



CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association UK

Spring 2023



MON G Z R A S

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From the Editor's Garage

So, the journey back home from the Fellowship Weekend and AGM in Arbroath was interesting. Chris and I had taken the bike on a trailer to my sister's home near Newton Stewart in Dumfries & Galloway. Neither I nor the rear tyre on the bike like riding motorways so it seemed a good idea to spend a couple of days with family, leave car and trailer there and ride the final couple of hundred miles to Arbroath.

Coming back home was the reverse. Simple. Except, just south of J36 on the M6, doing a steady 60mph towing the trailer, there was a very loud 'bang' from behind. Glancing in the rear view mirror, I saw the trailer lean precariously towards the nearside and then a trail of sparks on the road behind. I realised immediately what had happened and pulled over quickly onto the hard shoulder. The bike was still intact on the trailer.

Cutting a long story short, the left mudguard had detached from its mount, flown back in the wind and sheared off, leaving a jagged piece of metal gouging a furrow in the tyre tread, and the tyre had blown off the wheel rim. I eventually found the tyre down the embankment below the hard shoulder.

A phone call to Dave Lock (Lakes & Lancs), who lived not far away and had just finished his shift at work, saved the day. He was able to take the bruised wheel to a local tyre shop and get a new tyre, plus tube, fitted to the wheel.

A couple of hours later we were back on the way home, amazed how our loving God had orchestrated our rescue. What a blessing it is to belong to the wonderful family of God! Thanks again, Dave! Right place, right time; always under God's watchful eye.

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

John

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.

Thanking God for the faithful people in our lives

Mike Fitton, National Chairman, CMA UK

'It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich!'

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer died as a martyr in Flossenbürg concentration camp in Germany, less than a month before the Second World War came to an end. He was a German Pastor and was continually forced to make decisions of faith that separated him from his family, friends, and colleagues. One key aspect of his life was that he was known to thank God in all circumstances, even those he would have preferred not to face.

I'd like to share with you the reason why I often thank God for a faithful man that I only met in person on two occasions.

In 1978 I was invited to attend a series of five Gospel meetings in a large Methodist Church in Harrogate. I wasn't a Christian but I attended because some friends asked me to go. I felt uncomfortable and couldn't understand why hundreds of people were so happy to be in a church, so I sat near the door to make a quick escape.

My expectations were so skewed I was convinced the speaker would be a wimp, but how wrong could I have been! The preacher was an Evangelist called David Shepherd, from South Wales (not to be confused with David Shepherd, the Bishop of Liverpool). David was a man's man and preached the Word of God with authority and passion. I can't remember what he said on the first night, but it scared me and I left the church after 15 minutes. I went back the next night and sat in the same chair by the door. I found myself challenged by God's love; how could He possibly love me? I left early again and this time I ran up the street with tears streaming down my face. I went back a third night and sat by the side wall, but seven people sat next to me and I couldn't get out! That night David preached on the Samaritan Woman who met Jesus at the well.

She lived an isolated life because of her sin; she was ostracised by her community but meeting Jesus changed everything.

As David explained the Gospel message that night, I realised for the first time that Jesus had died for my sin and I could be forgiven for my messed up past. He gave an invitation to walk out to the front and pray with him to become a Christian. I was the first to respond; as I prayed with David I felt the burden of guilt and shame lift off me – I was forgiven! I left that church a completely different man from the one I was when I walked in. The next day I went into work and told my colleagues I had become a Christian.

Three years later, I realised that I'd never thanked David for being faithful in his ministry, so I wrote him a letter and said, 'I suppose you get lots of people writing to you but I just want to say 'Thank you' for speaking in Harrogate and that I am going on with the Lord'. He later wrote back saying he really appreciated my letter.

Approximately fifteen years later I was pastoring a camp at Keswick Convention. A friend told me David and his wife were on site, I was so excited about seeing him again. I finally came across them in the main tent on the last night. I walked up to him and said,



buried in a nearby village. As we left Llanelli, Sandy, Naomi, Andy and I drove to the cemetery and found David's grave. To say this was an emotional time would be an understatement – the words on his gravestone simply said, 'Preacher and Evangelist.' As we prayed, we thanked God for David, and I look forward to the day we will meet again in Heaven.

