

CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the
Christian Motorcyclists' Association

Reg Charity No. 1080911



Spring 2014



Chainlink is the magazine of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association (CMA) UK

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, and also seeking Him for themselves.

The Bible says: "Seek and you will find". Matthew Chapter 7, verse 7

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Printed by
Barnwell's of Aylsham
Norfolk
Phone 01263 732767

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CMA UK is part of the CMA Worldwide
International Outreach Ministry

For more information: www.bike.org.uk

***The deadline for
submission of items for
the next edition is
31st August, 2014***

Cover photos supplied by
Front : Pete Warford
Back : Brian Carbonero

Articles for Chainlink are most welcome, and should be submitted by email to chainlink@bike.org.uk or by post to the address shown above.

The sender must obtain permission for the inclusion of ALL names, addresses and pictures, especially of children, prior to submission and 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 Exec committee.

All pictures must be 300dpi or higher in tiff or jpg format and submitted separately (*) N.B. not embedded in a text document(***)).**

Mike Fitton : National Chairman CMA UK.

On behalf of Sandy and I let me begin by wishing you all a (belated) very Happy New Year. We pray that your relationship with God will be so close that everyone you meet will recognise that you are different because of Him and Him alone.

Will 2014 be different from 2013 for CMA? The answer is "yes", so long as you and I take advantage of every opportunity that God places in our way – I guarantee that there will be many opportunities, because that is the heart of God for the lost and the key to the ministry of CMA worldwide.

I have been preaching about faith recently and recognising that within us all is 'Potentially BIG faith' BUT our faith won't be BIG unless we express that faith on a 'day to day' basis. The bible says that we '*walk by faith*' (2 Corinthians Ch5 v7) even when we can't see the outcome. We must walk by faith (even when we don't understand – we must walk by faith), if we are to make progress and move forward during 2014.

Faith and Trust do not require us to fully understand HOW God will sort out the problems we face, or how He will convict our lost friends of their need of Grace, BUT simply that God can.

One of my 'heroes of the faith', Hudson Taylor, was sailing to China and the captain said to him

"Mr. Taylor, we have no wind and we are drifting toward an island where the people are cannibals. I understand that you believe in God. I want you to pray for wind."

"All right, Captain, I will, but you must set the sail."

"Why that's ridiculous," he replied, "There's not even the slightest breeze; besides, the sailors will think I'm crazy."

Editor's Note

I apologise for the lateness of this edition of Chainlink. This is due to a rather drastic turn of events in my "other life" (the one that pays the bills).

Bob
<><



Mike with his grandchild Macy Grace

But finally, because of Hudson Taylor's insistence, he agreed. Forty-five minutes later he returned and found the missionary still on his knees.

"You can stop praying now," said the captain. "We've got more wind than we know what to do with."

What difference would it make this year if we, BY FAITH, raise the sails of CMA UK's expectation to receive the winds of blessing that God will send from Heaven?

The hardest bikers' hearts will be transformed by God's love.

The membership of CMA will increase beyond anything we have known.

New twigs will be established in previously barren areas.

We will become a ministry in the UK that rocks this biker nation as God goes before us - truly 'No power of hell no scheme of man' can stand in our way when God hears BIG FAITH expressed by His people.

"Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

It might sound ridiculous to those around us, and we may be called crazy, but I love the way George Muller put it when he said 'Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends'.

We could leave the sails down and float along with our faith in a box or we can raise the sails by faith.

I know what I want to do. Will you join me?

I want to look back on 2014 and say; "Wow, what a God we worship."

God bless you,
Mike
National Chairman CMA UK

P.S. Mike and Sandy pass on their thanks for all the prayers for Macy Grace (pictured with Mike - she's the pretty one!). - ed



Don't just entertain new ideas, put them to work!

Anon

CMA LAKES AND LANCS RALLY

Peter Daniel

The invitation was given by Kevin at the AGM in Loughborough : "come to the CMA North West Rally". So we looked in our diary and the weekend was free. However, because we had been to the EMC in Denmark on the bikes (and the wife is getting old), I decided to venture north in the luxury of our old motorhome, particularly as I was informed there were limited facilities on site.

The campsite, about half a mile up from the church, was superb with fantastic views across the Ribble Valley; it caters for a small number of tents and caravans as well as the newly built holiday homes.

On Saturday morning the car park was full of bikes and the church volunteers worked flat out in the kitchen serving over ninety breakfasts to the visiting bikers. All other meals for the rally weekend were on a 'bring and share' basis and when Phil wasn't doing some impromptu busking, he was being a dab hand at the BBQ.

We declined the afternoon ride out as we only had bicycles with us, but those who took up the invitation

visited Mavis, an elderly lady, who needed a fresh stock of Biker Bibles. After the evening meal of meat pie, cake and fruit, we assembled in the church for a very informative and interesting talk on Creation vs Evolution. Then, after an interval to eat more cake we rolled back into church for a Rock Concert well, Kev and John displaying their tight fitting vests and entertaining us with a variety of songs – some excellently written by



themselves. They both shared moving testimonies which included how their band 'Forgiven' was formed. This was their first public performance and, as they shared afterwards, they learnt a lot from it. With their passion and potential this band could go far – keep rocking, guys!

On Sunday there were a couple of church services to choose from which were attended by those who did not have to leave early.

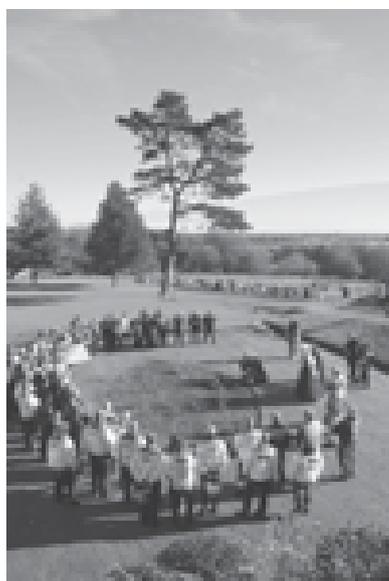
Approximately 25 CMA folk camped and about 40 attended at some time over the weekend. This rally reminded me of the ones we used to attend when we first joined CMA – it was great! The weather was good and the hard work put in was much appreciated, but special thanks must go to Pastor Chris and his team – not only for his support of CMA but for the generous use of his church facilities throughout the weekend.

Can we come again next year, please?



Knowle Green Church advertise a Free Biker Breakfast on the last Saturday of each month. Pastor Chris, a Kawasaki rider, has forged friendships with members of local bike clubs and CMA. Lakes 'n Lincs came up with the idea of this rally to coincide with the Free Biker Breakfast Saturday.

CMA Sussex : Riders For Christ : Remembrance Sunday Motorcyclists Meeting



Motorcyclists from around the region met at The Castle Inn Hotel, Bramber, on Remembrance Sunday for their twentieth memorial event. Over 120 riders gathered together for the occasion, during which they raised £200.00 for Help For Heroes and the two minute silence was observed before a convoy of more than 90 motorcyclists rode to Lancing College Chapel for a wreath laying ceremony.

A short reading was given by Jon Barber, Secretary of the Sussex Branch of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, followed by the former Bishop of Horsham, the Rt. Revd. Lindsay Urwin, who led prayers. A wreath was laid to close the ceremony.

The garden had previously been sited at the D-Day Museum, Shoreham Airport, but following the closure of the Museum in 2003, local motorcyclists helped move the garden to its current site, kindly donated by Lancing College.



Wreath laid at Lancing College Chapel Memorial Garden by Bob Draper and John Owen, both from the Christian Motorcyclists Association

Press article by Keith Fryer that appeared in a number of publications in Sussex
Phoenix Photo
www.phoenixphoto.co.uk

Getting Cross

John Metcalfe

Now, I'm not the best tailor in the world and sewing through two pieces of leather is not the easiest of tasks, but I had a go - I was sewing on my cross.

It started as an uphill struggle and, as I sat, I contemplated the meaning of sewing this nondescript meaningless piece of white leather to my cut-off. I sat in solitude, with no company or music to distract me, and I began to wonder whether I was up to doing it justice, if I was up to bearing it, if I was up to the task?

I started with small neat stitches, but it was a long haul and the stitches got bigger. Was this perhaps a metaphor for me taking larger strides towards Jesus or maybe me wanting to have it completed quickly so I could join our brothers in CMA? Or was it just because my hands were hurting and I was getting bored? Not just sewing on a cross, but getting that way too!

As I pushed the needle through for the umpteenth time, some blood appeared and it was really prominent against the



white leather. I realised that I had spilt blood for this leather cross. The analogy was clear and obvious and I carried on (accidentally) impaling myself on a regular basis.

Despite the monotony and magnitude of the task, my ineptitude and the seriousness of the undertaking, I became faster, my stitches became smaller and neater. I had mastered it, and no, I won't do yours, it took TWO hours!

I could have glued it on; I could have asked Mrs Metz to do it for me; I could have had it done professionally, but I did it myself! I would recommend that if you are contemplating having a cross, or a replacement, - do it yourself!

Sit quietly and contemplate the enormity of the task you are undertaking - and I don't mean the sewing. It may not be the best sewn-on cross, but it will be **your** sewn-on cross.

"and anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me".
Matthew 10 v 38

Prepped and Primed

In response to the current 'Reduce, Re-use, Restore, Recycle' mantra, I have been restoring some old furniture when what I really wanted to do was have a nice stroll around IKEA and pick some new stuff.

Contrary to my usual slap-dash method when dealing with any DIY, I decided to go about things in a more methodical way: removing all the drawers, doors, and handles, sanding things down, priming them and then finally putting the last coat of paint on. This is still a work in progress and has taken much longer than my old method, but will produce a much better and longer lasting result.

At a recent Tyne and Wear Twig meeting, I was struck by how much prepping and priming God had been involved in before he brought us all together. As we shared some of the stories of what was happening in our lives and some of our struggles, I really felt that, although we are a very disparate bunch in many ways, we were primed to fit together - restored and working together to serve to the best of our ability.

We have been a group since early last

Debbie Anderson

this year, and already we can see the way other people's perceptions of Christian bikers are changing as we interact with them. Our co-ordinator Phil says we are very good at 'Guerilla Marketing' - getting in amongst other groups to help and serve. One of the secular Biker Clubs has asked us to arrange for our 'head Pastor' (Mike Fitton) to bless their bikes.

This is an amazing development and sits alongside our members' commitment to rides with the MAG, Blood Bikes, and other local secular biker groups, as well as our shorter chippy and coffee runs on evenings during the week.

The members of the other CMA branches that we have met and worked with have been so welcoming to us and we are looking forward to more of the same, and even better, over the coming seasons.



Debbie's husband, Tom, on his VMax with their granddaughter Shelby VanSon (15) who was visiting from Canada and enjoyed the bike meets she went to with her Grandpa.

Cornwall Miracles

or Four dry days, one averted head-on, one penalty cancelled, plus Middle-Eastern hospitality

Steve Grubb

It was our "undiscovered country". After three years of residing in the UK and exploring many regions, we finally made it to Cornwall for the first time. September is touted as one of the less rainy months of the year, but most travel advisories say to expect some rain. It wasn't until our fourth day on the journey home that we passed through a few sprinkles for a few minutes (not even requiring rain gear).

