



CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association UK

Autumn 2023



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Issue no. 79

AUTUMN 2023

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From the Editor's Travels

As I write this, it's a little warmer than back home. Location: Vancouver, Washington, USA. Our youngest daughter's new baby still hasn't appeared to the world. He doesn't know what he's missing – the Autumn scenery is amazing.

We've made contact with the local CMA USA Chapter – their next meeting is just a couple of miles away. I'll keep you posted.

Well, I made it to the chapter meeting, good fellowship, made some new friends. I also had a very generous offer of using a BMW GS 800 while in Vancouver, resulting in a great ride to Mt St Helens, an 8,000ft volcano, through some amazing forest-like scenery in Washington State.

Our new baby grandson was born just after the chapter meeting. What an eventful day – one of those milestone occasions like God's people Israel had – when they could look back and remember how the Lord worked a miracle never to be forgotten. Events like that help cement our relationship with the *Lord our Provider* and remind us that He watches over us day and night – see Steph's article on page 35.

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

John

'He gives us each
day our daily bread'
Matthew 6



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

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

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

**'I'm just a nobody,
trying to tell everybody
All about Somebody,
Who saved my soul'**

I'm Just a Nobody

Mike Fitton, National Chairman, CMA UK

On Monday 23rd October, I had the privilege of attending the funeral of Steve Payne, a loyal and passionate member of East Midlands Branch.

I left home early that morning. The bike screen said it was 2°C but I enjoyed the three-hour ride before meeting with branch members at a McD*** restaurant not far from the crematorium. It gave me a chance to catch up with everyone that could make it and pray before we set off to meet up with Steve's wife Elaine at their home, then ride behind the hearse.

Leading up to the funeral, Sandy and I prayed specifically that

the 'Truth of God's Peace' would surround and sustain Elaine and their wider family throughout that difficult day and in the months ahead. I describe it as the 'Truth of God's Peace' because that is exactly what it is – **the truth**. The Bible is full of promises that we can rely on and every time we take the opportunity to share them, God turns up and makes a huge difference. **Do you believe that?** I hope you do.

The

Apostle Paul put it this way in his letter to the Philippians. He was



writing to believers in Philippi who were experiencing hardship and he wanted them in that tough time to see God's glory.

Philippians 4:6-7 reads, *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

Notice the Bible says this **peace** will exceed **anything** we can understand. Something only God can do!

So many bikers have said that when CMA prayed for them during a difficult time, perhaps a death of a loved one or a frightening medical diagnosis, they felt **'a strange kind of peace'**. All we are doing is inviting God to make Himself known to them and He does, even if they don't quite understand it yet!

I often ask bikers, "Can I pray for you?" Usually, they say, "I'm not religious, but, 'Yes'."

By asking, I am saying, "I know God can change the situation you are facing".

By agreeing, they are saying, "God help me."

God understands that kind of response; it reflects the **hope** we have in Christ.

Steve's funeral went very well, he had clearly impacted the lives of his friends and family with a life and memories that will never be forgotten. But there was one thing about Steve that will be remembered above all and that is his steadfast, consistent faith in God – even when he faced the diagnosis that his cancer would be terminal. That's when the promises of God's Word showed Steve they were real.

As I left the funeral tea at 6pm to begin my journey home, I praised God that Steve and Elaine had put their trust in the Lord and would one day be reunited in Heaven. That doesn't underestimate the loss Elaine, Steve's family and CMA feels, but God's peace carries us forward.

Riding north, I began to think of the verse that Paul wrote to the church in Corinth:

"For the message of the cross is foolishness [absurd and illogical] to those who are perishing and spiritually dead [because they reject it], but to us who are being saved [by God's grace] it is [the manifestation of] the power of God".

1 Corinthians 1:18 (Amplified Bible)

It made me think of the many funerals I have attended over the years I have been in CMA and I wondered how many attending those services have heard the **true** message of the saving grace of God through faith in Christ. Perhaps they stopped to consider the **truth** that Jesus is the **only Way** by which we can be saved, and that God loves them. I hope that they have taken time to consider it since. Funerals may seem like the end, but I believe they may be the beginning of a journey in faith for those that attend.

There was a period of my life when I was spiritually dead and gave no thought to God but the day I surrendered my life to Christ in 1978, I have known without a doubt the message of the cross—even when preached at funerals—is the power of God to save and, like you, I want bikers to know it too. I won't give up on that until the very last moment.

Sandy and I love the Casting Crowns songs, especially 'Nobody' – it sums up the ministry of CMA:

*I'm just a nobody
trying to tell everybody
All about Somebody
who saved my soul
Ever since You rescued me,
You gave my heart a song to sing.
I'm living for the world to see
nobody but Jesus.'*

A note to Elaine and family

I'm so grateful that we were able to attend the celebration of Steve's life.

We will continue to pray for you all in the months ahead.

With love from everyone in CMA.

God Bless you as you reach out to the motorcycle community in your area.

I pray they see nobody but Jesus. †

Official Stuff...

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

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



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Salt and Light Rally 2024

Steve Clarke, **Suffolk Branch**

Hi John,

Thank you for publishing the article about this summer's Salt & Light Rally in the summer edition of Chainlink. My Suffolk brothers and sisters were amused to see that I've been transferred to Sussex Branch, and most of them think that would be a very good idea.

I wonder if you would mind including a few lines in the next edition to let your readers know that everyone is welcome at next summer's Salt & Light Rally. It will be held on the 21st to 23rd June 2024 at Sizewell Hall Christian Conference Centre, Leiston IP16 4TX on the Suffolk coast. The cost will be £40 per person (£75 per married couple) plus £7 per breakfast and £8 per evening meal. It is a camping weekend so everyone should bring a tent, caravan, or camper van.

Please note that the Salt & Light Rally is two weeks before the National Rally, and is most emphatically **NOT** intended as an alternative to it. If anyone only has the time or the funds to attend one, it **MUST** be the National.

Anyone interested should email me at chair.suffolk@bike.org.uk and I will send them a registration form.

Many thanks,

Steve Clarke
Chairman
Suffolk Branch

***My sincere apologies, Steve,
for transferring you to Sussex
Branch! What a travesty!***

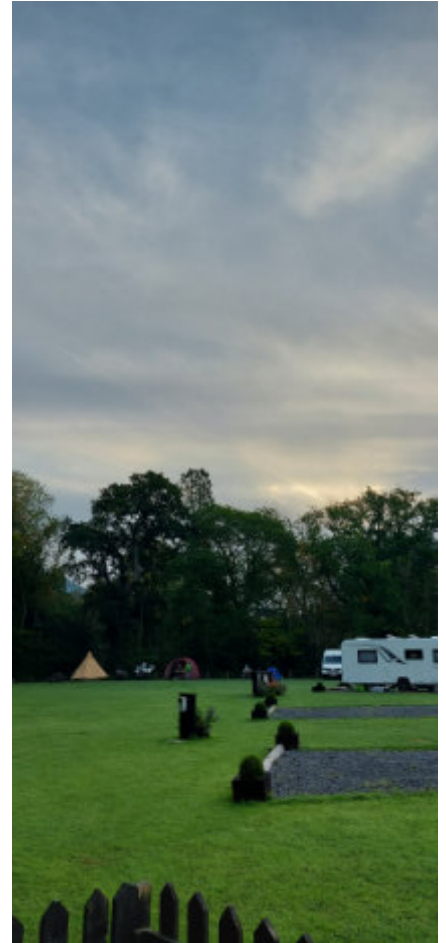


Len's Run

Anne Egan, Bristol Branch

Len's Run – Bristol Branch's Annual Camp in Dolau Afon, Nr Aberystwyth.

