – not just the big things.

I heard a story about a woman who said she doesn't bring the 'small issues' in her life to God in prayer – only the big stuff. "I can sort the small stuff myself", she claimed. The Bible says that we should acknowledge God in all our ways, not just the ones we think to bring, rather bring it all to God.

A couple of days after my bike service I had a letter from BMW about a recall – something to do with the clips on the foot pegs being prone to corrosion and that they needed to be changed. Well I was pleased to get the recall. I arranged another visit with the same result weather wise – how great is our God! It was just a 30 minute job for the mechanic but a good hour each way for me thankfully free of any ice.

Being a believer in Jesus does not of course mean we will have a trouble, stress free life. I know this in my own personal family life. We can have tribulation in this world but Jesus said that we should be at peace, take heart, for He has overcome the world (John 16:33). I know that sometimes events can be overwhelming, but we should rejoice in the Lord always... 'do not be anxious about anything but in prayer and supplication let our requests be made known to God' (Phil 4:4-6). So whether it's a loss or bereavement, some major financial difficulty, a health issue or just the temperature for riding, bring it to God, He can sort it and as a loving Father He is our great benefactor, greater, kinder and more loving than any earthly father.

I do not advocate that God is just a 'handout' God, far from it. We need to worship, praise and thank Him for all He does, and has done for us. The Bible says this is our 'reasonable service'. However I am always reassured that 'God is Love'. He loves us, He just can't help Himself.

Not only does He love, He is love and we are the recipients of that love. Thank you Lord. So let us not be selective about what we bring to God, let us not be arrogant about our own ability to sort things, let us lay our lives totally, completely before Him. Accept that there are no coincidences in a believer's life, everything is a God-incidence – even the weather! †

What More Can I Do?

Ken Beck, Norfolk Borders Branch

During my time as a Christian and joining the church, I have always held an active role such as, Sunday school, youth club, lead worship and preached.

Then when new people came in I found myself doing less and less. Now, don't get me wrong – I think it's good for other people to do things in the church because I have always thought of myself as a gap filler, meaning, if I see a gap in church I seem to be asked to fill in.

For the past few years now I have been just sitting in church every Sunday saying to the Lord, "There must be more I can be doing in my walk with you."

At the age of 55 I injured my back so I had to take early retirement. This meant I had more time on my hands to do work for the Lord but either I was not listening or the Lord just wanted me to wait anyway.

A little while later my oldest son was cleaning his Yamaha R6 at my home and while I was talking to him I sat on his bike, and he said, "Why don't you take it for a ride?"

So I did, just around the estate we lived on.

The last time I had ridden a motorbike was when I was 21 and that was in 1978, 38 years ago!

In 2016 I decided it was time I bought my own motorbike, rather than borrowing my son's all the time! I found out riding a motorbike was more comfortable than driving a car for my back problem.

I bought a 1987 Honda VFR750 which I enjoyed riding for about 2 years. This was great for a start, however, I was on the lookout for a more updated version as my confidence in riding increased.

I was fortunate to see an ex-demo 2018 Honda CBR650F in a local garage at a reasonable price and this became my next bike which I still ride today, 5 years on.

I couldn't bear to part with my original 1987 Honda though, so when my grandson was born and as he looked up at me at only 2 weeks old, I decided to gift it to him. Maybe I wanted to keep motorcycling in the family, although it'll be a few years before he can ride it as he's only 6 now!

I now have a motorbike that I love to ride all the time, but I still felt there was something missing with my walk with the Lord.

I started going to bike shows just to look at bikes, then on the August Bank Holiday Monday I went to the Fenman Bike Show at Wimbotsham. As I was walking around I saw a CMA stand but the guys there were busy talking to other people so I just walked by and said to my wife, "I'll catch them another time", but the Lord had other ideas. I found myself walking round again and this time Ian and Sue were free to talk. They invited me to their next meeting.

I went to the meeting and the moment I walked in I knew that this was where I was meant to be, and the rest is history, as I joined. After 2 years I became a full member. Last year I went to the CMA National Rally for the first time and was made to feel very welcome. However, I am still asking the Lord what more I can do in His Name. †



Winter Classic Bike Show

Peter McConnochie & Pauline Simms, East Midlands Branch



Each year the Classic Bike Guide Winter Classic Bike Show is held at the Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire and we the East Midlands Branch of CMA normally have a stand.



We were allocated a spot in one of the hanger style sheds, next to the Joey Dunlop stand.

We put on display a Triumph Trident 900 and a Suzuki VX800. There was a display board, banners and a table of information. A number of the East Midlands branch took it in turns over the weekend to be on the stand giving out chocolates, fliers and the occasional Bikers Bible. We were open and ready to talk with, and listen to, anyone who came our way.

It was my first time attending the Newark Classic Bike Show. I was impressed by the scale of the event and the huge number of motorcycle enthusiasts and bikers in attendance.

The CMA stand attracted the attention of many of the people who came through the hall and it was encouraging to be able to talk with them about the bikes on display. It was good to have the opportunity to share details of our breakfast rides and other events and some people also took away a Biker Bible.

I pray that the initial seeds sown through conversation and invitation would grow.