I approached the trip with a little apprehension, as weather can make or break the enjoyment of scenic coastlines. And my precious pillion Renée was uncertain as to how her physical stamina would be, as she'd been battling shoulder and neck pains. The day before embarking on the journey, she had one of those MRI scans with injected dye, so there was a potential of added discomfort on a five-hour plus in-the-saddle day. So our prayers were expanded beyond the normal 'safety', 'bearable weather', etc... and included these physical health concerns. We also put an extra pad on the passenger seat to lessen the potential of posterior pain.

Long hours on the motorcycle make for a variety of mental experiences. We've never invested in decent intercoms, and the ones we've tried made our ears sore before long. Renée's preference is to put in her earbuds and listen to mp3 music from her phone. She sets her 16 gigabyte collection on random shuffle and prays that the Lord will minister to her in whatever comes up (even in some secular pop, Broadway show tunes, etc., God's creative nature can be expressed and speak to us). I pass the long hours enjoying the sound of the wind and the motor. Sometimes I offer a prayer for people and places I see... especially the village churches that need so much encouragement these days.

One slight disappointment on this adventure was the level of traffic, especially on the single-carriageways. There was the sense of limitation in fully experiencing the joys of motorcycling.

I miss those long stretches of freedom we'd found when we explored Wales and Scotland in years past. I do enjoy the challenge of passing on the single-carriageways, but was faced with sobering thoughts of mortality on one close call. It was an optical illusion. The road appeared to go straight ahead of the slow vehicle holding me back. When I was out in the oncoming lane and next to the car, my heart jumped as I saw that the main road veered to the right, and the 'straight' road was a side offshoot. Hedges added to the visual deception and blocked any view of oncoming traffic. It was a miracle that nobody came around those hedges at that moment, as I'd have hit them head-on at sixty.

The aspect of motorcycling enjoyment that comes from a lower cost per mile can sometimes be countered. A parking fine in St. Ives provided such a damper to our spirits. We left the bike in the back of a car park against a concrete wall as we walked around that quaint town. The citation stated that we were not in marked bays or that we hindered others from coming/going. I took photos and later went online to file a challenge. Several weeks passed, and an email came stating that the penalty had been cancelled. Thank you, Lord, for these little victories.

We'd booked a reasonably-priced B&B in Praa Sands, a community just east of St. Michael's Mount and Penzance. The upper-level breakfast room viewed the sea, and we only had to walk across a parking lot to get to the beach. As "Sussexers", we revelled in the real sand (our local beaches at home only have pebbles). After each day of exploring the Lands End region of Cornwall, we left

time to enjoy at least an hour walking along the beach and/or sitting in the sun.

The name of our B&B sparked a memory from the year 2000. We were leaders of a mission outreach trip with teenagers to the Holy Land. That year, tourists were still allowed into Palestine, and we had visited a town named Nablus. So, as we were talking with our hostess at the Nablus B&B, she asked if we could guess where she is from. Her delight that we'd visited her hometown back in 2000 led to a release of Middle-Eastern hospitality that flowed and blessed us through our four days there... Arab-style coffees, falafels for breakfast, plus other special snacks and sweet treats. And she would not even accept a tip as we left (I should have hidden it somewhere for her to find after we were gone).



A "selfie" on the beach

We praise our Lord for experiences like these. We are thankful to be alive, able to bask in His creativity displayed in the rugged coastline of Lands End, and we pray that God "...through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere." (2 Corinthians 2:14, ESV)



I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb . . . and I also know that I'm not blonde.
Dolly Parton

Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission.
Eleanor Roosevelt

Never eat more than you can lift.
Miss Piggy

A Great Day at Stewartby United Church

Eddie Gibson



Sunday 29th of September, 2103, was an answer to prayer for the second Biker Service at our church. The first event in 2012 was a quiet affair with just four motorcycles, but in 2013 year we had sixteen bikes and two scooters. Support came from Bedford and Towcester CMA and Stewartby residents. One rider (Chris) even came from Ware. The weather, in contrast to the previous year, was wonderful.

The morning started with bacon butties prepared by our in-house catering team (Elaine, Colette and Judy). They certainly had their work cut out keeping the bacon, tea and coffee flowing. At 10:30 we started the service which was led by Dougie from Bedford CMA.

Christian. The nurse in the hospital who came to see him was a member the congregation at his church in Rushden and so it went on. Dougie concluded this story by marvelling at what our God can do with broken things. We then sang The Old Rugged Cross.

Dougie's daughter Emma-Louise gave us a presentation on the work of the CMA and in particular the work of Bedford branch. Andy gave us his testimony on his journey to faith and how the Holy Spirit had entered his life. Dougie's main talk was on stepping out in faith. After the service we were treated to more food. Homemade cakes, tea and coffee and a chance to chat. The collection when counted was £120.10 which has gone to the CMA biker bible fund. At our events we give away New Testament bibles which differ from a normal bible by containing testimonies from bikers who have seen the light.

Following this, a lot of the bikers (myself included) went to Leighton Buzzard narrow gauge railway where we attended their Sand & Motorcycles event. There they had a large selection of old and modern bikes (about four hundred) and many club stands. The railway's café was doing brisk business keeping the masses fed.

All in all a great day at Stewartby United Church which was a blessing to us all. Keep your eyes peeled for the next date.



Dougie had brought the CMA cross, made of broken motorcycle parts, which we take to our events. Dougie likened himself to this cross as a broken man. He had suffered a heart attack and recounted how in his hour of need God sent Christians to look after him. The paramedic who attended and kept him alive for two hours while the authorities sourced an ambulance for him was a



Please note that, as a registered charity, we have our rules and a constitution to help ensure that the CMA is run according to agreed principles.

There is a handbook, updated annually (usually in May), which is available on the web.

<http://www.bike.org.uk/cma/download.php>

On the CMA web site, there are various files for download, such as posters and flyers for CMA (UK) events, including the handbook. This is not a large document (37 pages). If you're unable to print it, contact the National Secretary for a copy, or your own branch members might be able to help.

Please make use of the handbook, as it guides the working of our branches and the CMA Ministry and provides most of the answers to your branch's working within the CMA. However, always feel free to contact your Executive members for any clarification you might need.

This is a progress report to the membership, to bring you up to date with CMA's financial position nationally. Whenever the National Executive meet together, I prepare a financial snapshot so that everyone on the Executive, and our National Chairman, are aware of how things are going. I also highlight any significant trends within the figures to help us to manage the charity's resources effectively. What follows applies to the General Fund, which is used to meet the day to day running costs of CMA.

During this financial year (starting on 1st April 2013), a significant downward trend has gradually become apparent in the income from the standing order scheme, as well as the number of people in the scheme.

The peak of the standing order scheme was in the year 2010/11, with a monthly income averaging £1,896, provided by 138 individuals and couples contributing by monthly standing order. The scheme had been boosted at this time by many of those already contributing to it taking the opportunity to review their monthly gift when CMA changed banks, and they had to fill in a new standing order instruction form.

During the two full years since then, 2011/12 and 2012/13, we experienced a small reduction in the contribution from standing orders. However, during the current year, 2013/14, this reduction has accelerated into a significant trend which spells possible danger ahead if we don't

take action now. Over the nine months to 31st Dec 2013, average monthly standing order income fell to £1,615, provided by 124 individuals and couples.

What is the reason for this falling trend in standing orders? The main one is that the economic squeeze on individuals and families is really biting, following several years of rising household costs, combined with little or no growth in wages and salaries. Although the national economy is showing signs of 'turning the corner' to recovery, there will be a significant delay before this is reflected in improving family finances. Those in CMA are a cross section of our society, and so we have members losing their jobs, others not receiving wage increases, and everyone paying more to live. At the same time, the size of the membership is broadly static, so there is little growth in numbers and, therefore, of finances.

This is not the whole picture, because we do have new people joining the standing orders scheme, and several members already in the scheme have already been able to increase their monthly support for CMA. These factors have helped to slow the trend, but it is still downwards.

What can we each do to put this right?

1. Review my level of giving to CMA

Start a monthly standing order instead of paying annual membership subs. The minimum is £5 per month, but please pay

more if you can. Most people do.

If you already pay by standing order, please review, before God, how much you give. Have you ever increased your monthly amount?

2. Fill in a Gift Aid form if you are a taxpayer, enabling CMA to recover tax. (Your Branch Chairman should have these forms)

3. If you are a Branch Chairman, please make sure you explain to new supporters and members the option of giving to CMA through the monthly standing order scheme (give them the form), and also encourage those who are taxpayers to complete the Gift Aid section at the foot of the membership forms.

4. Recruit more people to CMA. It's not about quantity, it's about quality, but there are potential recruits out there. Does your branch make new people welcome?

What is my commitment? Compile a personal budget, compare the various amounts; this will show where personal priorities are. Ask God if that is where He wants those priorities to be.

Thank you everyone for your continued support for CMA,

Rob Urand
National Treasurer

The AGM (in April every year) is a weekend of fellowship, praise and half a day of business. Have you ever been? The hospitality is always excellent, as is the food, etc. This is for everyone in the CMA.

Need to know more?

Ask your branch chair or a member of the Exec.

The Exec are there for you to speak to - so ask all those questions.



Calling all CMA Members and Supporters

It sounds obvious, but please remember that Chainlink is your magazine. What would you like to see included in the content? If you have any suggestions about regular features, the format or anything related to it, please don't hesitate to contact us by email (chainlink@bike.org.uk). All items submitted for inclusion in the magazine will be considered. If, for reasons of space, an item doesn't make it into the next issue, the sender(s) will be informed, and their item may be taken forward to the following edition.

MAG Advert

Stephen Gilder told me that he was reading Herb Shreve's book, 'Fishers of Men' at Steve's house, when he should have been working on his kitchen. As I hadn't read Herb's book and the history of CMA, I went online and purchased five copies (as I write this, I still have two for sale).

It is a good read and very encouraging. I was challenged as I read how Herb advertised CMA in bike magazines and the like. I have read some South African & USA bike magazines and noticed quite a few Christian bike clubs and associations advertising along side secular bike clubs.

I was aware that Mike Fitton had a vision

of our 500 members becoming 2,500 and thought that advertising CMA UK could be a practical way of achieving more exposure.

I telephoned MAG regarding advertising CMA in "The Road" magazine in the business section, but was told that these were sponsors of MAG. They said CMA had always been a great help to them at rallies and events and that they didn't see a problem with us placing an advert in the club events section for free. I was thinking of a more permanent advert, giving CMA contact details so that bikers could view our local events online.



I sent a proposed advert, saying that they could edit it and make it look more professional. They agreed and sent back an edited version. I thought it looked fantastic and I told them so. I emailed back and asked if they could include it in all future issues. I am pleased to say that, so far, this has been the case.

Christian Motorcyclists Association

As Christian motorcyclists we are passionate about sharing the Gospel (good news) in every area of the motorcycling community.

As motorcyclists there is nothing more exciting than riding a motorcycle, but as Christians we have discovered that there is nothing as fulfilling as knowing Jesus personally.