I arrived on the Monday before the official weekend with Steve, my husband, in the car and me on the bike. We had over-nighted in Cardiff with our son and daughter-in-law and so took the beautiful A470 road from Cardiff, stopping at West End Café, Llandovery for a late lunch. We took possession of *The Cottage*, which is positioned on the edge of the campsite at Dolau Afon, around 5pm. It had been a very warm ride for me so I pottered across the campsite in my cozy and dryrobe to the gate in the corner and walked down the short footpath to the river which curves around two sides of the site. Once my temperature had been restored by the river to a more normal level I was ready to unpack my case and have some supper.



On the Tuesday we both ended up on two wheels, not the motorised kind, to explore the Elan Valley from the Visitor's Centre up the valley, along the old railway, to the Pen y Garreg dam.

On Wednesday we took to four wheels and headed up the coast stopping at Corris Craft Centre just north of Machynlleth for some truly wonderful cake. We pulled in to Machynlleth on the way back to try and find out more about this 'ancient capital of Wales'. It was the seat of Owen Glyndwr's Welsh Parliament in 1404, and as such has a right to make this claim. We were disappointed to find no museum or centre explaining the history. The ancient meeting rooms are now a bookshop and café with only a passing reference to all that went on of importance so many centuries ago. We did however chance upon the Machynlleth Museum of Modern Art – who'd have thought it? Along with their standing exhibition, they were hosting a show of 2D work by local artists – there were some really good pieces amongst it. Also on display was a very interesting exhibition of the life and work of Laura Ashley, who, it turns out, was a local. She built and ran her business just down the road and her factory was a major employer in the area.

Having had our cultural top-up we returned to the cottage to 'dress for dinner' – fish and chips on the promenade at Aberystwyth with an old biking buddy of mine who I hadn't seen for years. She and I had ended up as room mates on the so-called 'Sparkle Tour' many years ago (this was back in my Harley days) and had stayed in touch ever since. The Sparkle Tour was a *Ladies of Harley* weekend tour of around 500-600 miles each year. She still rides her Harley Street Bob and we'd kept in touch through the normal medium of Facebook but this was a first proper catch-up since my last tour with the Harley girls in 2018.

We completed a section of the Welsh coastal path on Thursday, Steve taking the Cliff Railway back down to the sea front to preserve his knees. I strode off down the path nonchalantly, but sped up when I was out of sight so I could arrive first at the bottom (to be fair, he'd have done the same if the roles had been reversed).

Len's Run campers started arriving at the campsite from mid-afternoon. We weren't to be at full compliment until Saturday, but there was curry for fourteen delivered to the site from a local pub, so anyone who wanted food could have it. In the end

there were three portions left over so two of our number doubled down and the last offering was given to a random, happy and hungry camper in the field.

Along with a number of others Chris Marlow (East Midlands) was too ill to join us this year – people were dropping like flies! We missed him leading our ride on the Friday. I was asked to step in and as I hadn't had time to prepare anything particular it had to be roads I already knew. David Moon (South Wales) arrived first thing and we headed off for a breakfast start at the promenade on Aberystwyth sea front. This was followed by the twisty route along the ridge to Devil's Bridge to pick up the Hafod road to the Elan Valley visitors' centre for lunch. Then back along the main Rayadar to Aberystwyth road turning off to Devil's Bridge again for an ice cream stop at Two Hoots Café. Finally home to the campsite via the normal u-bends for a swim in the river. Penny and I were the only takers for this wonderful opportunity to cool down, the others were less enamoured with the idea – they don't know what they missed although, credit where it's due, Jamie (Hampshire & Surrey Borders) did go in the sea in the morning after breakfast. By this time Liz and Alan (Bristol) had joined our ranks and we

bundled all except one camper in cars to drive to the local Miner's Arms (where four of our group were staying) for a buffet supper. Chris Houghton (South Lancs) had volunteered to ride so others could have a lift. Kudos Chris!

On Saturday we were to be joined by three Christian bikers from Cardiff. Unfortunately they encountered bike problems and were unable to get to us. We very much hope they may join us on another occasion.

The campsite owners took their newly refurbished BMW outfit and led an amazing ride around little used roads and tracks. I did not join them this year so I will let Penny (Bristol) tell that story:

[This year Vernon's \(campsite owner\) route took us over the Cambrian Mountains on the Abergwesyn Pass, a single track route from Tregaron to Llanwrtyd Wells, descending the Devils Staircase on the way with its steep awesome hairpin bends with 1:1 camber. The views across the wild landscape were absolutely spectacular although you didn't really have too much time to take your eyes off those mountain roads! From Abergwesyn to](#)





Llanwrtyd the route followed the winding River Irfon before joining the A483, and heading south east to Llandovery where we had lunch at the multi award winning Owl's Nest biker's cafe. Our return trip was a little shorter. From Llandovery, we travelled along the Towy river valley passing through the small village of Rhandirmwyn, and over the little bridge at the remote and popular Towy Bridge Inn. Apparently, according to Vernon, 'they serve a cracking Buffalo Burger'. We then continued further along the valley passing through the villages of Cwrt-y-Cadno, Ffarmers, Llanycrwys, then up over the mountain to Llanfair Glydogau and Llanddewi Brefi before finally returning through Tregaron to the Campsite. What an amazing route! Penny.

All I can say is that everyone came back with big smiles on their faces.

Steve and I had spent the day doing the food shop for the BBQ and taking a nice level walk

along the river that ran around the campsite. One more river swim with Penny and then our evening BBQ to close the day.

Despite the forecast for the next day we managed our Sunday meeting in the dry. We shared how God had blessed us and spoken to us over the weekend. We sang a song of praise based on Psalm 121 and Jamie shared a poem. We prayed each other off and headed home.

I made it home mostly in the dry. I think most of the others got caught in a downpour at some point but some were able to wait it out in the dry at Owl's Nest on the way home. This may have contributed to the failure of Tony's (Bristol) starter motor near Abergavenny, which necessitated quite a wait for the AA Recovery before eventually arriving home safely as it got dark on Sunday evening.

It was a pleasure to spend time with Christian bikers from across the country and we continue to pray for those who could not make it this year due to illness. God willing, there will be another Len's Run next year. 🙏

The Machine

Dave Finan, North Yorks & Coast Branch

Riding for the Son series of odes and poems

Father, every day I am reminded of all that you have blessed me with, the people in my life, my health, my wealth, my journeys with you.

When I look at my bike I am reminded –

The wheels will take me where you want me to go. Sometimes stationary and at other times moving me always forward.

The fuel in the tank is how you fill me with your Holy Spirit to give me all I need to do your will.

The engine can move me fast or slow, may I always ride at your pace.

The mirrors, only small, remind me that I need to look forward and not dwell on what is behind. Stop going over past mistakes, and remember I am not perfect just forgiven.

The seat is a comfort and reminds me to rest in you. The Pillion reminds me you are always with me, I am never alone.

The handlebars direct my life and hold me steady as I move through the twists and turns of life. You always guide me and enable me to take the right road.

The suspension is your still small voice in my ear, steadying me as I ride over life's ups and downs.

The headlight takes away my fears as it breaks through the darkness, bringing your wonderful light,

The chain, it holds together, like you it runs smooth under pressure.

The brakes, you tell me when to slow down, and make sure I am in the right position to ride through each obstacle.

The crash bars, if I do fall over (and I often do) you protect me and help me to get back up again.

The battery, sometimes I get low on my charge, I need a refill from you to turn my engine.

The indicators, sometimes on a journey I am reminded I need to pull over, to be patient and to pray, before turning back to the road again.