Can I encourage you to contact anyone that has been an encouragement to you in your Christian life– perhaps there are many like David who we assume receive messages of gratitude for their faithful service; but do they really?

The apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Philippi and said, '*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you*' (Philippians 1:3). He didn't have to bother, but I believe that church became stronger because of those few words.

"David, you won't remember me, but my name is Mike." He put his hand up to stop me and said, "You became a Christian in the Methodist Church at Harrogate next to the Lady Mayoress." I was stunned and said, "Why would you remember me?" He replied, "Because I pray for you." Then he said, "I will be in Glory soon but I hand you the mantle of the Gospel to go to the lost." He gave me a hug, took his wife's arm and they left the tent. I never saw David again, but the memory of that conversation has never left me. Grace called me and by Grace I hope to be something like my friend David, that at least one might be saved.

In February, we had our annual National Executive and Trustees weekend at the UK base of our mission partners World Horizons at Llanelli. I mentioned David in a conversation and received a text telling me where he was

Hebrews 13:7 Amplified Bible

Remember your leaders [for it was they] who brought you the word of God; and consider the result of their conduct [the outcome of their godly lives], and imitate their faith [their conviction that God exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider of eternal salvation through Christ, and imitate their reliance on God with absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness].

I'm so glad I met David.

He was a godly man.

With a strong conviction.

We shall never forget him.

God Bless you,

Mike and Sandy

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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CMA UK is part of the
CMA Worldwide International
Outreach Ministry

Registered UK Charity
1080911

**The deadline
for submission
of items for the
Summer 2023 issue
is 31st August 2023**

Acknowledgements:

Front cover image:

Fraser McDougall

Printed by:
Heritage Print
Merseyside
www.heritageprint.co.uk

'I wish I could afford a bike'

Brian Jenner, Gloucester

Have you ever heard this? I was at one of Alan and Liz's Slimbridge rallies years ago before my *Christians Against Poverty* (CAP) money coach training. One of the folk I talked to was a young fellow who had had a lift to the rally when he said "I wish I could afford a bike."

I was a bit judgemental and started asking how much he smoked, because he was smoking cigarettes as we talked. I asked how much they cost, how many he smoked a day and started doing a bit of maths in my head.

I said, "Well if you packed up now you could come to next years rally on a new motorcycle". (Well perhaps not a Harley). Following my training I now know not to judge a person's lifestyle but to give practical help on forming a budget and tools to help stick to it.

CAP run courses all over the country, they can be found on CAP's web site. They are

free to attend and a course is anything from one long session to three sessions or more with time between to do the homework. Are they evangelistic? The clue is in the name, courses are matched to the audience so a church group may get a stronger message than a course for a

neighbouring council estate. Where the resulting budget shows it has more outgoings than income and this cannot be balanced, referrals to the CAP advice people is possible. They have all the training and experience they need to deal with it or point some (like business clients) to another agency. Going on a course could be the start of getting out of debt, it could lead to being able to afford that new bike or it could show that you could give away more than you thought. So if you know anyone who

could benefit why not take them along – you may even feel it is something you and your church could do too. ✝



Many apologies for the lateness of this issue of Chainlink. The response for articles this time has been much lower than we would have liked. We can only fill the magazine with what is sent in for publication.

Please consider thoughtfully what you can submit for the next issue. Your story is unique to you and will always be a blessing and encouragement to someone! Ed.

North East Regional Day – 21st January 2023

Sandy Angel-Jones-Fitton

AGOG, that is the word that God woke me up in the wee small hours with a day before our North East Regional Day; with it came an acronym...

Our...

Awesome God gave us the...

Gift of Jesus Christ, his Only begotten Son who, in

Obedience died on the cross for our sins, all for the

Glory of God!

Our...

Awesome CMA men and women have been given

Gifts that they may use in

Obedience to reach the lost bikers and give all the

Glory to God!