Peter †





I have never attended a bike show in the depths of winter before. December to March I am usually distracted from bikes, however, this year I braved the floods and went to the Classic at Newark on 6th January. The photo (below left) is courtesy of BBC News. Serious water around Newark on Trent. It was also a tad chilly.

I could have taken the bike – I do ride at -2°C but I was wary of the parking and the mud given the robust flood warnings but I needn't have worried. The sun shone gloriously all day. The bikes were parked on tarmac in a special enclave near the gate. If you have never been before, the show ground is clearly signposted and it was, despite the weather, quite an event.

This was my favourite photo of the day – just happened to be next to our stand – The Joey Dunlop Foundation collection.

It was good to welcome our very own National Chairman, Mike Fitton, to our motley crew... six of us, and three girlie riders. Always something to brag about in any group!

We spent the day giving out sweets to any who could be tempted with a cheerie, "Hello, are you local?" with leaflets for our monthly rideouts in the other hand. Everyone likes to talk about bikes and it was great. We had some good conversations with people who were curious as to why we were there. I will admit to initially being wary having never put myself out there in that way before, but what the heck, God loves them! They need to know about Jesus. Many spoke about accidents and near misses and guardian angels. Others talked fondly of family members who were believers and of great influence in their lives.

While some determinedly walked past with no eye contact others came to look at the bikes and chat. We were able to suggest people read the testimonies in the Biker Bibles and think about what God might be saying to them.

We prayed for safe travels and happy biking when the season starts. And those wearing their TT hoodies and jackets, I said I would look out for them in June.

Penny took this photo of the stand – it's a brilliant event and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I would recommend it to anyone who likes the oldies – I mean Classics.

Pauline †



The Joey Dunlop Foundation collection



AI and Motorcycle Maintenance

James Crawford, a.k.a. Vmax, South Lancs Branch

AI and the art of motorcycle maintenance

AI (Artificial Intelligence) has been in the daily news for many months now. So what is AI, and what does it mean for us, in our ministry?

There are literally thousands of AI apps and systems but probably the most famous is ChatGPT, making headlines since its release in November 2022.

It's quite different to Google. If you ask Google (www.google.com),

'What are the differences between the Baptist Church and the Methodist Church?'

it will provide over 6 million links for you to click and read. Do your own research and take as much time as you like!

If you ask the same question of ChatGPT (www.chat.openai.com) it will answer like an expert – nicely worded paragraphs that highlight the key differences, probably with some historical context and presented in neat sections. Each response is a bit different, depending on what it thinks you'll be most interested in.

You can then ask it follow-up questions such as,

'List the five main differences in theology',
'Please provide biblical references' or
'How many members does each have?'

You can try it yourself by setting up as a free user.

This type of AI is called 'Generative AI' as it 'generates' human-like output. Not only can it produce text but also poetry, images, art, videos, phone calls and songs, etc. The list is as long as your imagination. Anything that can be captured digitally can be re-produced in a new format. The amazing thing is that the new output does appear to be realistic. Even the programmers who designed the systems are amazed at how well it works!

Freely available AI systems can help us with bike building or maintenance. AI has digested every bike manual and magazine article and can create a set of instructions for pretty much any task. You could ask it for step-by-step instructions on how to change the rear suspension unit on a Bonneville (with annotated pictures) or ask it to help you troubleshoot an intermittent misfire on a GPZ900 by asking you a series of questions

before making its diagnosis. You can 'chat' with it by typing the answers on a keypad or talking into a microphone.

How do AI systems work? They are great at spotting patterns in data. They 'learn' from the massive amounts of data on the internet and are set up to reproduce it in new ways.

Through clever algorithms and fast processors, they mimic and adapt what they have seen before. I asked it for 'a picture of Billy Graham as a biker, wearing leathers and a bandana' and you can see the result. You could ask it to be photo-realistic, a line drawing, cartoon-like or surreal. The results you receive are unique but inspired by what it has learned from published web pages,

so there are no direct copyright issues.



Designers and engineers are using it too. Not just to create art and personalised entertainment, but to design new machines, including motorcycles. In the past, a manufacturer working on a new model may have taken months to come up with a range of designs. Now, AI can learn from the iconic styles of previous bikes, take into account current tastes, mock up thousands of options and narrow them down to a dozen good ones, all in minutes. AI can also help design wiring looms, combustion air flows and suspension settings. Producing a new bike is becoming quicker and easier. All businesses and government departments are starting to use it too, so AI is fast becoming a tool as fundamental as an internet connection.

To be fair you have been using it for years anyway. It is the tech behind your *Alexa* or *Siri*. AI creates your feed on Facebook and your recommendations on Spotify and Amazon. It is used widely in medical scans, weather forecasting and gaming. Self-driving cars,

personalised medicine and household robots are all coming soon. Self-driving bikes might be a step too far. I wouldn't want to be a pillion.

This can all be used for good. It can help lay preachers do their research and write sermons. It can draft church newsletters or outreach leaflets for the biking community, even translating into different languages automatically. CMA could use it to respond quickly to enquiries, create artwork for tracts or automate membership renewals. Charities are using it in many ways to find volunteers, train them and support them in the work they do, as well as offer 24/7 support to their client groups, almost for free.

It can also be used for bad. Some examples include deepfake photos or videos (beware fake party-political adverts in this year's elections), cybercrime (impersonating people you know in order to extort money) and the rapid dislocation of some jobs (e.g., taxi drivers being displaced by self-driving cabs in future). There are ways to manage these risks, but how well we do will be up to us.