Every day I am reminded of all that you have blessed me with. I thank you, Lord that I can ride for you, you provide for all my needs, and I thank you that I can share the good news of your kingdom. You are the God of second chances and the God of forgiveness.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised by life.' I can only ride for you.

D Finan, October 2023 

Oliver's Mount Gold Cup (Real People)

George & Caz Laws, Tyne & Wear Branch

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

With two days of racing ahead, our plan was to talk to people and explain that there is a God who can help them with the burdens they carry. Sounds easy and I never thought I would have the courage to be able to do this but... in God's strength, not mine, I set out with prayer and love in my heart. What could go wrong?

Arriving at Oliver's Mount, the first thing we realised was that we had no tin opener in the campervan. Caz asked two blokes and a woman in the campervan next to us if we could borrow theirs. The first man said jokingly, "It'll cost you fifty quid," and laughed. The second bloke added, "I'd prefer a bottle of whisky, or maybe just a shot," then headed back into their campervan to look for a tin opener. He found an old-fashioned one and laughed when he gave it to her. She thankfully accepted it, and I opened all our tins, so we didn't have to ask again.

Caz talked to them and gave them a card and CMA keyring. At least they knew who we were.

Trade Village Stalls (George)

Caz talked to a woman stallholder and her husband about the signed photos of known riders she was selling. When we left, I said I thought she'd have given them a CMA card. Caz needed time to think and pray about this then wrote,

'Thanks for the convo. From Caz & George. <>> God bless.'

Then when she was ready, she returned and gave the woman and man, and a photographer called Steve MacDonald (who I knew from previous meetings) a CMA card and keyring each. As Caz left, she said, 'God bless' to them all.

Events Tent (Caz)

George and I were sitting listening to a live band, playing Americano music. As we sat,



we noticed the people entering and leaving the tent. Most were wearing a variety of coats and jackets depicting previous events they had attended or motorcycle manufacturers they supported. This covered everything from Kawasaki shirts and caps to Ducati jackets and coats. Previous TT events were represented as



well as Sturgis and Daytona Bike Week tee shirts from the more adventurous – each person bringing their history and allegiance with them, just like us with our crosses on the back of our 'cuts'. There was one chap dressed in a gold onesie, who seemed to be having a good time. 'Each to his own', that's what I say. Witnessing in the 'biker world' I've seen a lot worse.

Three men in their sixties approached our table, looking hopeful. One of the group, the

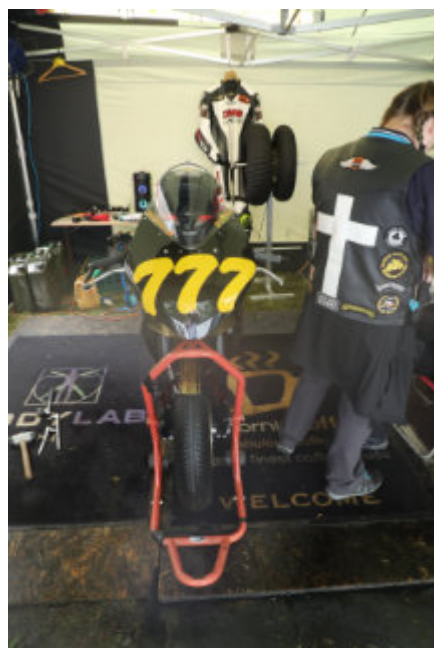
eldest, about 65-70yrs, needed a seat. We found three seats and George introduced himself, shaking their hands. They reciprocated and we were introduced to John, Jeff and another bloke called Derek, who sat next to George. He said he enjoyed motocross racing whereas the other two men liked road and track racing.

I asked them if they rode themselves and John said he rode a 250 Suzuki. Once we all got chatting, I felt led to tell them about CMA. I gave them all CMA cards and keyrings, which they all gratefully accepted. 'Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity.'

Paddock (Caz)

Lee and I sheltered from the rain in the café on the outside tables and chairs after managing to make our way down the vast number of steps from Quarry Hill to the Mere Hairpin and into the paddock. While Lee was in the queue, I noticed an elderly man waving at me. Eventually I went over and realised it was John who I had met in the events tent the previous night. Amazing! Of all the places to go, we managed to bump into each other again. Lee returned and I introduced him to John. Then Jeff and Derek walked past and joined us. We all chatted for several minutes then, as the rain had stopped, left to watch the racing.

As we walked past the competitor's gazebos, I noticed a bike with the number 777 on it. The bike was owned and ridden by Dave Walsh. As a conversation starter I asked him why the three sevens as a



number. He told me he normally raced in Ireland as number seven but in England someone else had that number, so he put a seven either side giving him the number 777. I explained what 777 meant and what 666 meant, which he said he never knew. I gave him and his crew CMA cards and keyrings and told him we would pray for a safe race, which he thanked us for.

Sidecar Paddock

As it started to rain again, we ducked into a gazebo in the sidecar paddock. After asking if we could come in, we got talking to two blokes and a woman, one of their wives, sitting around a large motorbike and sidecar. I gave them all CMA cards and keyrings after talking about their outfit and being shown how it operates. I said we'd pray for them to have a good and safe race. It shouldn't surprise me, but they were more than welcoming and accepted the gifts and offers of prayer.

We bumped into Steve and Matty Ramsden and talked to them for a while, introducing them to Lee. We've given the Ramsden's CMA cards, keyrings and Biker Bibles before so thanked them and moved on. We were told 'The Preacher', Andy Haynes, had a gazebo at the end of the row so we stopped and spoke to him. He said he had a Biker Bible, so I gave him a CMA card and keyring for him and his sidecar partner. I said I'd pray for a good and safe race for them, and he thanked me. As I left, I noticed his knee slider, which racers who are in the 'chair' have on their bum, had a cross on it.

At the Fence (Caz)

Standing at the fence at Esses, I spoke to a woman called Gina and her partner, as well as her friend Jonny. George was on

the opposite side of the track with the Marshals taking photographs. Her partner asked if George was my husband as I'd passed George a fleece to warm him up, and this opened the conversation between us. Gina said she recognised my accent and asked if I was from Sunderland, as her birth family were from there. She told me she and her partner now lived in Hull.

Their friend, who was drinking cider, said his twin brother committed suicide two years ago and it was the anniversary of his death coming up. He told me it had always been his brother who had liked watching motorbike racing. This was his first time at a motorbike race, but he did watch a lot on TV. I said I was sorry to hear of his twin brother's death and prayed for him. Eventually the man told me Gina was his partner.

Gina said she was 'in recovery' but didn't embellish and I didn't ask. I said I used to teach English and Maths to people addicted to drugs and alcohol and they both nodded. He told me I was doing a great job and thought that most people wouldn't work with people with addictions. I said I'd always worked with people who others wouldn't work with, such as PRU (Pupil Referral Units). Gina nodded and said she knew about PRU's but once again didn't embellish and I didn't ask.

I told them briefly about CMA and what we did and Gina said she went to church a lot. Her partner said he'd gone to church for the first time last week and had enjoyed it and would be going back.

I said, 'That's great' and gave all three CMA cards and keyrings. Gina said she'd look at the CMA website when she could get Wi-Fi.

On Gina's card I wrote 'Keep on keeping on with Jesus. God Bless'. They all said, 'Thank

you' and Gina's partner said he'd put the keyring on a keychain when he moved into his new place in a couple of weeks. Gina's partner who was drinking a pint, though out of our conversation, seemed a little drunk as he leaned on the fence.