I didn't even know what AGOG really meant! The Oxford Dictionary said it meant 'very eager or curious to hear or see something'.

Our Regional Day had a time slot where the fifty men and women from NYV&D, SYNL, WY, NYM&C and T&W Branches and Twigs were going to speak about what they do, have done and look forward to doing and we truly were AGOG at the amazing things we got to see and hear!

God is **amazing**! The CMA Branches and Twigs are **amazing** too! Have a look at the list of the wonderful things that came out from sharing our experience with each other.

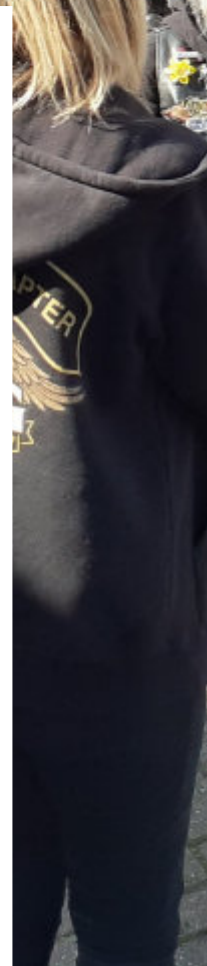
- ▶ Be conspicuous – you are noticed when you are there and when you are not
- ▶ Be generous – God has given you gifts, each unique, to be used for Him
- ▶ Be available.
- ▶ Be ready to 'pick someone up' – whether they have fallen from a bike or fallen from grace
- ▶ Be real – Jesus was and is
- ▶ Be together – meet regularly with your Branch or Twig


- ▶ Be ready to work with other Branches/Twigs – borders are only on maps
- ▶ Be inquisitive of the people you are reaching for Christ
- ▶ Be ready to go to different churches and lead services for CMA
- ▶ Be vocal – advertise what you do to reach the biking world
- ▶ Be evangelical – Go and get ‘em!
- ▶ Be resourceful – use the CMA promo video, Biker Bibles and cat litter (read on and understand why cat litter)
- ▶ Be inventive – start something new or build on an old one; ‘how to build a bike’, ‘repair shop’, ‘anything on 2-3 wheels’, ‘school visits’, ‘carry gaffer tape with you – see later why this is so handy’
- ▶ Be fun – ‘Bumpy’s rideout off-road centre on bikes that were built/mended’, ‘magical mystery tour’, ‘bubble machine ride out’
- ▶ Be inclusive – pray with them, even when they are not Christians - YET
- ▶ Be non-judgemental – treat the man/woman who steals/stole bikes like Jesus treated the thief on the cross
- ▶ Be caring – offer to fix the loose chain, sort out the the pool of oil by gaffer taping the hole in the engine when nothing else is at hand and using cat litter to mop up that oil
- ▶ Be observant – spot the loose chain, see the pool of oil in the first place
- ▶ Be prayerful – full of prayer – whether you are there or not
- ▶ Be local and vocal
- ▶ Be ready to move further afield too
- ▶ Be in two places at once – are there two events going on at the same time? Then split the troops to go to each one
- ▶ Be humble and acknowledge everyone’s input
- ▶ Be accepting – accept everyone you meet for who they are and where they are at
- ▶ Be ready to release it if it's not God’s will
- ▶ Be loving to your Branch/Twig members/supporters
- ▶ Be a leader that appreciates your team
- ▶ Be a team that appreciates your leaders
- ▶ Be the heart of your team by being a part of your team
- ▶ Be the best advocate for your Branch/Twig and most importantly, God!
- ▶ Be responsible – take responsibility for something in your Branch/Twig
- ▶ Be on offer – offer your help before being asked
- ▶ Be a refuge – there is a hurting world out there with hurting people
- ▶ Be little and large – go to small or large bike meets/races/rallies as you are called to go
- ▶ Be a blessing to bikes and to the bikers that ride them
- ▶ Be thankful and praise God for what He does and is doing and is going to do. 🙏

Geordie HOG Memorial Ride & Service April 2023

*Rob
Oates,
North
Yorks
Vales &
Dales*

As you may be aware, I have been a member of the Geordie Chapter and been riding with them for over 17 years now, always with my CMA cut and Cross standing out amongst the other Geordie Chapter and Harley Owners Group back patches.