So, should we welcome these technological developments or fear them? We've faced these choices before.

'These new weaving looms are the work of the devil and will put us out of work!'

'You can't print Bibles – anyone might want one'

'If God had meant us to have motorcycles, He'd have given horses wheels,'

'The internet will signal the end of our pubs!'

I asked ChatGPT what concerns Christians might have. For me, it highlighted:

Moral implications – people worrying about automated decision-making by a system that does not have human empathy ('the computer says no'). Also the ethics of surveillance – an issue in the West but even more so in China.

The future of work and society – the replacement of human labour and the possible loss of meaningful work and income. Governments are talking about 'Universal Incomes' to sustain a high quality of life.

Imitating humans/playing God – are we overstepping the mark by creating systems that encroach on what people do (although you could see this is part of a 5000-year-old trend).

There are responses to all of these issues, but also new risks emerging. Society is discussing these issues and politicians are considering how to regulate AI, so we'll be working this out for some time to come.

A final question to ponder would be – is AI self-aware or conscious? Most people agree that it

isn't. Computer scientists don't fully understand how it works but they do know that it runs on the code they wrote. If you believe that our spirit and consciousness is given us by God, then AI is simply the silicon and digits it is made from.

So, what do you think? What could AI do for you and for CMA? What are you concerned about?

Please do discuss it with your branches, friends, churches and communities. Our combined thoughts need to influence safety and regulation. It's one of the significant issues of our time and we need to agree on how we can make it work for the benefit of humanity. Our insights, instincts and prayers are important.

Besides which, it might even make our future bikes go faster!

Vmax.

AI Practitioner by day,
South Lancs Supporter by night.



I recently converted a 25-year-old Suzuki Bandit 600 into a scrambler for green-laning, which AI thinks was a good idea as long as the process was enjoyable – but it did highlight reliability concerns! 🙏

Addendum to AI and Motorcycle Maintenance

Ed.

A recent email from the IAM gave a me link to a new document from the British Government Department for Transport. A short extract taken from towards the end of the paper is reproduced here. It outlines the proposed use of AI in traffic signal systems. This could be at least one beneficial use of AI for road users.

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You may recall an article in issue 77 of *Chainlink* by Steve Wilds, Chairman of SY&NL Branch, in which he gave an example of *ChatGPT's* attempt at writing an article about CMA. See pages 22/23 of the Spring 2023 edition. Re-read it and see what you think!

Ed. †

Department for Transport  
Policy paper

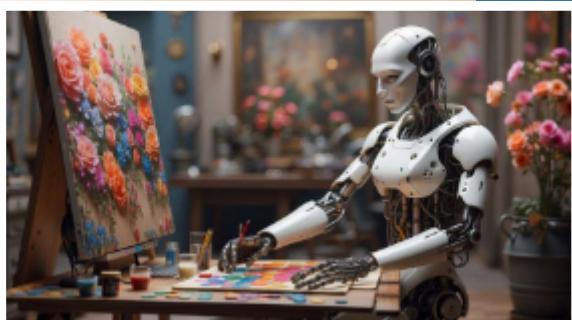
## The plan for drivers

Published 2 October 2023

We will utilise modern technology and pre-empt potentially disruptive equipment failure by:

- providing £30 million to replace unreliable and obsolete equipment in traffic signal systems before spare parts run out
- creating a £20 million 'Green Light Fund' for tuning up traffic signals to better reflect current traffic conditions, building on the £15 million Traffic Signals Maintenance Grant issued in 2021 to 2022
- dedicating an additional £20 million to deploy advanced technology for traffic signals, making use of machine learning and AI to optimise traffic flow and balance traffic across city centres

Together, this represents the biggest investment in traffic signals in decades.



## The AI revolution: What does it mean for you?

From generating images, to predicting the structure of proteins, artificial intelligence seems to be everywhere these days. AI technology is advancing in leaps and bounds—making some people excited, and others nervous. What is AI, and how does it work? Where is it headed? And what should Christians think?

[Check out the link from the QR code:](#)

With acknowledgment to Creation Ministries International





# Wixams Winter Wonderland

David Thornton, Bedford Branch

**Members of 'Wixams Bike Meet' were involved in switching the town Christmas lights on in December. As Santa rides a VERY noisy bike, it was appropriate for his elves to be on their bikes too!**

The main road through the town was closed to traffic for the day and filled with a fun fair and many stands including our local church sharing the message.

Santa and his elves rode their bikes in to officially start the proceedings in the morning and later as it got dark to switch the lights on. The naughty Grinch was creating mischief, of course, trying to

disrupt the switch-on and

pinching the fuse from the Ferris Wheel... the Grinch Police caught him and rescued those stranded on the wheel.

Two or three of Bedford CMA have been involved with this group who meet regularly at a garden centre 100 yds from where I live. They are a great bunch of guys and gals who are

keen to be involved in local happenings, but yet to accept the Christian message. Lots going on and planned so more opportunities for us. †



*Santa and his Elves leaving for the 'Big Switch-on'*



*Santa's Little Helpers*



*ELF 4 and Chloe Elf*



*Fast Santa*



*ELF 4 aka 'Biker Dave'*



*ELF 4's transport being prepped*



# What is the Light of Men?

John Finan, North Cheshire Branch

The fact the Earth is subject to imposed periods of light and darkness is a fundamental scientific principle which we all live by. We sometimes live and work in a way that opposes this state of light and darkness, often with unhealthy consequences, but have you ever wondered why the level of light has such a profound effect on us and the Earth we share. Maybe the Bible can help.