At about 11.30 George went off to take photos at another location near the start line. After reading in the campervan, our home for the past few days, for a quick exit in case it rained and there was a rush to leave, I went to the top of Sheene's Rise. I stood next to two men in their late 60's, one wearing a cowboy hat. I got chatting about the races coming up and asked if they were enjoying themselves. After a few minutes the man farthest away from me got a bag of hot doughnuts and offered me one. I offered to pay but he said, 'No

thanks', so I offered him a CMA card. He shook his head and said,

'If you don't mind, no thanks.' I said it's just a card and showed him the CMA patch on my cut. He said in a matter-of-fact way that he'd had enough of religion when he was a kid and didn't want anything to do with it. 'All my family are religious, and they've tried shoving it down my neck for years.' I asked if they were Catholic and he said, 'No, Methodist, and they're worse.' I didn't take the CMA card back when he tried to give it back, so he just kept holding on to it. When I offered him a keyring he said, 'No, it's alright,'

I just said, 'Okay.
I'll leave it
here on
the

fence.' A minute later he picked up the card and keyring and discreetly put them in his jacket pocket. I asked him if his friend would accept a card and keyring.

He said, 'Probably not'. So, I offered them to his friend and he immediately accepted them putting them into his jacket pocket. We chatted for a while about racing as the man with the cowboy hat told me he hadn't been

to
Oliver's



Mount in 40 years. After the sidecar race, where Steve and Matty Ramsden on the LCR Honda 600 came second, I said I was going. They smiled and said, 'Bye' and I left.

Results

Dean Harrison on a Yamaha R6 600 won the Gold Cup, with Adam McLean coming in second. For me the biggest

surprise was in the Classic Superbikes race. Dean Harrison won on a Ducati 916 but in the same race, in a different category, Dave Walsh on his number 777 Kramer 690 was overall third on the road, but second in the Super Mono class ahead of Republic of Ireland rider Derek Sheils on his 750 Suzuki. God was with him.

Hebrews 4:12 says, 'For the

word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.' If we believe that the Word of God is alive and active then we need to get it out there among bikers as a matter of urgency. What we can't do in our own strength, the Word of God can do. ✝



Gloucester Branch has a Canon

Alexandra Dyer, Gloucester Branch

Hi, my name is Alexandra. Amongst other things I am the Gloucester Branch Secretary, Licensed Lay Reader in the Gloucester Diocese, and now Honorary Lay Canon.

It was a shock and surprise to receive a letter with an invitation from Bishop Rachel and Dean Andrew to become an Honorary Lay Canon of Gloucester Cathedral and a member of the College of Canons. As far I knew, such an honour was bestowed on clergy and long serving clergy at that, or so I thought. I am a Lay Minister (not

ordained) with 18 years of service but somehow, in recognition of my ministry in the diocese, I was sent the invitation to become a Canon. I of course humbly accepted.

As Christians we are guided by God and do what we do for Him out of love and obedience. So, for



my ministry to be noticed and noted by the Bishop and the Dean was just amazing.

For those of you who don't know, Canons are ambassadors of the Diocese to the Cathedral and ambassadors of the Cathedral to the Diocese. The College of Canons is part of the governance of the Cathedral Foundation which includes the Chapter and the Choral Foundation. Ooh, I love to sing so that's good. We address theological or missional topics and meet at least three times a year. So, the Lay part is because I am not ordained. The Honorary part does not mean that I have a title and do nothing. Far from it. It refers to the fact that Gloucester Cathedral is not my home church where I minister. I asked other Canons and they tell me that the College is rather hard working so there will be no slacking!

I was installed, yes like a boiler, as a Canon on Friday 8th September 2023 during Choral Evensong. It was an amazing service. I like a bit of pomp, ceremony and robes and the service did not disappoint. I now have a set of Canon robes to wear when I'm at the Cathedral and my very own seat. During the service the Dean led me by the hand (a strange little dance) to my stall and literally pushed me down into the seat and, voila,



I was installed. What this means is that when I attend Evensong and someone is in my seat I can ask them to move. Not sure I could do that although it is my seat, but I think I would be too embarrassed to say anything. It is only a seat after all and I can enjoy the service from anywhere.

I won't bore you with the details of the service. There were legal words, a letter I gave to the Dean, I swore an oath and read the first reading. The second reading was read by the second Honorary Lay Canon also being installed on Friday.

Are there any perks? Not really. A Canon only means something in the church and nothing on civvy street. If I had an application form to fill in, I could now put Canon instead of Mrs. I have changed my email signature though.

Has becoming a Canon changed me? Yes, I think it has. I now think twice about what I do and say, as I am now an Ambassador.

So, what's next? Well, I think I'll try to put a canon on the outfit.

Canon Alexandra Dyer

Gloucester Branch Secretary †



Small but powerful

Brian Carbonero, Essex Branch

Almost a year ago when Mike and Sandy Fitton visited to provide some training to our local Branches, Mike mentioned that another Branch had done up a bike to use at local bike events on their stand. It had a backdrop of a road going off into the distance, and visitors to their stand could sit on the bike and have photos taken by their friends or family.

My first reaction was that it sounded like a good idea but doing up a motorbike sounded like a big project. Then I noticed that in the photo it was Sandy sitting on the bike, and it was in fact a mini moto... (yes, I know I'll be in trouble for that comment!).

Before long we had got ourselves a non-running mini moto from a certain online auction site. It was a bit of a mess, with various bits of



broken bodywork, peeling stickers and some of the fittings having seen better days. Undeterred, we set to work, stripping it down to see what was what and to identify what needed to be repaired, improved, or replaced. If you're considering doing something similar, take lots of photos of everything as you go – they are invaluable when you come to put things back together again, perhaps months later!

Having cleaned it up, repaired the broken bodywork, replaced the screen and front mudguard, we decided to respray it in the colours

from the CMA logo – yellow, red and blue. We also bought a second-hand children's toy motorbike throttle grip attached to a mechanical soundbox, which is intended to replace a handlebar grip on a bicycle. With a bit of bodgery that Heath Robinson would be proud of, it was tucked behind the engine and modified to run off the mini moto's throttle twist grip. When twisted it gives off a passable motorbike engine noise, although which motorbike it sounds like is up for debate...

Shower curtains with suitable scenery were found to be the best option for a reasonably tough and weatherproof backdrop and a sturdy wooden base was built that grips the mini moto's rear wheel to give it stability. It's first use was on our stand at the Essex Air Ambulance



Run & Family Fun Day on 10th September. This is the largest event in our local calendar, attracting thousands of motorcyclists, but also many local people and their families.

The mini moto was a real hit, with several parents having difficulty in



persuading their child to get off and to let someone else have a go! It was in use most of the time, helped to attract more people to the stand





and gave us more opportunities for conversation. Overall it has been a great addition alongside the full-sized bikes we normally have on display.

Many thanks to Mike for the original suggestion and in particular Jimmy, Phil and Magali in our Essex Branch for their work on this project. I don't know which branch had the other

mini moto that was the inspiration for our one, but if you're reading this and had a hand in that one you may like to write an article for Chainlink and let us know all about it. ✚



Broken Bike...

Dave Lock, Lakes 'n' Lancs

...a good thing or a bad thing?

When we consider the good and bad things we experience in our lives, they can be very significant ups & downs which can impact our mood to a large degree. However, when we consider them in the light of scripture should they really be a problem?

Apostle Paul says this in Romans 8:28, *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'*

He also says this in Philippians 4:11-13, *'I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.'*

Well as you can see from the pictures, I had this thorny issue to wrangle with when the chain snapped on my bike heading onto the M6 motorway. I was on my way home after our branch prayer meeting one Friday evening in May. Sitting at the side of the motorway as the late spring light faded away with no street lighting was something of an isolating experience, thankfully the weather

was quite warm and I didn't have to wait too long for the recovery truck to turn up.