At the February Chapter meeting, I was approached by the Chapter Director, invited to say a few words and give a roll-call of our past members at the Annual Memorial Bench unveiling in the Gateshead Harley Davidson Dealership. This was to take place on the Saturday of the Easter weekend in April 2023.

At the event there is usually an organised ride for the Chapter in the morning and then they return to the dealership for refreshments and to unveil the Memorial Bench which has brass plaques attached with the names of the members and loved ones who have passed away over the preceding years.

I was not sure what to prepare and say, so after a little contemplation and quiet prayerfulness I sat and put together a short talk about Jesus' time running up to the death and resurrection of Lazarus.

This would last about four or five minutes and then I would read out the names of those who were to be remembered by their friends and relatives.

The day arrived and the weather was fine and sunny. Quite a change from the preceding week, but my bike had developed a transmission fault, so sadly, I would not be riding that day.

I had asked Howard Robinson from our Branch if he would like to come with me as he had recently purchased a new Harley Sport Glide from the Leeds dealership. I thought he would enjoy the spectacle of a group of Harleys riding into the dealership so I collected him from home and set off up the A19 to the Gateshead dealership. It was lovely to share some quality time with him and listen to stories he told of CMA in times gone by as we drove the 45 minutes north.

We arrived at the dealership quite a while before the rideout returned. This gave us time

to set up the bench for the unveiling and put out CMA Biker Bibles, tracts and prayer cards on the picnic tables in the bike park. We then took time to look at the gleaming machines inside the shop.

Soon, the lead riders returned to the dealership and the pack followed behind. In all there were 73 Harleys out on the ride, some had pillioners too and the sound of their return rumbled around the bike park as they parked up and headed into the dealership for a cuppa.

After a while, it was my turn to bring the assembly of bikers and onlookers together, about 90 in all. So, in order to be heard, I stood on a picnic bench at one end of the bikes and bike park.

The crowd fell silent as I started to tell them the story of Lazarus, Mary, Martha, the disciples and Jesus.

You could hear a pin drop as I explained about Jesus' journey and return to where Lazarus lay, the miracle of the resurrection and how this brought God the glory.

I then explained they could read more about the amazing life Jesus led and that this could be found in our CMA Biker Bibles.

Then I started the roll call of the past members and the bench was unveiled.

We finished with a minute of all the Harleys assembled firing up their engines and revving to remember those who would not be riding with us again.

The throaty roar of the bikes was felt deep in people's chests as it reverberated around the area. It was quite a fitting end to such an emotional event.

A few Biker Bibles, prayer cards & tracts were taken that day too.

To God be the Glory! ✝

South West Regional Day

Philip Head, Devon & Cornwall

Saturday, 4th March 2023 saw the first Regional Day in the South West for some years. The South West region comprises South Wales, Bristol, Gloucester, Devon & Cornwall and Hants & Dorset branches.

There was a change of venue on this occasion, from our previous location in Taunton to the Axminster Minster in East Devon. As will always be the case when a venue changes, some gain whilst others lose slightly, and on this occasion those from the West had a little further to travel, whilst it was slightly nearer for those from Hants & Dorset.

The day was put together by David Ball. Thank you, David.

The day was overseen by David; our time of worship was led by Anne Egan from Bristol branch. Mike, our National Chairman, made a wonderful, encouraging presentation. Contributions were invited from each branch; all were encouraged to share their successes and their struggles and opportunity was made for each branch to be prayed for.