If you want to get involved, ride with us or have any questions, you can contact us in the following ways:
For local branch contact details:

cma-admin@bike.org.uk
www.bike.org.uk
CMA (UK), PO BOX 8155,
Loughborough LE11 9AR

UK freefone
0800 0154479
Registered
UK Charity:
1080911

In loving memory of Phil Heaton, former N.Cheshire and S.Lancs CMA Member. Gone home to the Boss, Feb 2014.



UK Events

Our web site (www.bike.org) has all the information required about national and branch events.

From the home page, click on Events (under Activities).

Click on "All branches, ALL events" and this will take you to a comprehensive listing of all CMA planned activities, by date.

We urge you to support as many of the items as possible.

Where to find a CMA Branch.

Scotland

Forth and Tay
Rest of Scotland
Scottish Borders

Midlands

East Midlands
Bedford
Norfolk
Norfolk Borders
(Shropshire)
Stafford
Towcester
West Midlands



Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

North East

(East Yorkshire)

Lincs. & East Yorks

Northallerton Thirsk & York

North East

North East Derbyshire

(Tyne & Wear)

West Yorkshire

North West

Lakes N' Lancs.

North Cheshire

South Lancs

South West

Bristol

Devon & Cornwall

Gloucester

Wales

North & West Wales

South Wales

South East

Hampshire and Dorset

Hampshire and Surrey Borders

Kent

Kent Coast

Most of Essex

South East London

(North East London)

Suffolk

Sussex

Thames Valley

*Items in (brackets) indicate "Twigs" :
branches in development*

?? Want to know more ??

e-mail: cma-admin@bike.org.uk

Tel: 0800 0154479

Web www.bike.org.uk

CMA is established in the following countries

**Albania
Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Croatia
Finland
France
Germany
Ireland**

**Italy
Latvia
Mexico
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Paraguay
Poland
Portugal
South Africa**

**Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States**

For more information :
www.cmainternational.org/world-map.aspx



Yes, we know the map needs
updating (still) !!

Membership Matters

Bob Buss

First of all, may I thank all of you who have taken up the challenge to get churches affiliated to the CMA. Well done! We have had three new churches sign up and two more have renewed since the last edition of Chainlink! Please keep it up.

My next plea is about renewals or application forms. Please could we have them filled in properly, i.e. names, addresses, membership numbers (if you have one) and all the appropriate signatures from your Chairmen and the responsible Executive Committee member who signs off on the work books.

I am trying to make things as easy as possible for you, but as much as I love phoning and talking to you all, I am sure you would like me to get the job done and your card sent with the correct information and without delay. If your bike came back from a mechanic with bits missing, you would also gripe. I have never sent a form back in the time I have

been doing this role. I would like to keep up this record!

Now for some house-keeping! We accept standing orders, cheques and postal orders for your subscriptions, but nothing else. **Please do not send cash through the post!!!** If it gets lost, it is lost and no amount of griping to me will help, so please be careful. If you don't have a cheque account, please speak to your branch Chairman or Treasurer.

Please pay your subscriptions as close to your anniversary as possible. I want everyone to receive a copy of Chainlink and do not like receiving phone calls complaining about it not being received. In many cases, I go into the system to see what is wrong, only to find the membership has lapsed by a month or so due to non-payment or a form not being submitted!

Regarding Chainlink – I hold some spare copies, so if you would like some extra ones, let me know and I will post them to

you. Or tell your branch Chairman that you would like extra copies; he / she can inform us and we will send them at the time we send their requested amounts. (providing your membership has not lapsed)

My CMA contact email address is shown on page 2 of this Chainlink issue. My address and contact telephone numbers are available via your branch Chairman or Treasurer and you are welcome to call me at any reasonable hour (preferably, normal office hours – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or; 09:00 to 17:00 if you prefer!), unless you have a MAJOR problem!

Thank you for all the help and encouragement you have all given me over this past year.

Bob Buss

Membership Secretary

Out Of My Comfort Zone

George Laws

It was a cold day just after New Year when I received a text from a friend of mine asking if I would like to take the bikes out. Being sick of being cooped up in the house eating chocolate and watching films I hadn't seen since the sixties, I agreed. Thinking there would be a number of us, I felt my anonymity would be kept in a large group. I've been a Christian all my life but find it difficult, in fact almost impossible, to talk to people, especially about my faith. This may sound strange as I am a teacher, but talking at people is a lot better for me than talking to people. This is something I try to avoid at all costs.

I was disheartened to say the least when I found that there were only two of us making the run as the others had, for one reason or another, dropped out. Phil, the 'Twig' leader said that the run could be my choice, so I decided to head up the coast to South Shields, taking the long scenic route. Dressed in a pair of yellow waterproofs in case of rain and my leather waistcoat with its white cross announcing my faith, we headed off.

After an uneventful but relaxing ride, enjoying the sights along the way, we stopped off at Minchella & Co Ice Cream Parlour on the A183 on Sea Road. It's a famous weekend bike stop, but I was hoping no one would be out during the week, so the only one I would have to talk to would be Phil.

I offered to buy the coffees while he found us a seat. It was then that I felt God talking to me. Strange that he should while I was waiting to be served, but in his time, not mine. I felt he wanted me to talk to someone I'd never spoken to before, forcing me out of my comfort zone. I prepared to engage the lady selling coffee in conversation when a biker pulled up and, removing his helmet, stood behind me. "This", I felt God saying to me, "is who I want you to speak to." Feeling God working inside of you is a strange thing and, without thinking, I was asking this stranger if he wanted a



coffee. He agreed and I managed to tell him I was a Christian biker. He took the information better than I could have hoped and, introducing him to Phil, we managed to give him a biker bible and witnessed to him while the coffee lasted. He told us he was on holiday from Baku in Azerbaijan, visiting family. He followed us part of the way home and headed off south at high speed as we returned at a more sedate pace.

Just a little tip . . . never tell God you can't do something. 'In Him all things are possible.'

First blessing! Wow! This Conference was a time of faith. Faith in the Lord's promise that all 68 rooms, booked a year in advance and on a contract needing to be paid for, would be filled. Praise God and thank you to all who heard and responded to His call! Not only were the rooms filled, but there were SEVENTY ladies and six MEN! Don't rub your eyes, you did read this right. I hasten to add the men came to fill the rooms and go for a guys' day out to Matlock Bath; bless you!

After months and months of planning and bookings, the day finally arrived. As usual, the Hayes Christian Conference Centre, on the edge of the beautiful Derbyshire Peak District, provided fantastic en-suite bedrooms, conference facilities and copious amounts of delicious food... diets begin on Monday... perhaps the New Year? As everyone arrived, they were warmly welcomed by our team. All ladies received a welcome bag stuffed full of goodies: chocolate (essential necessity), smellies, an inspirational book and lots more. One comment was, "Every year they get better" – and they do! This year, we built in a lot more time to relax and socialise and the clocks even went back so we got an extra lie-in on Sunday – Hallelujah and another blessing!

This year, the theme was "What about Me!?" The ME we spoke about was God as well as ourselves. We had nine speakers (including two of the male of the species); their subjects included worship through art and creativity, riding techniques, growth, power and purpose in mission, aromatherapy from a Christian perspective, a testimony of life, identity theft, expectant faith, and God's position in our lives. Throughout the weekend we had AMAZING praise and worship; the atmosphere was

phenomenal and it was such an intimate time with God. Our prayer ministry team was available throughout and we had a room set aside for quiet prayer – so many blessings!

You may ask why we hold a CMA (UK) Ladies Conference. True friendships are bonded, ladies from far and wide are connected (this year, ladies came from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Holland and Belgium – some had to cope with severe

HONOUR AND PRAISE! It is a joy to be a part of His ministry and His calling and it is a joy every single time I walk through those doors at the Hayes to be met by the welcoming team of those at the Conference Centre and the ladies that I truly love to bits! I look forward to seeing you again 23rd to 25th October 2015, and if you haven't been before, come on, join in, **you would be SO WELCOME.**



hurricanes going home – that's dedication and commitment for you); we grow in our faith, encourage, listen, speak, sing, praise, laugh, cry and share as women do. We get to spend an entire weekend being refreshed and refuelled to go out on God's mission in the biking world and there are so many blessings – did I mention that before?

I purposely haven't mentioned any names because I know all of our hearts are for God's Glory. So, all that is left for me to say is thank you all of you in CMA who made the weekend work; to those who donated funds; to the team at the Hayes who go the extra mile for us and to the Lord who saw it before we did and made it all slot into place – TO GOD BE THE GLORY, BLESSING AND

Lots of love and God bless you always.

Sandy

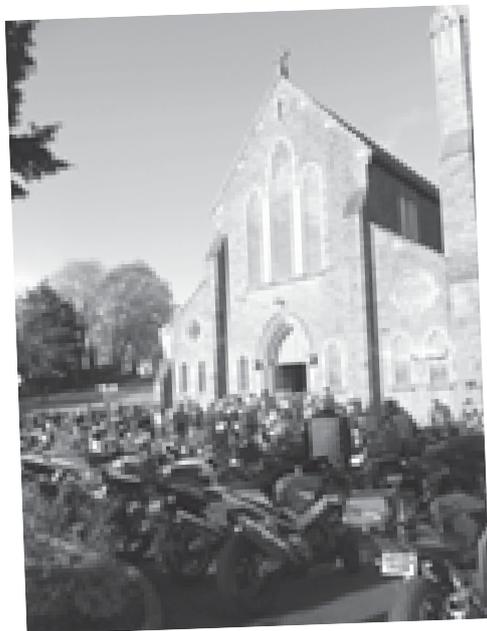
CMA (UK) Ladies Conference Co-ordinator



Gone But Not Forgotten

Stephen Armstrong

In May 2013, our CMA-Northern Ireland branch was asked by Leslie Gray if we would be interested in attending a Biker Memorial Service.



The 'Gone But Not Forgotten Bikers' memorial service is an annual event which was originally held in Co. Fermanagh (NI), but more recently has been held in Clones, Co. Monaghan, (ROI). The aim of this service is not only to remember bikers who have passed away, but to offer a connection for families who have lost loved ones.

The service took place at Clones Sacred Heart RC Chapel and was open to 'all religions and none'. I think that just about covers everyone!

I loaded up the panniers of my R1150RT with 44 biker bibles and my usual supply of rich tea biscuits (my 'emergency rations!'). On arriving at the chapel, I was directed to a prime location in the car park and parked up my bike. From there Roy, David (fellow CMA-NI members) and I joined Leslie and his team to hand out bibles.

The bikers turned out in their dozens. The chapel was filled to capacity with people who had come from over a 100 mile radius. The organisers had several bikes decorating the front of the chapel and the service was relayed to the extended crowd outside. It was such an amazing sight – bikes parked up in showroom style both outside and inside the Chapel.

Like many an event the CMA members attend, we were greeted by different responses. Some people seemed suspicious at being offered a bible, but a number of people came up to my bike and openly asked me for one. It was a great opportunity to share with those gathered on that late spring evening.

In many ways, handing a biker bible to a fellow motorcyclist is a simple act. It just requires obedience and willingness to offer the gift. Maybe God is directing you to do some simple act for Him. Leslie and his team have a great burden for the people of Clones and we were there to offer support and encouragement in their efforts for the gospel.