John's gospel says, 'and this light was the light of men'. Does that mean this light must have been something given to us from the beginning? God said everything He created in the beginning was very good (and that must include us). 'Made in our image and likeness', God says. Can we say then from reading scripture that God's light is like a glorious purity, perfect, full, life-giving and holy, giving us a spiritual illumination of His existence and

Scripture tells us that '*God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all*' (1 John 1:5). The same passage goes on to say, '*if we confess our sins God is faithful and will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*'. What are the first words we are told God said in Genesis? 'Let there be Light'. It seems that dark is bad and light is good but if we didn't experience darkness, could we ever appreciate the light?

So is God like the sun or is it an inner light that sustains us? I believe there is a difference between God's light and the physical light we are familiar with. We are told to be *salt and light*. I get the salt bit – as Christians we should season situations and conversations with Biblical truths and the teachings of Christ; but how can we be light?

knowledge of His feeling towards His creation? Did He put some of this in us? Wow! 'Be holy for I am holy' is a challenge to us – but this light explains why we should strive for it although we cannot ever achieve an unblemished existence as children of God living on earth. We might try but we will always have struggles.

Mankind is now exposed to a form of separation from God. Why? Well quite rightly there was a consequence to Adam's disobedience. Sin, with its wages of death, entered the world and people and indeed all creation have struggled ever since, all of it is tainted. At this point those who are not familiar with scripture could be forgiven for asking why, just because one man broke the rules does everything have to suffer? This comment is valid





because the unsaved have a veil which is diminishing the light. As Christians we recognise things are not as they should be but we should tell these people that we have never been abandoned, there is Hope. God loves the world and Jesus the Messiah is the key to this Hope. He did some pretty amazing things to affirm His divine identity. As a man he could function on earth alongside us to give us insight and understanding of the Law and the kingdom of God and of the prophecies about Himself but also, He fulfilled His purpose for coming. As God Himself He was the only perfect sacrifice in a tainted world that was acceptable to provide a way back to intimacy with our father. Through the Holy Spirit we are given the ability to know and use His light in us again to be an effective witness here on earth. The veil is lifted!

When Jesus was crucified and took all our sins upon Himself, He too experienced separation from God and there was darkness across the land for

several hours. Jesus knew He had to suffer and die on a cross to take the punishment we deserve but at one point He didn't appear to know why the Father had seemingly forsaken Him. The Bible teaches us it's because of the Holiness of God. Our Father in Heaven loves sinners but cannot be in the presence of sin. Light and dark are incompatible and the closeness that Father and Son had enjoyed had to end although as we read on, the separation would be temporary, the light would overcome the darkness, Jesus rose from the dead and the Godhead was reunited. The early Christian followers now had a reason for Hope and we do too because of one divine man our future with Him in Heaven is guaranteed. We could ask how is that fair? But that's the Grace of God and we need to tell people this truth, that a relationship with our Creator and eternal life is possible for anyone because of the sacrifice of Jesus. Life can be tough but we should remember we have a light in us that the darkness cannot overcome. †



# CMA Stateside

*Ed.*

## Our USA Travels

### Vancouver, Washington

So, as reported in the Autumn 2023 issue, by the middle of October last year, we arrived in Vancouver, Washington State (not to be confused with Vancouver in Canada – most people make that assumption). The purpose was two-fold – to be with

supersedes our own plans, so the purpose of our travels was always going to be three-fold. Sure enough, the Lord blessed us in so many ways – we had opportunities to meet with other CMA USA members in both locations, and visit and fellowship with several different churches. We were able to form new friendships and encourage and be encouraged, and to serve in whatever way we could.



*CMA USA Vancouver (Washington) Chapter members. President and Secretary 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from right.*

our youngest daughter Lindsey and her family for the birth of number three son and, secondly, while we were in the States, to travel down to Texas to spend an equal amount of time with our eldest daughter Catherine. We were to spend Christmas and New Year with her and her family, including three more grandchildren.

While we were with both families, I was reminded from Proverbs that our Heavenly Father usually

### The Indian

I was blessed to be given access to a BMW GS800, a second bike owned by a lovely couple, Don and Patti (to the right of Chris and me in the photo above), CMA members in Vancouver, just a half mile from Lindsey's. Don had restored an old Indian and keeps it on show in his 'man cave'. In the photo you might just detect the glazed roller shutter door that he installed, to keep his grandchildren from tinkering

with the Indian and his other trophies. In his garage, next to the man cave, in the basement, are his three other bikes – the big Harley (not sure which model), the GS800 and a Yamaha off roader. The Vancouver chapter, known as Cross Country Cyclists is number 26 out of over 1,300 chapters in the USA, so it's very well-established.