That was when the evening got quite interesting. The young lad driving the truck started by saying he didn't think he'd be able to help since he had no experience of tying down a bike on the flat bed he was driving. I suggested I may have enough experience to take care of that problem, so we got the bike loaded and tied down before setting off. As we travelled, we began to converse and the lad said it was bad luck that my bike broke down and asked about the cross on my back. I explained to him about CMA and my Christian faith, he simply said he could not accept the existence of a God owing to all the stuff he'd seen in his life. He then moved on to open up about his life, his military service and experiences.

As he talked, I prayed asking the Holy Spirit to give me words and pictures to share with him. He explained about his tours of duty in the army in various places around the world. These were, I noted, peace keeping roles in the main and in quite hostile areas. I felt the Spirit prompt me to draw attention to those facts. I told him in plain simple language that he was one of the good guys, sent to where the bad guys were doing some very bad things, that he was going to bring good to those who were suffering and that it would be natural for him to see such things in his role at that time. I also pointed out that even in the midst of that he would have seen some good. This confused him, so I suggested a scenario where he was walking down a bombed out desolate road where he suddenly notices a flower at the side of the road. Another





scenario of him faced with a crowd of angry, confused, worried, possibly hostile locals and in their midst one person smiles. At this his face changed and he said, 'those are the moments we never forget'.

He then asked for some serious advice about his relationships and moved on to some deep faith questions which we discussed for some time. Then the conversation turned back to the bike and we again discussed the good and bad of the situation, to which I said I believed it was a good thing. Again, he was confused so I pointed out that even though the chain came off my bike as I was speeding toward the motorway, I had not made it to the actual motorway; the traffic was light and there was nothing behind me. Further, when we consider the possibilities of a chain coming off and potentially locking up the rear wheel or taking out the engine casing or some such, all it did was wind itself around the outer of the rear sprocket harmlessly. The fix the next day was quite simply fitting a rivet link instead of the missing spit link which I believe must have failed and come off the chain, since as you can see from the picture there was no damage to the chain just the two empty holes where it had been. Furthermore, if it had not been for the chain coming off, I would not have been there speaking with him. After all, when else was I going to meet up with him so far from home?



The evening finished with me praying a blessing over him and leaving him with a Biker Bible. I pray that someday he does take some time to read it and meet the Lord.

It also reminds me that we never know what plans the Lord has made and that we should always remember Isaiah 55:8-9:

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.
"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Also, Proverbs 3:5 – *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

And as Peter writes:

'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15'

The Lord Jesus himself said in Mark 13:11 –

'do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.'

And along with Mordecai we can say:

'And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?' Esther 4:14.

May the Lord of heaven's army bless each and every one of us as we go out daily, seeking His will, looking for those He wants to speak to and asking Him by His Spirit to fill us and give us the words and pictures we need to bring them into or at the very least, closer to the Kingdom. Amen! ✝

All scripture quotations from the King James Version

Jesus makes the difference

Steve Wilds, Chair, South Yorks & North Lincs Branch

You may recall that South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire (SYNL) were confirmed as a new branch when we met in Arbroath. Up to that point we were just a few in number as a twig. Now, counting members, supporters and friends we are up to 15. We still have our founding handful, a few supporters on their way to becoming full members and a few who are still checking us out. Truth is, they all seem keen – praise God. So we are off to a flying start.

services there, also their summer fair where we had a stall and gave out Biker Bibles. We were also invited to take a Sunday morning service (15th October). The service went well – so well in fact that they have invited us back for another go – we really felt the presence of God as we gave witness to the Gospel. John Foster led the service, Simon Moore read the scriptures, Eddie led our prayers, Kerry and Grant were interviewed about their faith and I had the privilege of sharing the Word. I can't say they were rocking in the aisles but we did feel that we gave the Gospel and what we all said was well received. We took the theme that 'Jesus makes the difference'. And so He does, whether you



We hold our meetings in Brigg Methodist Church where we were allowed to meet under some respectful level of scrutiny – who are these noisy bikers? We were soon accepted and have attended church

are a biker, a Methodist or both – Jesus makes the difference. It was a delight for us to be together as a branch preaching the word of God and it being well received. After the service we shared in



refreshments – good Methodist tea – great!

So we are off to a good start in SYNL and we are forming some great bonds of friendship as children of God who come together to have fellowship as well as being about our Father's business.

Some of you will know Ted Bell, a long standing CMA member, now with us in SYNL. He indulges in dangerous pursuits besides motorbiking – like climbing ladders. He was carrying out some renovations at his home and promptly fell headlong from the ladder where he was doing some plastering. We were all concerned and I know many of you held him up in prayer – well after completing a period of B&B with the NHS he is now home and recovering – not yet 100% but well on the way. Jesus makes the difference, so thanks for your prayers.

We have started building a rideout into our monthly meetings – we try to meet at 11am one Saturday each month, ride for a few hours then return to Brigg for our meeting. We have also built in some discussion on safe riding as we know a few of our nearby members have had nasty accidents recently. The discussions have gone well and people have remarked that their riding has improved.

On one of our rideouts we found an unused but open old church – it is maintained by a voluntary group and is open for anyone who wishes to use it. So we have used it twice now, holding a communion service



on each of the two occasions and we were blessed as we shared bread and wine as commanded by the Lord. We also had a picnic outside the church provided by our professional baker, John. It was a feast and added to the bonds that bind us together.

So it's going well for a new branch, learning and growing together, giving out Bibles, preaching the Word, witnessing as we can in word, by how we live and by putting Jesus first in all that we are doing – after all Jesus makes the difference. ✝



CMA Shopping – an experience easier than Amazon

Kobus Bensch, CMA UK Merchandise

I took over the CMA UK Merchandise shop in 2021. Since I took over, I have tried to make the shopping experience easier by installing a new web shop. I have updated the payment options and tried to refresh some merchandise. I am also constantly on the lookout for new merchandise however, this can be a very challenging undertaking. I have had some people say that they are experiencing some challenges in using the web shop so I am writing this to try and make it easier overall to use and buy merchandise from the web shop.

Accessing the shop

There are various ways to access the web shop.

The first way is via the CMA UK web page. There is a link at the top that will take you directly to the shop – click on 'MERCHANDISE'.

Your next option is to go directly to the web shop using this link:

<https://shop.bike.org.uk> (type this into your web browser) or use this QR code: →

The third, and most popular way to access the website is with any product link sent via email, in a magazine or a pamphlet. Here are a few examples:

https://shop.bike.org.uk/index.php?id_product=213&rewrite=crown-of-thorns-pin&controller=product

https://shop.bike.org.uk/index.php?id_product=206&id_product_attribute=472&rewrite=cma-patched-with-uk-flag-sweatshirt-and-cross-on-back&controller=product#/4-size-s/12-colour-black

Or a shortened URL like this: <https://bit.ly/3x0IX81>

The important thing to remember is that no matter how you receive a link or access the web shop, you have to have a login to the shop and you must login to see the products. The best way to proceed is usually to first login to the web shop and then access the link you have. This way, it will allow you to access the link and details without getting a page telling you that you do not have permission.

The shop does have some permission restrictions. If you are a member, then you have access to all products. Supporters have access to all products that do not have the CMA Patch on it. There are a few exceptions to this rule. Rather than me listing them all here, if you are a supporter, please have a look.