A very special thanks to Rev Clive Sedgewick, the Vicar of Axminster Minster, for opening his wonderful church building to us, for his blessing over us at the start of the day and for the outstanding hospitality afforded to us by him, by Jean from the church and by Ray Helm, a branch Supporter. 🙏

Free to a Good Home

- 1 marquee 4 x 4 metres
- 1 marquee 4 x 3 metres
- 1 6 ft high cross made from scaffolding and bike parts with 12v lighting
- 1 child's battery powered motorbike with stabilisers
- 2 A-frame notice boards

Collect from Plymouth

Contact secretary.devon@bike.org.uk
or phone Philip on 07817 990230





On Saturday 4th of March, most of Gloucester Branch headed south to attend the South West Regional Meeting. It was a bitterly cold day but we were given a wonderful, warm welcome. We were led by Mike the National Chair of CMA and David our Regional Rep.

It was an absolutely fantastic day. We shared news from the branches, prayed for each other and shared ideas of how to reach out to various biker groups. There was spirit-filled worship, laughter and lots of chatting and catching up with old friends and opportunities for making new ones.

The church fed us a delicious home cooked meal. There were copious biscuits and tea, and of course yummy cakes. We didn't go just to fill up on carbs! We came away filled with hope, joy, peace and positive energy for the coming months of ministry.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day. It feels like it has been a long winter but on Saturday the Sun shone brightly, filling and lifting our spirits ready for a new season of service. †



South West Regional Meeting

*Alexandra Dyer,
Gloucester*



National Fellowship Weekend & AGM 2023

Brian Jenner



The AGM Fellowship Weekend was truly a success. See elsewhere in this issue. I offer a few notes on my travels there and back. For those of you who have seen my Enfield Bullet you will realise why this was a big thing for me. The trip up as far as Stirling where I stopped at friends to rest a day took just under twelve hours. We all know how important to us is prayer for safety. Between two of my stops I passed four accidents including a burnt out taughtliner from which I pray the driver escaped unharmed. Then I passed an accident on the M6 southbound, closing the motorway. Two days later the head wind was so great I had to squat down a bit. My bike is not fast, 65 flat out but usually powerful enough to keep going. Approaching Dundee I went over the Tay Valley buffeted by that wind. I have no head for heights and if that was not enough, going through Dundee I was following a lane for the Tay Bridge and Arbroath and missed the split. I immediately found myself on the Tay Bridge which I felt was wrong. Stopping at the Visitors' Centre on the other side I was told 'Yes you have to go back over'. My daughter, who lives near Stirling was most impressed considering how often the bridge is closed – to go over it twice was quite an achievement. In Arbroath I asked for the Windmill Centre and was given directions so found the place OK.

Coming home I had concerns about the weather but Arbroath to Stirling was wind behind me. In Stirling I was told to look out for the Northern Lights as there was high activity. It was still light so I left the curtains open and went to bed. Sleeping through I woke at five and could see the good weather and thinking if God was good enough to send me good weather it would be ungrateful not to use it, so I was up and out about seven. I had an hour of cold weather but glad of my early start, I was riding through Birmingham before I got into rain then very soon home and planning the next trip. See you at 'You've been Nabbed' Rally. †

Luton Community Fire Station

Keith Sanders, Bedford



Jesus leathers

It was a Good Friday for this Christian biker who wore her best jacket for the meet.

CMA Bedford Branch were at Luton Community Fire Station on 7th April for Bikers Open Day where many good conversations were had.

Luton Today online newspaper were there to record the event and their photographer was pleased and keen to get a picture of a cross on Good Friday.

The article was headed up by the montage picture with photos of the various groups attending below, one of which was the one above.

Bikers came out in droves to enjoy a community event at Luton fire station at the weekend.

Motorcycle enthusiasts from across Luton and further afield met at the fire station on Studley Road for an afternoon of fun organised by Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on Good Friday (April 7). From 11am until 3pm, bikers from eight motorcycle clubs, emergency services and businesses came together – talking all things motorcycles in the spring sun. [*Luton Today* online newspaper]

There is nothing like getting a new bike!

Magali Ellis, Essex

I have been looking at replacing my current bike for some time now. It is getting a bit too heavy and cumbersome for me. On top of that, it is getting old and whilst there is nothing wrong with it, it has the potential to run into being an expensive affair to maintain it, especially as it is an import. Therefore, I think that having a new bike will be a better solution. I prayed to God for wisdom and guidance and to surround me with friends and good counsel.