The whole event reminded me of a verse in Micah:

So what does God require from you? To do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously - take God seriously.

(Micah 6 v8 - The Message)



Love Your Nuts Motorcycle Rally

Due to unforeseen circumstances we regret to inform CMA members that the Love Your Nuts Motorcycle Rally has been cancelled for 2014. Our thanks to all who have supported us in previous years. Let's see where the Lord leads us to next!

Towcester Branch

MESS Branch New Year Social and Quiz with Fancy Dress

Brian Carbonero

(pictured as never seen before)



We tried something different for our New Year social event in Most of Essex Branch this year. As usual, we invited our close neighbours from Suffolk along, but we held a quiz night instead of a meal out at a restaurant.

Now, before you get concerned that we've lost the plot by swapping the chance to eat for something that requires brains, don't worry - food was involved! Before the quiz we had a fish and chip supper. Mind you, I'm not sure what it says about Colchester when the people serving behind the chip shop counter don't bat an eyelid when the person turning up to collect twenty portions of fish and chips is dressed as a werewolf...!

To explain the reason for that, bonus quiz points were used to encourage those attending to come in fancy dress, themed on a song from the any decade of the charts. As you'll see from the photo, there were plenty of very inventive outfits, and for some it was as much fun trying to work out who was underneath the disguise as it was to work out the song it related to!

Quiz questions included rounds on events in 2013, letters and numbers, song lyrics and brain teasing trick questions. To add further fun to the evening (or confusion, or madness - depending on your point of view), some people were moved between teams between each quiz round to ensure

people had the chance to mingle. Amazingly it all worked out - mainly thanks to the patience and common sense of the participants :-)

Congratulations to the winners of the quiz; Suzanne, Heather, Steve, Martin and Dave.



From left to right:
 Danii and Emily dressed up as "Sandy and Danny" from the musical "Grease".
 Beverley blended her midwife uniform and the white stripe from Adam and the Ants to represent their song "Stand and Deliver"...
 Carol came as "Happy Christmas (War is Over)" whilst Trevor donned his tux to come as the James Bond theme "Live and Let Die".
 Steve came representing "Bob Marley" and Suzanne as "The Police".
 Sam took the line "I'll be watching you" from the song "Every breath you take", whilst Dave chose the song "Leader of the Pack".
 Jacqui and Cliff came as "Sonny and Cher".
 Martin dressed as "Wizzard, I wish it could be Christmas Everyday" whilst Heather was "Janis Joplin - Me & Bobby McGee".
 Finally, Brian chose "Werewolves of London" by Warren Zevon.

The preacher told his congregation, "Next Sunday, my sermon will be on the sin of lying. To prepare yourselves, please read the seventeenth chapter of Mark's Gospel."
 The following Sunday, he asked, "How many of you read the seventeenth chapter of Mark's Gospel?"
 Most of the congregation raised their hands.
 "Good," he replied. "There are only sixteen chapters in Mark's Gospel. Now for the sermon on the sin of lying."



Thankful Villages Run

Ian Hampson

The Thankful Villages are those villages in England and Wales which sent men to the Great War, and they all came home! There are about fifty, and Medwyn Parry and Dougie Bancroft of Aberystwyth MAG decided (after a wager over a pint!) to ride to them all over ten days last Summer. They wanted to raise awareness of the 99 years since the start of the war, and to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. Several of their mates decided to go along, and all bikers were invited to join them to one or more of the villages.

It turns out that the village of Arkholme, near Lancaster, is one of the villages and that is where my little brother is vicar! Needless to say, he thought it was a great idea, so arranged that the guys, plus any other bikers who joined them, would stay over on the Saturday night. He persuaded me to join in as well, which meant the longest ever trip for my trike!

I ride a B & I Engineering VW Trike, based on a 1972 Beetle engine. It's good fun in the summer, but I'm a little scared of breaking down so it doesn't usually travel far from Leeds. The plan was to meet the run at the bikers' meeting point Devil's Bridge on the A65 (actually my idea - the original route was to travel from Cumbria straight to Arkholme by motorway), and I set off very bravely, allowing plenty of time (top speed 60mph downhill!). The drive from Leeds is initially a bit urban, but after a few miles the road emerges from West Yorkshire's cities into lovely Yorkshire country-side, passing Skipton and Settle, and finally getting to Kirkby Lonsdale and the meeting point.



There were about thirty bikes there, but I didn't know who was waiting for the convoy, and who were just 'normal' Saturday trippers stopping to use the burger van and the loos! After about thirty minutes, the convoy arrived: the two main men on their nice big Triumph Trophy machines, half a dozen others doing the full trip, an extremely helpful police motorcyclist (there unofficially!) plus another dozen or so just doing the Saturday. They stopped for a quick brew then about 45 bikes (and two trikes) set off for the last short legs of the day. From the A65 we headed south, passing my brother's place where his 'other half' spotted me and waived enthusiastically, through Arkholme, where the Brownies were out in force, and on to Nether Kellett a few miles further on.

The villagers had gathered on the village green, and the local vicar was presented with a slate plaque marking their Thankful Village status. We were all treated like heroes, which was nice, but a bit of a cheat: I'd done a couple of hours ride, plus 20 minutes as part of the convoy; others were on their 9th full day! After about half an hour it was back to a farm near Arkholme where the evening's event had been arranged. There was a brief speech from one of the elderly researchers who'd done so much work identifying the villages, a beautifully judged speech from the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire ("thanks for coming, have a great evening"), and the presentation of the plaque. There were a couple of hundred villagers, a barbeque, live folk band, a poetry reading from a TV star, old military vehicles, etc., etc. A good evening!

I crashed at my brother's, and the next morning we had a quick service of blessing for the bikes, sending the main convoy off on its final day back to Wales, then a slightly longer service in Arkholme village church: about 25 there at 8:00 a.m., so a good turn out. Then for my brother it was back to work, with other services in nearby villages, and I headed south back along the A65, from sunny Limestone country back to drizzly city and the real world!

The plan is that the plaques are officially unveiled in August this year, the 100th anniversary of the start of the war, and that each plaque has at least one biker there, to remember the run!

Thank You via Sid O'Neill

Mick Brooksbank, former Chairman of N.Cheshire CMA, along with Gemma, Janine, Michelle, Sara and Terry, would like to thank everyone in CMA for their love and support after the sad loss of Mick's wife, Jeanette, who sadly passed away in October 2013. Mick and the children were overwhelmed by the cards, flowers, text's, emails and contributions sent to them as they came to terms with her untimely passing.

Mick writes :

"Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts. Myself and my family are so grateful to



everyone for their love and support during this difficult time. It was made a little more bearable knowing you are all out there loving and praying for us. Thank you also to everyone who turned up for the funeral."

Love and respect.

Mick Brooksbank
Vice President,
God Squad,
North.

(Or ; How We As CMA Can Connect WithThe Youth)

Dave Finan

A brief history;

A man with a passion for young people and a love of bikes and all things two wheels was working for the Youth Service with the local authority, helping disaffected kids with mechanics and bike building linked to a Youth Bike project. He had achieved some success on behalf of several groups of children in the Hornsea area of East Yorkshire.

I met this man, Metz, through East Yorkshire MAG; he was on the committee and his responsibilities included ensuring that (as part of a bigger team) the Farmyard Party was able to run each year. In Jonnie Metz, I found a man I could connect with and who had a passion in his eyes. He did more than his bit for bikers' rights and, additionally, he ran the MAG tea tent at larger rallies over many years. Latterly he was involved in setting up "Crustys" a unique relax area at the Farmyard.

In Jonnie, I found a man who could share his vision, a character of trust, and a "can do" attitude, and our meeting was not by chance. His invitation was clear to me; get involved, do something; don't wait for someone else to do it, or you will miss the opportunity. Everyone is waiting for someone else; you can make a difference.

With Jonnie's support, Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire Branch CMA was able to run Holy Joes at the "Into the Valley" Rally, giving the MAG crew a much needed break, and enabling a working partnership which has continued to grow. God was at work in Jonnie. I didn't realize it at the time, but he was on a journey of faith and we often had talks about God, the universe and the CZ Motorcycle.

Mini Moto time;

One day at Jonnie's invitation, I went along to help out at a Mini Moto event at a school playground. Jonnie had been, and still is, fundraising with a small

group of police officers and youth workers to find a way to give young people a safe experience of bike riding with adult support and supervision. I didn't know quite what to expect, but after a brief induction I had a great time watching kids aged 8 – 16, in two groups, riding around a circuit on restricted Chinese-built 50cc machines. Some of these kids were the ones you wouldn't normally pick to get involved. Not all of them were grade-A well-behaved kids, but I soon realized this was more than a first experience of riding for some of them; it was the start of a love affair with two wheels. What a privilege to be part of connecting with biking's future generation.



I remember thinking how smooth everything went (with a few tumbles). We had the kit, the padding and the helmets; every kid got something out of the experience. It was tiring, but so satisfying. Kids were saying "thank you" and "when can we do this again?" Jonnie with his vision and a small group of like minded people, all volunteers giving up their time, were making a difference in more ways than one. The Youth Bike kids who came to help had already got their Biker Bibles and some of the parents accompanying the kids wanted to know more about why we ran these sessions and had a passion for young people.



Why would I do it?

My response was; I was seven years old and went to a farm with my Dad. The farmer's son said to get on this Norton Villiers Triumph 175 and have a go. I was so scared, but so excited. I had never experienced anything like it and, within an hour, I was riding and free, and that experience has never left me. Every kid deserves a chance.

Then I thought, what if there are no opportunities for kids to ride and to experience what I did? Because someone said "have a go" and my Dad said "OK", I want to give something back to kids who have never had the chance. I knew this was what God wanted and, with a mobile resource in a trailer, we could take this activity anywhere. I joined the committee and quickly was voted in as chair. Health and safety, parental consent and all the ground work is in place.

Over two years, we have been able to run a number of these events around East Yorkshire and Jonnie has become a CMA supporter with a determination to go further. Moto Club Yorkshire is reliant upon fund raising, as a not for profit club; Each session (two hours) can cost up to £150-£200 which covers insurance and costs. We can support up to 20 children / young people, so it is viable for youth groups / schools, etc.



(Continued on Page 17)

Where next?

We have been affected by the down turn in budgets and schools and youth services can no longer afford to book us, even though we have reduced costs as far as possible; Why am I telling you all this? Because I believe that Mini Motos are a way to connect with the youth, delivering so much more than just a first ride on a bike. We have a mobile resource and could travel to deliver sessions to young people in the northern area (with Yorkshire as a main focus).

We operate on a 'pre book system' as we need parental consent forms and agreements in place, so this excludes 'turn up and ride' events at shows etc.

We have the resource and we would welcome any ideas you may have which could keep this project going. We are a not for profit club and we are registered with the Volunteer Service. Any income goes towards covering costs, not profit. We have found a viable insurance and what we now need is the following:

More bookings. Ideally in Yorkshire, but we're willing to consider other locations so that you can connect with the youth in your locality. All we need is a tarmac or dry field area.

More (CMA) and other volunteers to give of their time to help, to come alongside this project, to use what we have to serve the youth and connect with the next generation of riders.

More opportunity to connect with young people; (Do you remember your first time on a bike; was it safe?; even if it wasn't, you will remember the thrill!!)