Getting access to the shop

To access the shop, you must have a login to the web shop. Without a login, you cannot access the shop and therefore cannot see all the excellent products we have on offer. To get access you need to sign up using this link: https://shop.bike.org.uk/index.php?controller=authentication&create_account=1. The shortened version of this link is: <https://bit.ly/3x1mTKI> and if you want the QR code here it is: →

As usual with these things, there is some information that you have to complete when signing up. Here is an explanation of some of the information I need when receiving your request for access: (see following page)



Create an account

Already have an account? [Log in instead](#)

Social title ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs.

First name 1

Only letters and the dot (.) character, followed by a space, are allowed.

Last name 2

Only letters and the dot (.) character, followed by a space, are allowed.

Email 3

Password 4

Birthdate 5

(e.g. 1970-05-01)

Optional

☐ Receive offers from our partners 6

☐ Customer data privacy 7

The personal data you provide is used to answer queries, process orders or allow access to specific information. You have the right to modify and delete all the personal information found in the "My Account" page.

☐ Sign up for our newsletter 8

You may unsubscribe at any moment. For that purpose, please find our contact info in the legal notice.

☐ I agree to the terms and conditions and the privacy policy 9

Member Details

Member/Supporter Number 10

Member Details

* CMA UK Branch / International Chapter 11

SAVE

- 1.) Social title and first name. Basically, what it says on the label.
- 2.) Same here, surname.
- 3.) Your email address is also your login ID for the shop.
- 4.) A good password has UPPER CASE, lower case, numeric and special characters, and is at least 10 characters long. An example of a good password would be 6saCJpbb!
- 5.) You can tell me your birth date if you wish. I won't tell anybody, I promise.
- 6.) I sometimes send emails with special pricing. If you want to see these, tick it. These emails, like any other from Merchandise, are not very regular. So, you will not be spammed.
- 7.) Some GDPR related stuff.
- 8.) Similar to point 6.
- 9.) Similar to point 7.
- 10.) I need your member or supporter number so I can verify your status. Please don't just leave it as S000. Use the one that is on your membership card. Any number that I cannot verify will either not get access (more likely) or you will just get supporter access.
- 11.) Your branch. If your branch is not listed, please let me know and I will add it.

(continued over page)

Once I have received your access request, I will verify it and once done, you will receive an email informing you that you have access to the shop.

■ Buying stuff

Browsing categories:

Once you have a login and you can access the site, there are a few ways you can find stuff to buy. The first is to use the various links at the top of the shop. There are four main categories.

Clothing Accessories Other Clearance

You can browse through these main categories that most likely will contain sub categories, but you will be able to browse all Clothing if you scroll down and look at all the different items on display.

■ Searching for items

Another way you can find stuff is to search for it in the search bar. This is located at the top right-hand corner of the site. You can for example search for *patch*, *fleece*, *hoodie* or *sticker* and you will be presented with a list of possible options. If you click on one of them it will take you to the item.

■ Checking out

Once you have selected your items, you can either go direct to the basket and check out or if you were looking for other items, you can return to your basket at the top right. Once you are ready to proceed to the payment phase, click on *Proceed to checkout*. If this is your first order you will be required to enter a delivery address. If the delivery and billing addresses are different, click on the *Billing address differs from shipping address* to enter your Invoice address. You can also just add another address by clicking on *add new address*.

Clicking on Continue will take you to the Shipping method.

Clicking *Continue* here will take you to the payment section. If your payment method is either *Cheque* or *Bank wire* you will receive details in a separate email. For different payment methods you will receive some emails. Here is what to expect:

Pay online = 1 email

Pay by Cheque = 2 emails

Pay by Bank wire = 2 emails

Pay by Cash on delivery = 1 email

If you have not received these emails, please check your spam folder. You should now be done. If you experience any issues, then please email merchandise@bike.org.uk.

■ Deliveries

All you can do here is to patiently await the arrival of your merchandise. Sometimes it will come really quick. Other times it might take some time. There are various factors for a delayed delivery. It will get to you.

■ Finally

Please be patient. None of the emails you receive from the shop are scams or other ways to steal your money. It is legit, but if you have any concerns it is best to ask. Please be patient and pleasant.

Blessings to you all,

Kobus 🍀

FOR SALE

My bike is a 2011 Green Kawasaki GTR1400. One owner from new, full service history, regularly serviced by Autorama Kawasaki dealership in Batley. I have all receipts. Excellent condition, summer riding only, just over 23,000 miles. Has a radiator guard, extended drop down passenger foot pegs, includes panniers, service book and owners manual. Currently SORNed, MOT until October 2023 but will put another ticket on. Recently serviced, including a shim check. Garaged at all times. Brilliant touring bike. Can test ride in my garage compound. £5500. Halifax 01422358466 preferred contact by phone, mobile 07932483719 or by e-mail knightraider@lineone.net if interested or to arrange a viewing.

I hope that this is enough information, if you need more, please let me know.

Glen Knight



***THIS THIRD OF A PAGE LEFT
INTENTIONALLY BLANK

BUT WE WOULD LOVE TO USE IT
FOR YOUR FUTURE ARTICLE AND
PICTURES!***

Gifted and Called to Service!

Alexandra Dyer, Secretary, Gloucester Branch

We are still here, just about! We are a small branch and for a while we were even smaller when Alan and Liz Robertson stood down as Chair and Vice Chair. Their last meeting with us was at the Branch AGM 2022. It was both a happy and sad meeting as we looked back over what we had accomplished in the previous year, said our goodbyes and planned for the future.

Alan and Liz are now at Bristol Branch where they are taking a well-earned rest from leadership and are thriving in their ministry there. We had a sending off a few months later at *Nature in Art* in Gloucester. They know Liz rather well as she has been the 'Artist in Residence' on more than one occasion.

Alan and Liz looked after Gloucester Branch for three decades. In that time they contributed much to the biking community including leading exciting and interesting rideouts, rallies at Slimbridge and the best garden fireworks party in Gloucester! To celebrate and say 'goodbye' we shared 'food and fellowship' – which was their tag line.



It's been over a year since then. In that time Stewart, my husband, has taken up the mantle of Branch Chair. It was not a hard decision voting him in shortly after the AGM – he was the only one to step up! So, with no competition, 'tag', he is now 'it'. He has a challenging three-year plan which we as a branch have taken on board.

Stewart is supported by me, Alexandra, as Secretary. My qualifications? Well, working in admin as a day job helps. The wedding ring helps too. It's not the longest of CV's but as the phrase goes, 'that'll do'.

Brian is our Treasurer. Thankfully he has a good head for figures and keeps an eye on our finances. He deserves a medal for his recent

endeavour when we had to change our Building Society to a Bank. Normally this takes mere days to accomplish. However, as we are a branch of the CMA and therefore come under the heading of a Registered Charity, this took an unprecedented amount of time, countless emails to the Exec and much hair pulling [I understand – been through all that! Ed]. I am pleased to say that we are now the proud owner of a bank account and Brian's hair is growing back. Well done, Brian. Thank you for persevering.

Colin is our ever-praying Prayer Coordinator. Stalwart and steady, he leads us in prayers at branch meetings and elsewhere. Recently he was part of the prayer team at the Bristol Branch Bike Show. The event was brilliant, a resounding success and the first of many, I'm sure. He has also volunteered to be part of the prayer team during show week for *Jacobs Well*. They are a Christian production company that raises money for charity by putting on faith-based shows. This year it is 'Esther – Queen of Persia' at the Playhouse Theatre in Cheltenham, Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th November 2023.