*The GS800, Mount St Helens in the background*

### Rideout

I had a most enjoyable rideout one day in beautiful tree-lined forests skirting the outside of Vancouver. Vancouver sits on the Columbia River, opposite the larger city of Portland, Oregon (it reminded me of where we live at home in Liverpool,



which is separated from the Wirral Peninsular by the River Mersey). There were literally millions of tall, luscious evergreen trees everywhere. The rideout included stopping at a viewpoint overlooking the awe-inspiring Mount St Helens – an eight thousand feet high volcano, last active in 2008 (seismologists have recorded 400 earthquakes rumbling out under the mountain since mid-July). As we climbed through the forest area towards the viewpoint, the temperature dropped from the late 50's to the low 40's Fahrenheit. Don had a bit of a scare when his back end caught a barely visible section of ice in the shadows. Following him, seeing what happened, I was able to react quickly enough to avoid it. The GS800 was similar to ride as my Explorer XRT back home, although a little under-powered, so I felt confident in riding on the 'wrong' side of the road!

### Veterans' Day

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, our Armistice Day, I was invited to ride with other members of the Vancouver CMA Chapter as they took part in the local Veterans' Day Parade. It turned out to be somewhat surreal – an Englishman riding a German motorcycle in the Americans' Veterans' Day Parade!

### Killeen, Texas

The second half of the trip took us a couple of thousand miles south to the centre of Texas. Whilst at Catherine's, we celebrated her youngest daughter's birthday with a party to which the local neighbours were invited. Now I had taken with me a couple of *Chainlink* magazines but up until then had no opportunity to use them. At the party was a serving officer in the military who I had seen riding round the estate on a Triumph Scrambler 1200. I was able to have a good conversation with him and pass on the two copies of the magazine, one of which had an image of my own bike on the cover. He was pleasantly surprised to find another Triumph owner and very grateful for the magazines. There is nothing wasted in the Kingdom of God.

We made contact with the local CMA USA chapter and I had a lunch date with their president and his wife, Stan and Noreen (3<sup>rd</sup>



*Don's restored Indian*

and 4<sup>th</sup> from the left in the photo below). It's delightful how, with similar passions and faith, we are able to strike up an immediate friendship.

We rounded off the time in Texas with an invite and visit to the CMA Killeen Chapter Christmas 'party'. Gifts were exchanged, we were made very welcome and realised how much we have in common with our CMA USA friends. †



*CMA USA Killeen (Texas) Chapter members*



# Simeon

*Fraser McDougall, Forth & Clyde Branch*

One of my favourite accounts of Jesus' birth and early life is that of Simeon's meeting with the child and his parents from Luke 2:25ff

It is told that Simeon had had it revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's 'Anointed One'.

Simeon was righteous and devout, and would be fully knowledgeable in the scriptural accounts of God's revelations to Israel in the past.

He would know about God walking in the garden with Adam and Eve, and how they had been banished when they sinned, breaking the close fellowship God desired for them, so bringing upon themselves and the whole earth so much pain and misery. He would know that God promised that the woman's offspring would crush the head of the serpent.

He would know how God appeared to and entered into a covenant with Abraham, promising that his descendants would be as numerous as the grains of sand. He would know that God promised that one of Abraham's descendants would have the obedience of the nations.

He would know how those descendants, collectively known as Israel, became enslaved in Egypt, where God raised up a deliverer for them from among their own. He would be well aware that God delivered Israel in power and accompanied them through their desert wanderings, in fire and in smoke, in mighty works of deliverance and provision, in instruction and warning, in promises and in judgements.

Simeon would know that God had faithfully come to His people at various times and in

**"the Spirit of the Lord  
would be upon him,  
bringing Wisdom,  
Understanding, Counsel,  
Power, Knowledge, the  
Fear of God, Righteous  
judgement"**

various ways throughout the ages, in accordance with His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

He would know that God had produced prophets from among them to bring His word to them, instructing and warning them. Simeon would know that these prophets pointed to a day when a deliverer would come to them, and that one day, one of these prophets whose name was Isaiah, would specifically mention a child who would grow to be great.

He would have titles, 'Wonderful Counsellor', 'Mighty God', 'Everlasting Father', 'Prince of Peace'. His government would increase, and keep on increasing, endlessly.

Simeon would also know from the prophets of the character of this child, that the Spirit of the Lord would be upon him, bringing Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Power, Knowledge, the Fear of God, Righteous judgement.

Now, here is Simeon, moved by that same Spirit, in the temple courts, where he meets a young couple carrying a child, waiting to give the offerings required by the Laws of God.

...v28 'Simeon... took Him in his arms...'

In another place, one of this child's later followers would testify, 'That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched...' 1Jn 1:1

This is the distinction that places the Judeo-Christian revelation far above all of man's attempts to reveal the Creator to the world of men. God comes to His people. He reveals Himself. He dwelt among them in the desert; He walked among them, figuratively, in the words





of the prophets. Now, in the person of Jesus, He lived among us, as one of us, bringing truth, love, healing, compassion, life and resurrection. He enjoyed, even desired, fellowship with his brothers. He treated His sisters with purity and esteem. He was tempted like us, but showed His true nature by not falling into sin like us.

No other religion can claim to have a God like ours. Especially because...

Simeon knew that this child would eventually suffer at the hands of wicked men. He tells His mother, 'A sword will pierce your own soul too' (v35) and so it did, on that day when The Messiah became the Passover Lamb, sacrificed for our sins and our salvation.