Will you pray for us and ask God to open up new opportunities for this project?

We have ten Mini Motos and all the equipment needed to run sessions (induction and advice provided).

People often say they cannot do anything with the youth, as they need the resources first etc., etc. We have the resources; we just need the people and the places.

If you are interested, or have any further questions, please contact Jonnie Metz or Dave (Lincs and East Yorks Branch CMA) (metz1@live.co.uk or dave.finan7@gmail.com)

God bless and let's continue to make kids dreams come true and invest in the future of motorcycling.



Annual Dinner

Norman Ramsey

Another year passed by and time for our CMA Sussex : Riders For Christ annual dinner. Again, this was at The Orchard restaurant on the A272, one of our meeting points for when we do church visits, ride-outs, etc. It's recommended.

The staff were welcoming, the food plentiful and delicious and we were pleased to welcome Mike Fitton as our special guest.



each other even better as testimonies were shared. We must do this more often; it is encouraging to hear how God has acted in our lives and is continuing to lead us. It's exciting, to say the least. We said our farewells around 1100hrs, as Mike had a few hundred miles' journey home.

Jesus First and Foremost,



He spoke to remind us that we were here not only with our interest in motorcycling but, as Christians, our main aim is to reach out to the unsaved. The evening was a worthwhile, enjoyable time of true fellowship.

The next morning, seven of us met with Mike again at The Orchard for breakfast. A time to get to know



Testimony

Pete Warford

One of my earliest memories is of my dad lining up the family's shoes on the back step ready to be polished for church the following day. On Sunday mornings, he would make me stand in the kitchen while he dragged a comb through my hair, ensuring that I had a precise side parting in my mop of curls (yes curls). The whole family would be in their Sunday best and that would include me with my elasticated tie! We never missed church, often attending twice and Sunday school in the afternoon. I was familiar with all that church stuff as I grew up.

One summer holiday, there was an evangelistic tent mission in the local park. Every morning my sister and I would go to the kids' club where we would play games, hear Bible stories, sing songs and, for every Bible verse we could recite, get a smiley sticker. I still have those verses tucked away in my memory to this day. I looked forward to the evening meetings most, as every child was given a ticket as they walked into the tent. This ticket entitled you to a free hotdog at the end. They tasted so much better for being free.

On the last evening, the meeting followed the same gospel theme ending with an invitation to go to the front and ask Jesus to be part of your life. I had resisted the urge to go forward every night that week but felt compelled to follow the others down to the front. As the last hymn was sung, I knew this was my last chance. I looked at my big sister as if to say "come on then." She looked at me and whispered, "Are you going then?" I took her hand and we both walked down to the front. As I looked back, I saw my dad giving me an affirming nod and a wink. A lady called Mary from our own church met us at the front and talked to us for a few minutes then invited us to repeat a prayer asking Jesus to come into our hearts and to be Lord of our lives. That was August 1971 and I was nine years old.

I felt different, I couldn't really explain it, but I felt good inside. I knew I had done something that had changed me somehow for the better. I knew I would never quite be the same again. I had asked Jesus into my life but had not fully understood how much it had cost or how much I had been forgiven.



The years went by and I continued to attend church, but by my middle teens I was feeling that I went more out of duty than free will. If I was pressed, I would still tell people I was a Christian, but the wonder and love had somehow cooled. I felt like I was living in my parents' faith rather than in my own.

My dad was an engineer and very practical. I regularly had to help him repair my mum's car or fix some electrical appliance. At fourteen, I had progressed to stripping down and re-building motor mowers and selling them for a small profit. My dad bought me a Honda CG125 motorcycle which he helped me restore. I rode it round in circles in the back garden and I would keep going until I got dizzy or, on one occasion, sped off the lawn and into a tree. Dad took me to the Isle of Man TT and the Manx Grand Prix motorcycle races. My grandpa had ridden BSA's and my dad had had those and Triumphs. Bikes were in the blood! My mum made us have a family photograph because she thought I was going to have a very short career in motorcycle racing judging by the tree incident!

In September 1978, I left school to start an aeronautical engineering apprenticeship at Rolls Royce with 32 other 16 and 17 year olds. By the time I had cycled the six miles there and back every day for three months and seen other lads pass me on their mopeds I just had to get one. It did over 50, head down with the wind! On the day I turned 17, I dragged out my 125 but soon became

dissatisfied with the 70 mph it could deliver. After that I had a succession of bigger and faster motorcycles, but soon realised that if I wanted to impress the girls, I needed a car. First a two-seater convertible, then others, culminating in a VW Beetle

hotrod that I built over two years. That was when I joined a car club and things changed very quickly.

The club was for VW owners and sounded like it should have been for a bunch of peace loving hippies, but it turned out to be something else. The more I spent time with these people the more I got sucked into a lifestyle of parties, alcohol and drugs mixed in with street racing and driving all over the country in convoy. In case you're wondering, yes, we had CB radios!

My life now consisted of looking forward to coming home from work to blow my money on making my car faster and partying. My parents didn't see me much at the weekends as I'd be off doing anything that would give me a buzz. If I wasn't drunk, stoned or on adrenalin I had nothing to live for. My life was in a downward spiral which I had tried to conceal from close friends and family. At 23, I had reached what I considered to be rock bottom, I had no happiness and no peace.

One Sunday evening I found myself walking back into my local church, finding a seat and letting the service wash over me. Church was a place I hadn't been for a long time. Although it was a lively place, I wasn't moved by what I saw or heard. Towards the end of the service, as was the custom, people in the congregation would be invited to speak out words of knowledge in order to encourage others.

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Various people had stood up and said something but none of it meant anything to me. That was until a man behind me said "There's a young man called Peter here tonight and God really wants to meet with him."

To this day I don't know who it was who said that. There could have been a hundred Peters in that church, in that service, but as the words were being spoken, my heart started to pound. I knew this was for me. God had finally been given the opportunity to break into my world again. I walked to the front of the church and told a man at the front that I had come up in response to what had been said. He invited me to pray a prayer of repentance and then he placed his hand on my head and started to pray. As he did, I knelt, my whole body started to shake with a release of emotion and sobbed uncontrollably.

I went home that night completely changed. I opened a Bible and read from 1 John 4 where it says: *"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."*

These words spoke to me of someone who loved me, had always loved me and

would keep on loving me. He loved me so much that He gave His life for me. He had freed me from all the wrong and guilt in my life. As possible as it is to, I now realised how much it had cost God to give Jesus His son for me and how much I had been forgiven.

Immediately, my insecurities left me; I no longer needed to be the life and soul of the party. I was accepted for who I was. I was content to live on my own and had come to the conclusion that if God wanted me to stay single that was fine. He was enough. Soon after, I met Heather on a skiing trip in Austria and within a year we were married. I have to presume God wanted me to be part of a team and that is how we have lived ever since.

We have two kids, Ben (21), and Philippa (19). Sometime after Pip was born, Heather became very ill and the operations ran into double figures but didn't provide a cure. The condition meant her living with debilitating pain and she had to give up teaching. Heather has lived with the consequences ever since. In the early days it was very difficult for the whole family. The children took themselves to school and often came home to find Heather in bed and me still at work. They learnt how to cook through necessity! At her worst, she didn't leave the house but for church on Sunday. The

kids went on holiday with my parents for a number of years as we couldn't contemplate it. I am quite sure it was only through our faith in Jesus that we got through that very difficult time. Looking back I know that He held us close to Himself and each other. This experience has strengthened our faith through our reliance on Him. A favourite text of mine is 1Peter 5:7 *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* We did just that!

When we met I had the VW and a bike so Heather knew what she was getting involved with! I'm still a petrol head and love all that stuff but my priorities have changed. In the 1990's I was introduced by a friend to the Christian Motorcyclist's Association and, after moving to Lancashire, a mutual friend invited me to a few events. By 2005, I had joined the Lakes 'n' Lancs branch of the CMA. I can talk bikes all day, so it's a great way of striking up conversations with those I meet at biking events and on the road. I have ridden, maintained and built bikes for years enabling me to use my experience to help bikers in the area to fix theirs too. I thank God that He uses our interests, talents and every life experience to His glory.

(P.S. That's my Dad on the front cover on his 1955 BSA C11)

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is 31st August, 2014

Caught – Using An Offensive Weapon!

Colin Wright

Before you jump to conclusions, please let me assure you that I have not broken the law.

I am not writing about harming a fellow human being or any other form of God's wonderful creation. I'm talking about the God-given weapon to fight principalities and powers.

Ephesians 6 v 12 says: *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

The offensive weapon Ephesians 6 talks about is the sword of the Spirit which is

the Word of God. But there is another weapon of offence I want to tell you about.

James 5 v 16b states *"... pray for each other so that you may be healed." The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

It is a privilege for me to be the prayer co-ordinator for the Gloucester branch.

Some of you may be aware that I suffer from Non Epileptic Attack Disorder. Because of this I am not allowed to hold a driving licence at present. This means that my ministry and activities with CMA are restricted, but I still have an important part to play within the branch.

Do not neglect your prayer life. It is a very important part, if not the most important part, for the continuing victories that we experience as members and supporters of the CMA.

In the Gloucester branch, many changes have taken place with regard to membership. Some people have moved on to other ministries, but are still on our list and continue to pray for those whose requests come via Fastrack.

Ask that the Lord, through His Spirit, will prompt you who to pray for throughout the day, wherever you may be.

Become a Prayer Warrior.

Need A Slogan?

James Armstrong

I am in two motorcycle organisations, namely the Christian Motorcyclist Association and the BMW club. I'm in the former as I am a Christian Motorcyclist and I like meeting other Christian motorcyclists. I enjoy being a representative of Christ and talking to others about Him and what He has done in my life. Of course, what He has done for me, He can do for others. The presence of the bike opens doors and sometimes helps to initiate conversations. I am in the latter as I have a BMW motorcycle; not the latest model, I hasten to add, nor a pretend two-wheeled Land Rover, either. But an ageing R1100RT, which, despite the abusive remarks I receive..."here comes Heartbeat" etc., does the job well. Each month I receive a magazine from the UK BMW Club and I normally read every word. I also subscribe to 'Ride' magazine, as it has interesting articles for someone of my age and motorcycling experience and doesn't have 'bare bits' on display.

I was thinking about all the motorcyclists that we know that are neither members of their local CMA group nor belong to their bike manufacturers club, for whatever reason. Some might think that some membership groupings are a 'closed shop,' or 'full of snobs', perhaps too introverted to be of interest to 'outsiders.'

Recently I was passing a local primary school, and on the outside railings was a notice telling the passers by that 'Slimming World' meets there every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. I'm sure there are other slimming organisations out there, but I thought what a great notice to have outside our places of worship. Rather than a notice saying what time the morning and evening services start and who the minister is, what about "Sinners Meet Here At"?

A colleague of mine repeats the phrase "Saints have a past and sinners can have a future". It reminds me that I needn't get too cocky or self assured about my

performance because I am what I am by the grace of God. Our relationship with God is maintained by His benevolence towards us and not, thankfully, by our efforts or merit.