We are taking our time to find our new rhythm. This usually happens when change occurs. In the meantime, some of the branch are finding additional roles. Colin now also finds himself as our 'Q' (Quartermaster). Need a gazebo, chairs? He's your man. Hazel, his wife, keeps him on the straight and narrow. Brian has his own in-house tech support provided by Sue his wonderful wife. She is amazing and gifted in so many ways. Sandra is secretary to the Secretary. She reminds me of diary dates, meetings and reminds me to send reminders! Oh, the joys! and yet this is how the branch rolls. I shan't embarrass the rest of the branch but just to say that they are keen and extremely talented.



This is us, Gloucester Branch of the CMA and I wouldn't have it any other way. We share the Good News and let everyone know that God is good. We all are are gifted and called in some way and answer that call how the Lord leads.

Romans 11:29 Amplified Bible reads:

'For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call].' †



**Christian
Motorcyclists
Association**



CMA
Bristol Branch

Biker Carol Service

Sunday 10th December 2023

4.00pm Hot drinks and Snacks from 3.30pm



**St. Peter's Church
Lawrence Weston
BS11 0QE**

(Opposite the Co-op on Ridingleaze)

For more details e-mail cma.bristol.sec@gmail.com

Incense or Idol?

Brian Jenner, Gloucester Branch

I want you to hold three threads of thought in your mind as you read this.

First, our church has been reading 'How to Pray', a simple guide for ordinary people. In the chapter on Spiritual Warfare the author recounted his visit to Hong Kong – Dragon racing and Buddhas with incense offered to them and he could see behind them dark spiritual powers.

Now some of you will remember my old Enfield Bullet – I had it for 23 years and put 51,000 miles on it. In the latter years it was losing oil and around the time of the last AGM trip to Arbroath, then Farmyard and the National Rally near Oswestry, it developed a worsening vibration. I put it in the shed so I could sell it as running (just, I was honest). When the guy came to buy it the electrics had packed up. We knocked a bit off the price and both of us were happy. I was now free to replace the hole in my garage. I had been looking at bikes for a while so it was not long before I hopped on a bus with my new bus pass and rode back on a 71 Enfield Meteor 350.

Now, if I have this bike for 23 years as with the Bullet, I will be ninety when I have to change it. So looking to the future it has heated handle bar grips, mirrors to save



my neck (in more than one way), electric start, daylight lighting, ABS, tubeless tyres (I will have to give up home changes), disk brakes and gears that go where they should (when I get used to left foot changes). All useful additions for a granddad biker and a massive change from the old bike. It now should be easier to clean (should I start doing that), is not covered in escaping oil and the dirt that attracts all sparkling (almost) new bikes.

Now the question is, if we go back to the top, is my new bike the incense (with which to worship God) or the idol (to adore)? How about your bike? †



Abundance

Ed.

Back in January of this year, I had the privilege of sharing this word with the lovely folk at Knowle Green Congregational Church in Lancashire. For the past 14 or 15 years the church has provided free Biker Breakfasts as an outreach into the local biking community. My wife Chris and I have been to many of them. Here is a part of that word:

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. [KJV]

So, let's unpack this:

Verse 1

Where are you walking? *I'm walking a walk of righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ.*

Where are you standing? *I'm standing on the Rock Christ Jesus, standing on the promises of God, standing clothed with the whole armour of God. Ephesians 6*

Where are you sitting? *I'm sitting in heavenly places with Christ Jesus, looking down on my circumstances and not being under them. Ephesians 2:6*

Verse 2

What is your delight? Well, the 'law' in verse 2 more properly means, 'teaching' or, 'instruction'. It's the Hebrew word, 'torah' and comes from the root 'yarah' which implies to flow or throw (as an arrow, i.e., to shoot at a target).

Where is your target? Where is your focus? *My target, my focus is on Jesus Himself – the Word of God made flesh.*

If we get verses 1 and 2 right, we can progress to

Verse 3

In God there is abundance

In Genesis 1:28, 29, the very first thing God did to the man and woman was bless them. Then He told them to be fruitful and multiply. Right from the beginning it was in God's heart to not only create man in His own image but also 'after His likeness'. In Him there is abundance – abundance of love, of grace, of compassion. It pleases God when He sees His creation be creative. It pleases Him when we claim and take hold of His promises to us. God is glorified when His promises are outworked in His children.

Luke 6:38 reads, *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

'Running over' is the overflow of life – abundant life – but abundance is more than this.

In Luke 15:17, the prodigal son said of his father's servants, *"They have enough and to spare"*. But abundance is more than this too.

When Jesus turned the water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana, He went over and above what was expected – He not only gave them wine but it was the absolute best wine.

When He fed the 5,000 and then the 4,000, on both occasions there was food left over – but abundance is still more than this.

Israel

Israel had abundance in Egypt, but it was not the best place to be. 'Egypt' in Hebrew means, 'a narrow place'. Even in a 'narrow place' God's people had abundance – for a season.

Be fruitful and multiply

Psalm 1 verse 3 is all about being fruitful.

The seed is in the fruit; the fruit is within the seed.

I used to say, "Abundant life is lots and lots of life", but that's just busyness, not real abundance. I know better now.

Strong's concordance gives a very full definition of 'abundance' – check it out.

Consider Hagar, Abraham's wife Sarah's maidservant: Genesis 16:10 reads, *the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.*

Where was Hagar's abundance? It was within her.

The seed is in the fruit; the fruit is within the seed.

Abundance even in a tight spot

2 Cor 1:3-5 reads, *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. [NIV]*

Here, there was abundance in suffering as well as abundance in comfort – the Christian life is not always easy-going! Remember, Jesus suffered more than any man or woman when He paid the price of our redemption!

Abundance in grace

2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

The CEV puts it this way, in 2 Cor 9:8-12

8 God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others.

9 The Scriptures say, "God freely gives his gifts to the poor, and always does right."

10 God gives seed to farmers and provides everyone with food. He will increase what you have, so that you can give even more to those in need.

11 You will be blessed in every way, and you will be able to keep on being generous. Then many people will thank God when we deliver your gift.

12 What you are doing is much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need. It is something that will make many others thank God.

Our abundance is not in what we receive for ourselves but what we receive that will bear fruit for others. THIS IS REAL ABUNDANCE.

Abundance is not 'getting' – it's being blessed so that we might bless others!

So, you've got a couple of million in your bank account – stored up for a 'rainy day'? Well, there are brothers and sisters somewhere going through a very dry period; and they need a bit of rain.

You've got a pantry bulging with food? There are many saints who are going hungry. God says, "Feed them."

Years ago, Chris and I were struggling financially – I had started my own business and things were difficult. On one occasion we had no food. Chris happened to call on a friend,

the wife of a vicar friend of ours, and just after we arrived, someone called at their door with a box of food provisions for them. When they had left, the wife said to us, "We have enough food – this must be for you!"

Their abundance was outworked in their sharing with us.

I removed a sycamore seed from a crevice in our garden table last winter, in preparation for a job I was doing. As I scraped the seed out of the crevice I noticed it was bright green – it had started to take root and grow, not in soil but in a gap in the wood. *The fruit is within the seed: the seed is in the fruit.*

Abundant Life?

John 10:10 [AMP] *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).*

Again, from Luke 6:38 *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

'Running over' is the overflow of life – that life which then has an effect on others.

One of my favourite scriptures—and very significant—is Proverbs 11:25 [Amp] *'The generous man [is a source of blessing and] shall be prosperous and enriched, And he who waters will himself be watered [reaping the generosity he has sown]'*.