Without the birth, there is no death. Without the death, no resurrection. Without Messiah, no salvation.

One final thought. In John 14, Jesus says "I will come back and take you with me that you may also be where I am." He says to us today, "I came to where you live. I still come to you today, by my Spirit. But I will also come again and this time, you're coming to where I live!"

The God who promised to come to His people, who came to His people, still promises to come to His people. When that day comes, all desiring will be fulfilled! Ours and His! ✝

# Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer

*Brian Jenner, Gloucester Branch*

My nice new (71 plate) bike got stolen. How it came to be left unlocked outside for half an hour is another story. The fact it was left unlocked is very much a part of this story. It was too much of a temptation for someone.

Now in the Lord's prayer – the one where he was teaching us to pray, not that wonderful one in John 14, we are taught to pray, 'lead us not into temptation'.

We are also taught to do unto others as we would have them do to us. Now then if we are asking God not to lead us into temptation should we then not lead others into temptation?



I got the bike back quite quickly as in broad daylight people were contacting the police about the suspicious event of a large new-looking bike being pushed by somebody. While I was on the phone reporting the loss the switchboard was getting details on its whereabouts. I was directed to the old railway line, now a well used cycle path down hill from the church where the bike had been parked. There was very little damage apart from the ignition switch which had been hacked at. They had in fact pushed it half way home for me. That was kind. So half an hour's entertainment for someone cost me £200 and a bit of bother. All now is well, the bike is fixed and I have an alarmed disc lock, which I must use!

You may have spotted by now there is another relevant part in the Lord's prayer. 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' What, after pinching my bike? Yes, sorry, but if we hold a grudge the only one who will suffer is us. God who has the power to forgive us also has the power to help us to forgive others. I don't believe this should stop the force of the law but I do believe we should ask God to turn our hate into love. Why not pray that they should come to love the God who can forgive them and come to know all the benefits we have. They may even stop stealing motorcycles. ✝





# Hot Potato Topic

Jaimee Nix, Hants & Surrey Borders Branch

## Forgiveness

When I became a Christian at 31 I knew I had to deal with the Lord's command, 'Honour your father and mother' (Exodus 20:12).

When I reached the age of 14, following a childhood of abuse as the eldest of five children; something finally snapped when my mother next hit me. Instead of crying or cringing as usual, even though it hurt, I stood my ground and gave her such an evil stare that she never did it again.

Dad was the usual discipline in the house and I loved him. But what I didn't know at the time, was that what my mother dealt out came from her own anger and frustrations.

From that moment I hated her and had no time for her. My tone would be cold and clipped at times.

When I married, my husband would pull me up about my attitude towards my mother. He found it embarrassing.



I lived down south and only saw my parents two or three times a year. We all had house phones by then. I would call occasionally. It took two years of trying to be nice before I plucked up the courage to say 'I love you' even though I didn't mean it and nearly choked on the words. I then slammed the phone down.

I had a great housegroup and attended a sound biblical church. I once spoke out the words, "Mum, I forgive you" but I didn't feel any warmer towards her and never thought anymore about it. Life carried on and visits continued. My mum had also returned to active church fellowship when she retired.

I was 50-something when one November Sunday in a normal church service I had a sort of *whoosh* feeling. I turned to my daughter and said "I think I've just forgiven my mum"

When I visited my parents a few weeks later, my mum met me at the door and as she opened it, she said "Jaimee, do you forgive me?" I said "Yes, mum". She then said, "even the thumping in Oxford Street?" I said, "Yes mum, I forgive you everything". The words had tumbled out of my mouth because I was so shocked at the entrance. However, I knew that I meant it and for my mum to meet me like that meant God had been working in her too. †





# Alec's Pages

*Alec Raven, Secretary, Bikers Church*

## Spot the Biker!



### What a brilliant picture!

This photo was used in a THINK! motorcycle safety campaign to encourage drivers to take longer to look for motorcyclists. It was also aimed at motorcyclists, encouraging them to take steps to manage and reduce their own personal risk by wearing appropriate safety gear and taking up further training.

If the rider assumes that another road user will spot him because he is riding with the headlight on, the photo shows that he is actually well camouflaged, and it is likely that another vehicle could pull out in his path.

It's not good for bikers to blend into the background. Neither is it good for followers of Jesus to blend in with their surroundings. We

have been called to be different and to make a difference to those around us. We are a new creation, in the process of being transformed, so that should affect the way we live.

Jesus said: "You are the light for the whole world..."

...Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven". (Matthew 5:14, 16)

Day or night, keep your light on!

Hopefully it will be possible to spot lots of bikers at Bikers Church. Some ride whatever the weather.

Whether you ride or not, you will be welcome at either venue. We meet in Warrington on the first Sunday of the month, and at Stoke-on-Trent on the third Sunday of every month. Arrive from 6.00pm for hot drinks

and in time for a 6.30pm start.

Full details of each location can be found on the website [www.bikerschurch.org.uk](http://www.bikerschurch.org.uk)

If it's too cold, or you can't come for other reasons, do join us online on YouTube or Facebook - just search for 'Bikers Church UK'. Videos of any previous events you may have missed can also be viewed on either platform.