What a great God we serve and love. Maybe if we told others of our failings more and told them we really are just sinners, but saved sinners, they might be more attracted to Him. You see, I am a Christian, and that is just about the best decision I have ever made, but if it was just up to me, I couldn't do it. But, with His forgiveness, love and grace comes His Spirit, and He helps me to become more 'Christ like' every day.

Need a new slogan for your group? What about, "I'm a Christian but really I shouldn't be!"

CMA UK

www.bike.org.uk

e-mail

cma-admin@bike.org.uk

Tel: 0800 0154479

CMA UK PO BOX 8155,
Loughborough, LE11 9AR

Check out the web site (www.bike.org.uk) for events throughout the whole of the UK. The major events where the CMA have a presence also need your support. Go, you will love it. Give it a try. Get to a 'NABD' rally or the 'Farmyard'. What about 'Stormin' the Castle' or the 'HJ at Bristol'?

GO FOR IT, SUPPORT YOUR CMA

The CMA go to many rallies, shows, and motorcycle events throughout the UK.

Let the CMA know about your rally.

Ask about the Holy Joe's Cafe that the CMA take to many rallies.

Contact details : see next column

Merchandise from CMA UK

Please browse through the CMA UK web site for the merchandise that is available, using the link on the website, or go direct to : .

<http://www.bike.org.uk/cma/merchandise>

All profits from the sale of merchandise go to the Biker Bible fund.

The products are now listed with codes so that you know exactly what you are ordering. Download an order form.

Please ensure that it is completed fully; especially that you specify sizes.

Note that any merchandise bearing the CMA logo is available only to CMA members and requires your local branch Chair's signature on the order form.

If you have any questions, please email us at merchandise@bike.org.uk

All cheques should be made payable to "CMA UK Merchandise" and sent with your order form to the address shown on the form.

National Chairman and the Executive Team



Mike Fitton
National Chairman



Elaine Williams
National Secretary



Rob Urand
National Treasurer



Jason Bee



Ian Cameron



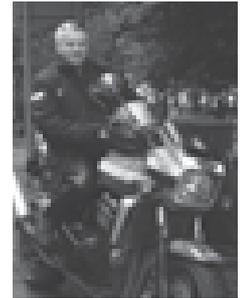
Ted Russell



Bob Hughes-Burton



Charles Clapham



Sid O'Neill

Executive News, giving a brief rundown as to what's been happening, is available after the executive meeting via the website The Exec are there to serve. Do not be afraid to contact them.

News From The Executive

The 2014 AGM will be held at Ayr Baptist Church, Ayr, Scotland over the weekend of 25th to 27th April.

The CMA (UK) constitution states that there shall be a minimum of five and a maximum of eight National Executive Members. There are currently eight elected members and of those Ian Cameron, Sid O'Neill and Robert Urand are due to retire after their three year periods. It is open for all three to stand for re-election. There are, therefore, three posts for which candidates may be proposed for election.

The AGM will form part of a fellowship weekend between Friday evening and Sunday lunchtime and further details will be provided nearer the time along with the papers for the meeting.

The 2014 National Rally is from 18th to 20th July to be held at Lenchwood Christian Centre, near Evesham, Cotswolds.

Dates for our Executive meetings in the rest of 2014 are 5th June, 6th September, 11th October and 29th November. The Executive would appreciate your prayers for their meetings and the on-going projects that they are involved with.

On the CMA UK website homepage there are a number of links to various pages. I would encourage you to look at the website regularly as you will find out about national and local events and other relevant news.

On behalf of the Executive we look forward to seeing you at the National AGM and the National Rally.

Elaine Williams
CMA UK National Secretary

If You Are Serious



Paul Dickinson

If you are serious, you will love,
You will pray,
You will read God's Word and do what it says.
You will buy someone pizza and provide fellowship for them,
You will be a friend.
You will give to the CMA;
You will tithe to the CMA.
You will give 110% in everything,
You will give whatever the cost to you is personally,
You will be prepared to die for your beliefs.
You will believe, see and aid the growth of the potential in people.
You will trust in Him alone.
You will love, give, believe; always be different.
You will be the one that stands out from the crowd
You will let God be God and truly let Him be the head of everything that you are.

This was impressed on me by God; we need to be serious in our commitment to Him and have the highest level of intimacy / holiness with God on an individual basis

Farmyard Experience

Brian Jenner

I always thought the Farmyard was somewhere I had to go. It had nothing to do with my rural background with grandparents and many uncles and aunts in agriculture of one type or another. Living in Cheltenham with old, and small or worn bikes it was somewhere I was not going to go in a hurry I never go any where in a hurry. Still, I always put it in my diary and would pray for those who did go. One day I would go.

That is the background, but it all really started on Pentecost Sunday 2013. I went to my Anglican 10:30 service with my wife and celebrated the birth of the Church; when a first call was made (not too common) for folk to come forward for prayer, it didn't tick any of my boxes. But the second one hit the spot and I was soon at the font (no, at the front).

Later, at home for dinner in preparation for an afternoon sleep. all was forgotten; by us maybe but not by God. I had hardly started my dinner when the phone rang. "Hello...Brian" (is this a cold caller?), "I was in Church this morning for our Pentecost service" (certainly not the usual cold caller) "when your name suddenly came to mind" (this was Simon of Simon and Kate fame and as they live in Doncaster and have no need to be troubled with being reminded of me. This was Hot and not even Luke warm. See Revelations 3 v 15). Simon continued as he has not read my interruptions yet. "Are you coming to the Farm Yard mate?"

I said I had it in my diary, but my motorcycle was off the road (this is a bike-only camp). Simon said If I could get up to Doncaster he could take me up from there. I relayed some of this to the boss and said we would think about it and get back to him. So I thought about it and got back - to my dinner. To be fair, I had nearly finished when the phone went again.

"Hello... Brian ... This is Glen. Are you coming to the Farm Yard?" I gave all the answers I had given Simon before, relayed this again to Sue and the audience of students and my mother who wee at the table. It was becoming clear that I would have to go.

Train tickets were booked. I grovelled to change a training day to a later one.



Camping kit was re-sorted, as I would have to carry everything instead of the usual strapping onto the bike of far too much to carry. I sent off for my Farm Yard ticket; if I did enough marshalling and Holy Joes duty, the charges would be refunded and I would get a free tee shirt (I had loads) or a hoody if I paid an extra £5. I was just thinking how nice and warm a hoody could be when camping, when Sue said "Go for the hoody"! And very nice it is too. During this preparation I had a trip to the Czech Republic volunteering, but that is another story. I came back with a week to turn around. Then off.

The train is comfortable enough, but I must get that bike fixed as soon as I have finished all these travel reports. Arrived at Doncaster with enough time to look around. I saw the river and the cathedral, not close enough to either to swim or count pillars; I was carrying my kit, remember. Really glad I had cut it down a bit. Simon picked me up and off we sped . . . er, went. Hospitality was exceptional that night with an optional furry purring bed warmer and so much food including a cooked breakfast that I was sure I would not need to eat again that weekend.

After breakfast, we loaded Simon's bike with some essentials, Kate was somehow allowed the car with the rest of the stuff when she came to the rally after work. I am not used to trips as a pillion so after a long cool trip, we turned off the main road and, approaching a petrol station, Simon turned round and pointed so I put my thumb up for a stop. This was interpreted as saying I was O.K. And on we sped. I was going to be clearer the next time. It seems Simon was concerned about his bike, so we soon found another fuel stop and I could exercise my legs as Simon checked the bike. Something was not quite right (not unusual with Simon's bikes apparently). Looking for a better place to fix it we ended up in the town square.

This is where Simon introduced me to strong drink. Censors please read on first. As Simon tackled the bike he told me to go to a shop and get some elderflower cordial. We found out later there is more than one type. On return, I was offered some which I declined at first, as I was O.K. A little later, I remembered that glass was not allowed on the site, so it might be an idea to share the bottle, so I had a swig. It turned out this was not the fizzy pop stuff, but the real McCoy; it nearly blew my head off. Not seeming to believe this and being thirsty Simon tried some with the same effect. I believe the rest was well watered down at camp and shared with Kate later.

We arrived at the rally site and swapped our tickets for armbands, bin liners and programmes. Then we signed in at the marshal's post where I was given my hoody, checked the rota and was welcomed. We went to the Holy Joes tent next door where we got some training as this was one of our tasks for the weekend. Holy Joes is a tea, coffee and now award-winning drinking chocolate venue on a largely beer swilling camp site of 7,000 bikers, down a bit from last year as it was a bit damp then. Biscuits were free, so needed topping up regularly. Bikers bibles and some tracts were available and there was always someone ready to talk bikes, Jesus or the universe with anyone who came in. It is nice to know there is prayer cover for safety as we ride our bikes, but we do ask that you will pray for us and the bikers we meet at rallies like this and we cover.

(Continued on Page 23)

Kate soon arrived, tents were set up and we were soon marshalling, serving in the Holy Joes or enjoying a quick look around all the stands; there was music, food, biker's clothing, beer (please buy on site, profits to Motorcyclist's Action Group who run the event) more music, more beer and all kinds of strange stuff to see or do.

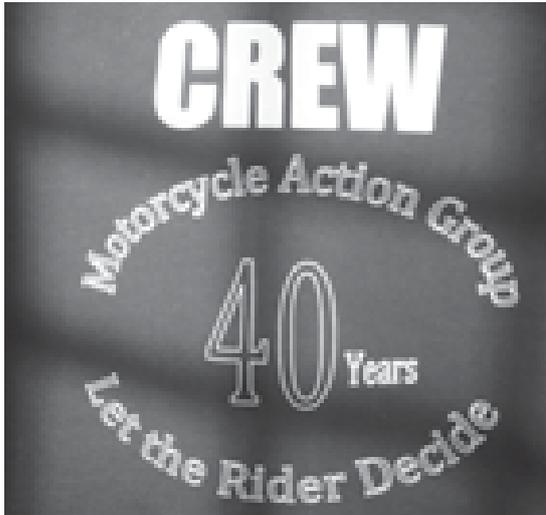
I had put myself down for two sessions in the Holy Joes tent on the Friday and Saturday afternoons and for marshalling on the Sunday. Before and after the sessions I needed to sign in and out as meal tickets were awa

The variety of riders was great. I wonder as I write, we all have our preferences and dislikes in bikes and maybe people, too, but God loves every one there. Jesus died for each one. I have to remind myself I am not the saviour of the world, Jesus is; all I have to do is what he wants me to do and leave the rest to him. So I leave the rest to him but I need a good sleep. The marshall's tents were next to a track the other side of which was the main tent with music all night. Good job I always bring ear plugs to camp.

Saturday was more of Friday but now most people had arrived. A steady stream of people coming for drinks, biscuits, chats and shelter, I remember now there was some rain. Then two people can in and said "We have something for you" I was taken aback thinking, "no, it isn't my birthday; are they being kind to a new starter or have I forgotten some reward in the small print?" When all became clear, it was the award for CMA's drinking chocolate. I called over our Chairman, Mike Fitton, who accepted the award on our behalf. We were well pleased with this acknowledgement of our services to the campers.