'Be blessed, and be a blessing' is what we sometimes say as an epilogue – what an absolutely godly principle there is in that statement! †



Image by jcomp on Freepik

The Unsearchable Riches of Christ

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

My Master has riches beyond the count of arithmetic, the measurement of reason, the dream of imagination, or the eloquence of words. They are unsearchable! You may look, and study, and weigh, but Jesus is a greater Saviour than you think Him to be when your thoughts are at the greatest. My Lord is more ready to pardon than you to sin, more able to forgive than you to transgress. My Master is more willing to supply your wants than you are to confess them. Never tolerate low thoughts of my Lord Jesus. When you put the crown on His head, you will only crown Him with silver when He deserves gold. My Master has riches of happiness to bestow upon you now. He can make you to lie down in green pastures, and lead you beside still waters. There is no music like the music of His pipe, when He is the Shepherd and you are the sheep, and you lie down at His feet. There is no love like His, neither earth nor heaven can match it. To know Christ and to be found in Him—oh! this is life, this is joy, this is marrow and fatness, wine on the lees well refined. My Master does not treat His servants churlishly; He gives to them as a king gives to a king; He gives them two heavens—a heaven below in serving Him here, and a heaven above in delighting in Him for ever. His unsearchable riches will be best known in eternity. He will give you on the way to heaven all you need; your place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks, your bread shall be given you, and your waters shall be sure; but it is there, THERE, where you shall hear the song of them that triumph, the shout of them that feast, and shall have a face-to-face view of the glorious and beloved One. The unsearchable riches of Christ! This is the tune for the minstrels of earth, and the song for the harpers of heaven. Lord, teach us more and more of Jesus, and we will tell out the good news to others. †

Image by Dewang Gupta on Unsplash

Prayer for Israel

Stephanie Thomas, Hants & Dorset Branch

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD watches over you – the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;
- 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

The earth weeps for you O Israel!

The earth weeps for you O Israel, such terrible conflict in a faraway land
Such horror and utter devastation
Why Lord Jesus, why? We really don't understand.

We cry, Jesus come in power and might
Take out your enemies, banish their plight
Stop this war in its tracks we pray
God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Come have your way!

With tears of horror
We cry out to you
Please help these innocent children make it through
Have mercy dear God upon this land
Bring your healing and comfort to every child,
woman and man.

You say in the scriptures
That you never sleep or slumber
So we hold on tightly to your every word
In all this chaos and total devastation
May the voice of the God of Israel be heard.

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Our prayer is this today
That your peace flow fast like a river
Over Israel in every possible way.

That your love explodes everywhere instead of gunfire and bombs
That the children only hear their Father God singing over them his love songs.

Jesus we can never comprehend all the innocent lives snuffed out
Come Holy Spirit bring repentance and deliverance to every heart in Israel
Is the warrior prayer we shout!

Amen ✝

An Early Christmas Party

Rob Oates, Treasurer - NYV&D Branch

CMA North Yorkshire Vales & Dales Branch decided to have an early Christmas Party this year as two of our members, Denise and Howard Robinson, were flying off to see family in Chicago USA in late October and would miss our usual festivities.

Our Secretary, Pauline Lowery, sent out invitations and organised a 'bring 'n' share' Christmas buffet for Sunday afternoon, the 8th October.

Our branch members turned up all suitably attired in our

Christmas jumpers, etc. Gary Humphries, our Branch Chairman, had already got their house decked out with all the Christmas decorations, baubles, home-made wooden ornaments and also organised a Christmas sing-along.

Fiona and her husband Rob (a music teacher) also gave us renditions of Christmas songs and Analie Woodward sang 'Stille Nacht' (Silent Night) in her native German language. We all joined in with the song as we looked up the German lyrics on Google.



The afternoon buffet commenced with some fizz, some savouries (Howard's home-made savoury mince pies and sausage rolls), sliced meats, salads and all sorts of savoury goodies.

Desserts were then set out with homemade sweet mincemeat pinwheels, gateaux, cakes, mince pies and Pauline's favourite locally made mince-pie ice-cream!

With the table decorated and Christmas music playing in the background it was a fantastic event and

hopefully will give us all something to talk about for the rest of this year.

We all left the afternoon with our branch Christmas gifts and also one of Gary's home-made wooden Christmas penguins to decorate our homes with later this year.

North Yorkshire Vales & Dales Branch wish all the readers of this Chainlink edition a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year for 2024! 🎅



CMA (UK) Ladies Conference – 14th to 16th March 2025

**The Hayes Christian Conference Centre, Swanwick,
Derbyshire, DE55 1AU**



Running the CMA UK Ladies Bi-annual Conference is a great privilege and a great joy. It has been a challenge since the advent of Covid, but we always approach our challenges with Jesus, and so we forged ahead with a Virtual Conference during Covid, as well as a real live one when restrictions were lifted.

We remain at The Hayes for a number of very good reasons. Not least that it is central to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It has easy access for our European ladies but also The Hayes has all the facilities we need and has supported us financially with a bursary every visit. This bursary has allowed 3-5 ladies to attend that could not have otherwise because of financial restrictions. We aim to ensure that every lady who wants to come to the Conference is given that chance, regardless of their financial situation. So, because of our amazing CMA sponsors/donors as well, we have been able to see even more ladies attend than would not have been able to.

Why do I talk about money first? Because our Conference is £250* for the weekend

and that might put some people off. Times are hard, we live in a 'shrinkflation' world, but we want to give you the best we possibly can and will strive to do so.

I hope to give you many reasons to join us, so have a quick peak below to see just how this Conference could be the very blessing you need in the **NEW DATE of MARCH 2025:**

Friday 14th March 2025: Arrive any time from 3pm. Pauline and Janet will greet you with a beautiful smile and give you the keys to your ensuite bedroom. Settle in and relax in your own room or catch up with old or meet new friends. Join everyone in the dining room for supper at 7pm and after that raise the roof with praise and worship!

Saturday 15th March 2025: Begins with breakfast and then we head off into our Bible-based workshops where we can share our experiences with one another. Tea/coffee breaks, lunch and supper are all part of this package and the evening is relaxed and entertaining!

Sunday 16th March 2025: There is time for another short workshop. After this my lovely husband, Mike Fitton—CMA UK's National Chairman—will be preaching and we finish the way we began, with raise the roof worship! After lunch you are usually on your way back home by 3pm.

This may sound like a full weekend, and it is! It is full of *fun, laughter, sharing, caring* and *love*, encouraged by God's Word and each other's experiences. But there is also time for you to rest, relax and breathe! You will come away feeling refreshed and revived and you will have met such a wonderful group of ladies that are friends for life – eternal life!

March 2025 may seem an age away, but it isn't... as I write this, it is only 16 months away... just over a year! We need to know if you want to come as The Hayes cannot promise rooms if we don't book them and we don't book them unless you book with us.



Mike & Sandy

So, if this sounds like something that you and your friends would enjoy, please get in touch with our lovely Conference booking lady, Pauline Lowery, LadiesConfBooking@bike.org.uk and book your place, with a £25 deposit*. You can get a booking form through Pauline or download it directly from the CMA website. Please note that a further payment of £50* is required by 1st March



Pauline

2024 to further secure your place.

Husbands are allowed to stay in your room for the weekend, but the conference is strictly for the ladies. For details of 'husbands' costs, please contact Pauline or Sandy.

You are always welcome to contact me directly if you have any questions. My email address and phone number are below.

Lots of love,

Sandy Angel-Jones-Fitton:
Conference Leader/Co-ordinator
Mobile: 0777 8165694
LadiesConfOrg@bike.org.uk

*The Hayes T&C's ask for £25 deposit per person on booking and then £50 on final confirmation of our booking. Their terms are that these payments are non-refundable and we are contracted to pay the final amount according to their rules. If anyone is unable to attend after all, we ask that someone takes their place and their costs to avoid unnecessary loss. We would do all we can to help you too.