YouTube



FaceBook



Bikers  
Church  
links





## Spot the Christian!

If there was a Christian in this photo, how could you possibly tell? The one who looks most respectable? Or perhaps one of them is wearing a cross? And of course, some would say, that with the reputation of this band, how could there possibly be one at all?

Iron Maiden have received multiple nominations, honours and awards, and their style of heavy metal is hugely popular. They are not to everyone's taste, though: some would consider Iron Maiden to be the worst kind of torture.

Their third studio album, 'The Number of the Beast', is among the most popular heavy metal albums of all time and the most commercially successful release of the band, having sold almost 20 million copies worldwide. However, it created some controversy for the band, leading them to deny the notion that they are Satanists. Not only that, but one of the band really is a Christian.

The band's drummer, Nicko McBrain, has been a born-again Christian since 1999.

After praying to receive Christ, he began to read the Bible hungrily. McBrain is quoted elsewhere as saying that after praying, he felt that he should remain with Iron Maiden, but "there's a greater calling on my life."

How else could he be an ambassador for Jesus to the rest of the band, and to that culture? In a similar way, probably the best ambassadors for Christ to those on two wheels are Christians who also ride motorcycles.

Jesus doesn't expect His followers to blend into the background, but to live in such a way that those who don't believe can see that there is something that is different, something good, something they'll want for themselves.

So if you want to identify the Christian in the picture, check out the back section of the Biker Bible - Nicko McBrain's testimony is there! Why not pick up a free copy at Bikers Church... and pass it on to someone. †

"Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear." (1 Peter 3:15)

# Jesus Light of the World

*Stephanie Thomas, Hants & Dorset*



**The light of the world was born that first Christmas  
Into pitch black darkness he came  
Wonderful Counsellor  
Mighty God  
Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace  
Is His name**

**Jesus we are your burning candles  
Your lights shining brightly for all to see  
An all consuming awesome fire  
Your beacon of light that will set people free**

**May your light shine brightly this Christmas  
May the love of Jesus flow through  
As you reach out to the lost and the broken  
May they see Jesus His love His mercy His light in you**

**Jesus light to all nations  
We praise and worship you for the miracles that you do  
Help us reflect the light that you give us  
To show others that Christmas is all about you**

**For we carry the hope of this world burning inside us  
Changing us to be more like Jesus everyday  
Shining our light and banishing the darkness  
May the lost see you Jesus in us I pray**

**In this world so many walk in darkness.  
Jesus you have called us to shine your image bright  
To flood your presence into every situation  
The healing power of your amazing radiant light**

**Almighty God, shine your penetrating light over Israel  
Pour out your spirit there, open the eyes of the blind  
For you are the true light of this nation  
The holy Messiah the king of mankind**

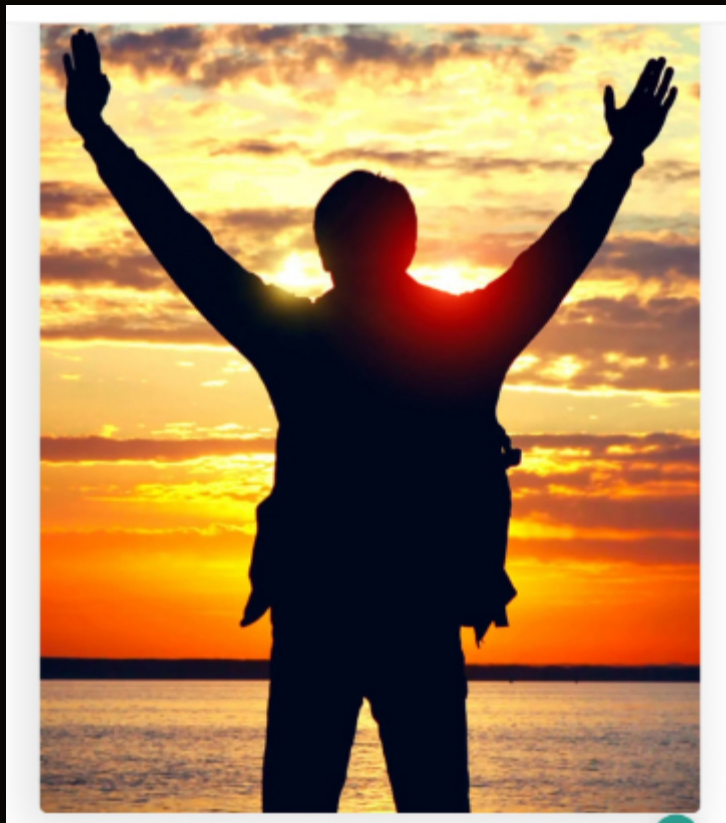


**No darkness can ever extinguish  
The everlasting light that you give  
Faith hope love peace and joy  
A purpose and a reason to live**

**The light of the world was born that  
first Christmas  
Into the pitch black darkness he came  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace  
Is His holy holy name**

**Amen**

**By Stephanie**



**‘Kindle anew the gift of God which is in you’**

**Live your life in such a way that others can see Christ in you.  
Let them see His love, joy, peace, and patience working in  
and through you. You can set an example by forgiving, being  
patient, and being kind. If we want to make a difference in  
this world, we must let our light shine for Jesus.**

**God bless you all**

**Have a wonderful Christmas**

**You are a light**

**Don't forget to shine!**

**Love, Stephanie**

# Len's Run: 2024

*Anne Egan, Bristol Branch*

Bristol Branch are organising another Len's Run Fellowship Camp and this year we have moved the event to:

**The Bikers Campsite, Pant Y Meillion, Penboyr, Llandysul, SA44 5JA.**

It's located between Carmarthen and Cardigan in rural West Wales at the top of the M4 and twenty minutes from some of the best coastline that Wales has to offer.