So after my second stint, it was off to my tent for some catch up on sleep until the

music I could hear reminded me I was missing a mandolin concert. Oh well, one can't have everything. I got up for the end of the concert and a good wander around before another night of being "rocked" to sleep. I gather my need for sleep which includes all night as well as bits of the day means I miss some of the b e s t conversations in Holy Joes but that is someone else's tale.



Sunday, having finished their quota of shifts at midnight, my lift to the Farm Yard (Simon and Kate) returned to Doncaster ready for Monday's work. As I am retired, I had planned to stay the whole weekend. I had only partly planned my transport home. This planning included asking Glen and others if they knew anyone who could get me to York for my connection on Monday morning. I was told the best bet was to ask on Sunday evening at the helpers party.

My Sunday morning shift was marshalling on the no fires field. All I had to do was point people to a new exit at the top of the field where they could avoid a muddy pool at the bottom where they had come in two days before. As this was a four hour shift, as most were, I added keeping warm to my duties. I was glad of my hoody and all the other warm clothes I had taken. Towards the end of the shift the field was all but empty of campers, but a lot of stuff was left. We checked any tents left to make sure there were no bodies, dead or alive.

On Sunday afternoon, I did a further shift as the rally had finished and I was there to serve. I was put to helping take down and stack the temporary barriers; there were heavy rubber blocks for feet and metal weld mesh in tubing for the panels. These were later moved by fork lift tractor or loaded onto a quad to be loaded onto the lorry trailers.

Sunday evening saw the helpers party take place in the restaurant tent. We

were superbly fed a roast meal with fruit afters. As I sat down with my meal I told the couple of guys opposite me that I needed to find a lift to the village in the morning for a bus, or to York by 11:00 for my train. They said they were leaving in the morning and could take me to the village. If you are reading this, a big thank you to you and thank you God for a swift provision.

Monday morning was dry but threatening. I moved pretty quickly, packing up. Then, even though it was a little earlier than our agreed time, I set off to my new friend's van. One was up and keen to go. The other called for a coffee and was told quite firmly this was not possible as everywhere was packed up. I offered to see what I could do. I popped back to the marshall's tent, washed a plastic cup, emptied the urn into it chipped the coffee from a jar and found the last of the milk. This unlikely brew raised the dead and we were off.

At the village a mile or two away, I walked up to the market place where I had checked the bus times on Saturday. I got some breakfast and lunch from a store and waited for the bus. I was chatting to a local. I was on duty as I still had my jacket on with the cross on the back. He said he had enjoyed the music. I asked if he had come up; he said no, he had listened from the village.

Nearing home, the driver announced we were approaching "charismatic Cheltenham." I am not sure how we got that distinction. Was it the race course, the festivals from science to books or maybe it's because of Holy Trinity's successful Church?

Would I go to the Farm Yard again? It is a long way, my normal ministry is with the Royal Enfield Owners club and the like, there are others in C.M.A. with gifts better suited to the Farm Yard than me, and there is always plenty here for me to do. Yes, one day it would be nice to go and do it properly. I will continue to put it in my diary. Those who go do need our prayers.

I must be careful when I go forward for prayer. I never know what will happen, but I do know this if God calls, He will provide.

Where's Walley.....er, Mike?

Diane Raven

See if you can find Mike Fitton in this picture! It was taken at The Carole Nash Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show – just half an hour after it had opened! The bike show, held every October at the Staffordshire County Showground, is the largest classic show in Europe – possibly the world – and yes, CMA regularly has a stand here, currently run by members of the Staffs & Shropshire Branch, who are ably assisted by folk from South Lancs. and North Cheshire Branches.

We can give away anything up to 250 Biker Bibles over the two days the Show runs and have lots of fascinating conversations. Every April, at the same venue, is the Carole Nash International Classic Motorcycle Show – and all the above statements apply to this Show as well!!

Other pictures show the The CMA Stand at October 2012's Show. We put on a differently-themed stand every Show (and here prove that Mike Fitton can be in two places at once! Or is it three?)



P.S. If you want to know where Mike is in the picture, contact Diane! - Ed

Main picture reproduced by kind permission of Mortons Archive'



Yet another eventful year has passed. We've got four rallies with Holy Joe's, one Bike show, one Toy Run and a couple of church visits under our belt. A year full of successes and challenges. And so often the successes are closely linked to the challenges.

We man Holy Joe's for three days continuously – throughout the night at three of the four rallies. And it is always a

Another example for how God sometimes works in roundabout ways is one of our church visits. We had it all lined up and arranged, when I found out a few days before we were meant to go that the church was now only meeting in the evenings, which we couldn't do. So we decided at the last minute to attend my mother-in-law's church. We ended up sharing what we do and having a new member join! What a result! God is just so good!

Some of you might remember a previous article I shared about our German Shepherd, Spock, who is an amazing evangelistic tool. Well, we added another during 2013. Our little girl Jana now has her first rally season under her belt and has been a total people magnet.



Of course there are still challenges to overcome. The tow hitch on our equipment-laden caravan broke and needs replacing before we start the rally season again. But what I am trying to say is - Go for it. To rephrase something someone shared in church the other day "Get on your bike and go. God will be there and make things possible - don't wait till everything is ready. You'll never get started!"

Don't we just have an amazing God?

Have a blessed and fruitful 2014!

challenge to find enough people to be able to do this, get the equipment there and back, buy stock etc., etc. But every time we rely on God and turn up in faith that we will be able to have enough people and be able to do His work. And you know what? He comes through. EVERY TIME!

I would like to honour our members who continuously go the extra mile to be there. We are also very fortunate to have neighbouring branches who step in and bring people along. We could not do it without them. A very wise fellow CMA'er (Thanks Graham!) said to me this year; "Just be there for the times you can and God will do His work in that time. No need to overstretch ourselves and fret over having to sometimes close for a few hours during the night". And that is exactly what happened. God did amazing things. We had great chats, prayed for bikers, people coming to the Lord and as always we are building relationships and shining God's light into situations.



For 2014, she has her own leather waistcoat and I am sure is looking forward to pulling hairy bikers' beards.



The AGM, (in April every year) is a weekend of fellowship, praise and half a day of the business. Have you ever been? The hospitality is always excellent, as is the food, etc.

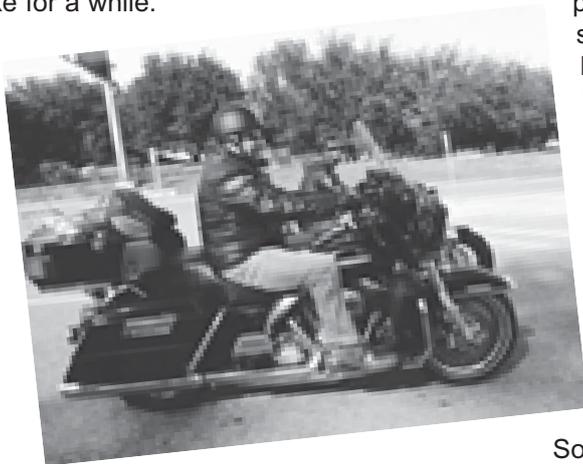
Need to know more? Ask your branch chair or a member of the exec. The Exec are there for you to speak to - so ask all those questions.

Air In My Tyres

Tanas Al Qassis

Last November, I rode from Oxford to Towcester for the Remembrance Service led by the Towcester branch. It was a pretty cold day, windy with some sunshine, but I had my full gear, gloves and all the different layers to keep me warm.

The ride was great and, as I approached the A43, which is a beautiful road with many bends and roundabouts, I was enjoying some worship music through my headset. I had been away for most of October, so this was the first time I used my bike for a while.



I was prepared for the ride, but I'd forgotten to check the air in the tyres so,

as I was going around the roundabouts, I hesitated and slowed down, I lost my riding confidence; I felt I was not grounded enough and started to worry about dropping the bike or falling off it. Then it hit me; I started thinking about my faith and my walk with the Lord, and what keeps me grounded? What prepares me for my life journey? What gives me confidence?

Having the correct tyre pressures makes riding smoother, safer and efficient. It's the same with our journey with Christ. Having a solid grounding, strong faith, knowledge of your faith and the goals makes the journey amazing. We feel confidence as we face difficulties, storms and obstacles because we are grounded.

So what grounds you? Who in your life keeps you grounded, reminds you of your faith and tells when you are off the correct path? What do you do to



stay strong in the Lord? What steps you take to be prepared for the journey?

For me, it's my wife who has been the one who grounds me and reminds me of

who I am in the Lord. She encourages me, stands by my side and prays for me. Ephesians 6 reminds me of what I need to be prepared; prayers help me focus on the Lord and doing mission with CMA and daily life helps me keep my eyes on Lord because, when I see Him at work, my heart rejoices, my confidence is rebuilt and my joy shines. Psalm 121 reminds me to look up upon the mountains where my strength comes from; my strength comes from the Lord.

Knowing who you are in the Lord, knowing where to go when you need help and knowing that He is in control will make your mission journey the best ride you will ever take. So next time you are ready for a ride, remember it is not only your tyres that need to be checked and ready, but also your heart.

**We need your help!
Are you in CMA?**

**Do you want to help reach bikers? Can you share your testimony? Can you serve a brew?
If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then we'd like to see you in May 2014.**

**NORTH CHESHIRE CMA WILL BE RUNNING A HOLY JOES CAFE
@ NABD 23, 9th to 11th of May 2014**



Pre booked tickets are £25. Go to: www.nabd.org.uk

It's a fantastic rally with a really great atmosphere and CMA are greatly respected at this event. Numbers are around 2000 bikers, so not too big. We will look after you and keep you fed, so no worries about paying for expensive food. Come and have a great weekend; if you have never done a rally before, don't worry, we will help settle you in. Great fellowship and wonderful opportunities to show the love of God by serving and looking after all who come into our Holy Joes Cafe.

**Tickets sell fast so don't delay. Our branch will have some for sale, so if they run out please ring us.
Email Sid: sid.oneill@ntlworld.com for more details.**

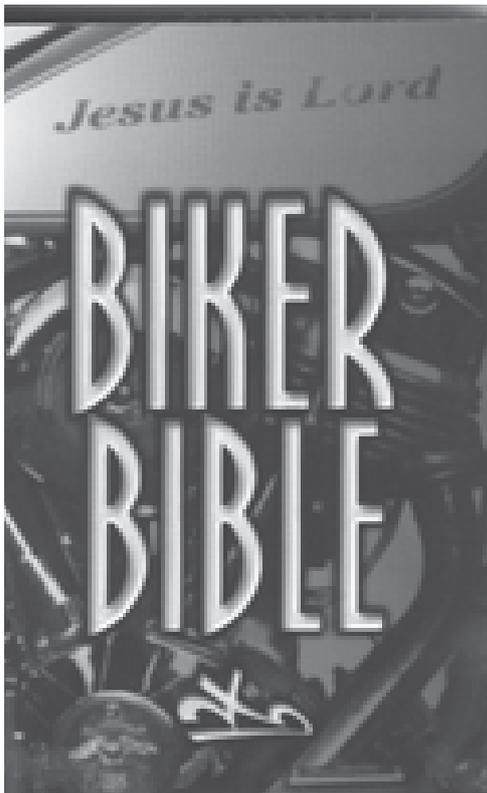
Site details are: Astle Park, Chelford Cheshire SK11 9AQ

Ride safe and ride up here to join North Cheshire at this great event.

**CMA is supported
by the following
organisations**



OpenDoors
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**The target :
a bible for every biker**

**Join the CMA at the many
rallies and events that can be
found at:-
www.bike.org.uk**

Phone us on UK freefone:-



Get Ready to Move

Amy Stalker

'...Get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give...'

Joshua 1: v 2 - 6

God said to Joshua: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then...get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give [you]...I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates...to the Great Sea on the west. No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them"

Are you standing today at the crossroads of change, contemplating a new season or assignment, and feeling anxious about it? If so, observe two things in this story:

1) When his time came to lead, Joshua was ready. Until then, he faithfully served Moses and found fulfilment in the number-two slot. He didn't push and he didn't play politics; he just prepared himself. And when he was ready, God promoted him.

2) He went further than his mentor did. Moses' leadership ended where the Promised Land began. Under Joshua's leadership, Israel would move into it and become a great nation. Every day he had spent in the wilderness equipped him for this moment. God never wastes experience.

Everything you've been through, including the things you didn't understand, are preparation for what God has in store for you.



Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride (AMRR) 2013

Trevor Read

Carol and I have officially been supporters of the CMA for around 18 months now. We have thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of the members and supporters of the Suffolk Branch on a regular basis. We have had the opportunity to join with them on a number of ride-outs and the privilege of taking part in various meetings at local churches throughout the year. We have also supported other motorcycle clubs in organised rides raising money for local charities including a child care centre, St Elizabeth's Hospice, and the Air Ambulance Service. We even led some carol singing following a toy run to a local day care centre organised by one of the motorcycle clubs in Ipswich

As I sit here with the thermometer hovering around the '0' mark outside, the long, hot, dry, sunny days of summer are but a distant memory, but one day in 2013 stands out, maybe because of the weather, but probably because it was the largest ride-out I have ever been involved in.

It was a very hot Saturday in July when we mounted our GTR1400, and met up with a few other members of the Suffolk Branch early in the morning, to ride to the Cambridge A14 services at Boxworth. We joined 600 other bikers as part of the Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride from there to the American Cemetery and Memorial at Madingley Cambridgeshire. This event has been running for five years and is organised by the Royal British Legion Riders Branch (RBLRB).

On arrival at the services area we were directed to the truck parking area where around 300 bikes had already parked up. On seeing our white crosses the stewards directed us to the front of the queue where a number of the Bedford branch had parked. They were taking part in the service at the memorial later on and had therefore been given some priority. We had already registered for the run on-line, so all we had to do was check-in with the organisers and then had time for some refreshment in the café. As time approached midday we made our way back to the bikes and waited in

anticipation, not quite knowing what would happen next. At 12 o'clock a lone bugler from the RAF cadets (I think) sounded the "Last Post" followed by two minutes silence. The bugler ended the silence with "Rouse", after which a steward climbed some steps and blew his whistle. This prompted the revving of bike engines for around twenty seconds until he blew his whistle again to signal engines to stop (not everyone heard it though!). At this point a number of RBLRB bikes with "colours" attached fired up and followed a police patrol car and a number of police bikes away towards the A14.

Having been given priority we fell-in behind the lead bikes and rode slowly down the slip road towards the East bound carriageway leading to Cambridge. There we waited for the police to stop the traffic back up the A14, to allow all 600 bikes to filter onto the carriageway, and follow the patrol car towards Cambridge on the inside lane at around 35 mph. It was an impressive sight, but probably not much fun for those sitting in their vehicles being held up on the A14.

Travelling along at 30 to 35 on the dual carriageway in the blazing



sun is something one would normally try hard to avoid, but today, in this situation,



it didn't seem to matter. In fact, one felt proud to be part of this whole event because of what it meant and the reasons for doing it. As we tootled along the carriageway nearing the outskirts of Cambridge, my attention was obviously drifting, and I certainly wasn't looking in my mirrors, because I almost fell off the



bike as a couple of police BMW riders flew past us in the outside lane. Impressive!! They were obviously enjoying themselves as they made their way to the front of the parade to block off access roads further on.

We were now entering the outskirts of Cambridge and as we approached a red traffic light, we just carried on through with the police outriders blocking the other roads; great stuff! The roads were lined with spectators waving and cheering, thoroughly enjoying the sunshine and the spectacle before them. Of course we returned the waves, almost feeling like royalty, as we basked in the adulation.

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When we reached the entrance to the American Cemetery and Memorial, the whole car park filled up with bikes over the next 20-30 minutes and we made our way towards the memorial building and 'wall of the missing'. I have lived in Suffolk all my life but this was my first visit to the cemetery.

I spent a while reading some of the 5,127 names etched into the wall; American service men and women who went missing during the second world war. In addition there are 3,812 service personnel, who lost their lives over Britain, buried in the cemetery nearby, each marked by a white cross. My contemplations were broken with the sound of the bugler once again sounding the "Last Post" and another two minutes silence. It was again followed by "Rouse" this time being played by a service bandsman. There followed a service of remembrance including the laying of wreaths, readings and prayers lead by ex service personnel including a member of Bedford Branch CMA, and an address by a local clergyman (sorry I can't remember the names).

A fitting tribute to all who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

On our way home, we were able to reflect on the day's events and, more importantly, on what it cost the many service men and women who lost their lives or were badly injured serving their country, that we might enjoy the freedom we do today.

We certainly hope to attend again this year and would encourage anyone else in the area to join us on Saturday June 28th 2014. Further details can be found on the AMRR web site at <http://www.alliedride.org/index.php/uk-home> including photos from last year's event.



Used Helmets Required

Andy & Naomi Hogan (CMA UK Mercandise)

Have you ever wondered what to do with your old helmet? We know we have; you don't really want to throw away that helmet you spent a small fortune on. However, there comes a day when a new helmet is required, so what do you do with your old one?

We might have a solution for you

Naomi's brother, Andrew Newlove, is a missionary in the Philippines where motorbikes are becoming very popular as a regular mode of transport. Andrew and his family are working in some deprived areas of Northern Luzon. Recently, he ran a mission in Palo, near Tacloban, the area devastated by the huge typhoon that we all saw on the news. He took a team of young men who had just completed an Alpha Course, where they learned about the saving grace of Jesus and were baptised. Some of these young men had previously been in trouble with the police



for burglary and petty theft, as they stole to provide food for themselves. However, on hearing the call to go to Tacloban, they gladly went with Andrew to help rebuild the lives of those worse off than themselves. These boys now need a livelihood to stay away from a life of c r i m e . Andrew has got seven of them student permits, the equivalent of our Provisional License, so they can learn to ride motorcycles. Once the test is passed, they can drive a "tricycle", a Filipino taxi consisting of a motorcycle and sidecar.

This is where you come in. The Philippines now requires all motorcycle "drivers", but sadly not passengers, to wear a helmet. There are, however, no laws about the quality, so they are wearing helmets, if you can call them that, that are glued together, without any internal foam/insulation and are proving to be "unhelpful" in the event of an accident. We are willing to collect helmets on behalf of Andrew and his family to ship over there to help these young boys and local pastors ride around safely, all part of providing them a hope and future.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Andrew and family are in the UK until early May 2014. If you would like them to come and visit your CMA group or Church to share what they have been doing in the Philippines then please feel free to contact Andy or Naomi Hogan to pass on your details.

Picture of Andy & Naomi's niece reproduced with permission

Christmas Charity Fund Raising Ride, Colchester

Brian Carbonero

On 20th December, 2013, a number of us from Most of Essex, Suffolk and also Norfolk CMA branches went along to support Colchester MAG's annual charity ride in aid of a local children's charity. I say annual, but the bad weather in recent years has meant it hasn't always taken place. This year, although some rain was forecast, there was no snow or ice and so it could go ahead as planned.

We all met up at the Bungalow Diner at Marks Tey, just off the A12. It has

explaining clearly which charity we were collecting for, so that people didn't think a bunch of bikers were trying to extort money out of people. Fortunately it stayed dry right until the end of our two hour collection period, by which time over £400 had been raised. We then rode



down to the Stepping Stones children's charity to hand over the money and refresh ourselves with a cuppa and mince pies.

Some photos are shown here, but if you want to see more then just type "Christian Motorcyclists Association MESS" into your Internet browser, and our Facebook page will be one of the first items that comes up. Then just select "photos" and "albums" - you can see them even if you are not part of Facebook.



recently been refurbished as a 1950's-themed American diner and provided the chance to have a cuppa (or something more substantial) before we set off. It also meant that a couple of other motorcyclists who hadn't come across CMA before could chat with us and find out why we have crosses on our backs.



We all then rode into Colchester together, getting lots of curious looks and waves when people saw us and our bikes decorated with a festive theme. MAG had arranged a license to allow us to collect money for two hours on the high street immediately outside the town hall. We were armed with signs

As always, it was great to get involved in supporting a local charity alongside other motorcyclists. I know many other branches are also involved in similar events, but if you are reading this and you haven't been along to something like this before, I would strongly recommend you look out for the next charity ride in your area.



**The deadline for submissions for the next edition is
31st August, 2014**

When you talk, you repeat what you already know; when you listen, you often learn something.

Jaren Sparks

It was a bold man that first ate an oyster.

Jonathan Swift

A glad heart makes a happy face.

Proverbs 15:13



In our Chainlink magazine we try to include articles that will help you see that as Christian Bikers we have a relationship with Jesus Christ and that it is the most important thing in our lives, even second to riding bikes!

We haven't always been Christians though; there was a time in our lives when we considered how much God loves us and then responded to it personally.

But you might ask, how can we have a relationship with Jesus? By being good? No, because we could never be good enough. Well, how then? The Bible clearly states that the one thing that creates a barrier between God and us is our 'sin'. In other words, the things we do wrong. God loves you and I so much that He wanted to forgive us and begin a relationship with us, but He had to deal with the sin first.

So out of love for you, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth, to die on a cross to pay for the sins of the world, then rise again three days later. He hadn't done anything wrong, but He would be held responsible for your sins and mine. It hardly seems fair, does it, that Jesus should pay for the debt I owe, but He did. All that we are required to do is believe that He died for our sin and ask God to forgive us.

It seems so incredibly simple that it can't be true, but that doesn't change the fact that it is.

You can begin a relationship with Jesus Christ today, right now.

God will hear your prayer. If you have never prayed before, try this :

Lord Jesus, You died on the cross so that my sins could be forgiven. I want You to come into my life and take charge. Please forgive all the wrong things I have done, make me clean and fill me with Your Holy Spirit to live the life you want me to live. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer for the first time and meant it from the heart, well done.

You may not feel any different at first, but it will be a good idea to tell the person who gave you this magazine. With God's help you need to find a good church that can offer you the support, understanding and friendship you need. You are now part of God's family. God Bless you,

Mike FITTON
National Chairman CMA UK

We want to support you too, so get in touch with us at:
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LE11 9AR
Free Phone 0800 0154479

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www.bike.org.uk



The maps are published by Roy O'Hara, a member of the CMA. Profit from sales are going to CMA National funds. Members also get a good discount. Phone 0800 0154479 and leave a message.

Also available for Western Europe & London Street Map
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Christian Motorcyclists' Association



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