The date has also changed from previous years and this year will run from **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May** – over the end of May bank holiday. The weekend will include at least one organised ride and, on the Sunday, we have been invited to Lampeter Evangelical Church for their morning service followed by a BBQ organised by the church. There's also talk of a fish and chip run to the coastal village of Llangrannog on one of the evenings which by all accounts is a beautiful place.

If you would like to find out more about the Bikers' Campsite then check out their website:

[www.bikerscampsite.co.uk](http://www.bikerscampsite.co.uk)

If you would like to join us this year then please book direct with the campsite using:

[www.bikerscampsite.co.uk/book.htm](http://www.bikerscampsite.co.uk/book.htm)

adding "CMA" in the Special Request Section so that we have numbers.

Do book as soon as you can, particularly if you would like to stay in a cabin or pod, as the campsite gets very busy at that time of year and let us know if you are coming so we know who to expect by emailing Penny Cavill at [cma.bristol.chair@gmail.com](mailto:cma.bristol.chair@gmail.com)

Hope to see you there! †







*'Phil the Money', somewhere in the UK*

# Money Matters

*Phil Roberts, National Treasurer, CMA UK*

*Dear Members and Supporters of CMA,*

I am often asked for our bank details to send payments to our national account. I thought it would be helpful for you to have them published as a reminder/reference (keep this copy of Chainlink if you think you might forget!).

Account name:

**CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLISTS ASSOCIATION UK REGISTERED CHARITY 1080911**

(It can also be abbreviated to **CMA UK REGISTERED CHARITY 1080911**)

Account number: **65379514**

Account sort code: **08-92-99**

Please always indicate on the payment reference your name and the reason for payment eg. 'Subs', 'BB' (for Biker Bible fund), 'NR' (for National rally payments). Most banks only allow 18 characters in the reference, for example, if I was making a donation to the Biker Bible fund I would put 'ProbertsBB'. It makes it so much easier for your beleaguered treasurer to actually know who has sent monies and what fund they are for!

Your sacrificial support for CMA is deeply appreciated and enables us to continue the work of sharing the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ with the biking community. †

# Rally & Events Diary for 2024

| Rally/Event               | When                                                               | Where                                                             | CMA Contact                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Classic Bike Show         | Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April         | Staffordshire County Showground, ST18 0BD                         |                                                  |
| Into The Valley           | Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May               | Driffield Showground East Yorkshire                               |                                                  |
| Len's Run Camping Weekend | Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May           | The Bikers Campsite, Pant Y Meillion, Penboyr, Llandysul SA44 5JA | Penny Cavill<br>cma.bristol.chair@gmail.com      |
| Isle of Man TT Races      | Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June            | Isle of Man TT circuit                                            | Mike Fitton<br>chairman@bike.org.uk              |
| Farmyard Party Rally      | Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June            | Duncombe Park Estate, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5EB         | Mike Fitton<br>chairman@bike.org.uk              |
| CMA UK National Rally     | Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July              | Quinta Christian Centre                                           | Mike Fitton<br>chairman@bike.org.uk              |
| Rock and Bike Fest        | Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July          | Breaston, Derbyshire (Near Long Eaton) DE72 3BB                   | Colin Wood<br>e_mids@bike.org                    |
| Yorkshire Pudding Rally   | Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August            | Escrick Park Estate, Escrick, North Yorks YO19 6EA                | Oliver Hamilton<br>chair.westyorks@bike.org.uk   |
| EMC Rally                 | Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August          | Ansprung, Germany                                                 | See CMA UK website                               |
| Thunder in the Glens      | Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> August          | Aviemore, Scotland                                                | secretary.forthandtay@bike.org.uk                |
| Stormin' the Castle Rally | Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September | Witton Castle, Co Durham, DL14 0DE                                | Mike Fitton<br>chairman@bike.org.uk              |
| Hoggin' the Bridge        | Dates TBC                                                          | Caldicot, Monmouthshire, Wales                                    | Tony Williams<br>cma.bristol.treasurer@gmail.com |

For more details of Biker Rallies, check out  
<https://www.thebikerguide.co.uk>

Please send any revisions and/or additions to the Editor  
at [chainlink@bike.org.uk](mailto:chainlink@bike.org.uk) in time for the next issue.



# Partners with CMA UK

We are supported by, and support, the following organisations:



Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. We supply Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services. We also seek to mobilise the church in the UK & Ireland to serve Christians living under religious persecution.



We make Scriptures available where there are none. We work to help the church engage with the Bible more effectively. And we endeavour - through the arts, education, media and politics - to make the Bible available, accessible and credible in our culture.



Our mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all.



World Horizons exists on behalf of places and people not yet prayed for, churches not yet planted and cross-cultural workers not yet sent. We are a prayer based, pioneering, prophetic, pastoral mission movement.



For 150 years The Evangelization Society (TES) has served the UK as a major evangelistic organisation - seeking to see men, women and children brought into the Kingdom of God.