The choices

With so many different brands and types of bikes, it was important to narrow the selection and fairly quickly, I selected cruiser types of bikes: there is something about the elegant shape of the elongated cruiser, the curvy tank, the fat tyres that I really like! They make my eyes sparkle and my heart sing! However, I had to discount two major cruiser brands of bikes despite the fact that they have gorgeous bikes: Harley Davidson and Indian. Two main reasons for that: they are still on the heavy side for me and they are way too expensive! It was a case of head against heart because I absolutely love the Indian bikes but at over £10,000, I just simply could not afford or justify the cost.

Test rides

The joy of looking for a new bike is that you have the time not only to compare bikes and hone preferences but also you have the opportunity to go on test rides. Over the last few months, I took three bikes on test rides: a Triumph Trident, a Royal Enfield Super Meteor 650 and a Kawasaki Vulcan 650.

The Triumph Trident was quite an experience as it was the first time I had ridden a naked bike with no screen at all, not even one of those mini ones. And of course, I chose a very windy day to test ride it! After years of riding behind the protection of the big screens my Honda Deauville and my Yamaha Dragstar afforded, riding a bike without one was quite a shock to the system! It felt like being punched in the chest, and I thought that either my lid or my head or both were going to fly off! I was hugging that petrol tank as close as I could, to no avail! I remember screaming every time I was buffeted by a gust of wind or I was overtaking a lorry on the dual carriageway!

Not for me, I decided!

Next, I was really excited when the Royal Enfield Super Meteor came out this Spring. I had seen it at the motor shows at the NEC in Birmingham and the Excel in London. It looks great and I could not wait to test ride it. After a couple of wasted journeys to my not-so-local Kawasaki dealer and after many delays in the delivery of said Super Meteor, I finally managed to book a test ride. There was a lot of anticipation and even the pouring rain did not dampen my spirit! However... The bike was such a disappointment! It looks like a cruiser but rides like a tourer. It's that little bit higher on the road, that little bit too

top heavy. It was not what I was expecting at all!

So not for me either!

Now don't get me wrong, both bikes are fantastic bikes, they are nimble and light and small. Which is exactly what I am looking for. I enjoyed the test rides (well, almost enjoyed it with the Triumph!) but neither bike made me smile. They simply were not for me!

The Vulcan 650 was mentioned, so back to the search and comparing height, weight and other important factors. I booked a test ride and this time, the weather was lovely, calm and sunny! The Vulcan is definitely lighter than the Super Meteor, it's nimble and has a good acceleration. In fact, it has the potential to ride very fast! I was smitten! In hindsight, God was talking to me and guiding me through the weather on those test rides!

The purchase

With the help of some of my CMA friends, it was easy to organise the purchase of the bike and getting my current bike estimated for part exchange with a couple of dealers. It took a few phone calls and an extensive email exchange with the chosen dealer – the one who not only gave me the best part exchange price, but also the one who had the best deal on the finance and on the price of the Vulcan and who threw in 4 years warranty. God was definitely in the details in all aspects.

Buying online felt a bit weird, I must admit. No dealership, no paperwork, no bike. Just a few more emails and a phone call and that's it! It was all very exciting though!

The accessories

No sooner had I put the deposit down on the bike than I finalised the choice for new accessories. I would never have thought that looking for bike parts would be so much fun! I could see myself going mad on a shopping spree and I had to reign myself in! It was head over heart all over again! The screen was obviously a priority, as you can imagine! Engine bars, radiator cover, fender extender and sissy bar have all been ordered!

The countdown

So where are we now? The bike has been purchased, with an estimated 10 days before delivery. It is so frustrating to have to wait, although in the great scheme of things, it is not that long. I am counting the days though! The accessories have been ordered and a couple of items actually arrived today! A couple more are due tomorrow and I should have all items before the bike is ready for collection!

While I am waiting, I will busy myself with preparing for the WH/CMA ride to Lille, which will be my last ride on the Yamaha Dragstar before riding it to the dealership and coming back on the Vulcan. Just ready to enjoy it, and looking forward to making memories, meeting fantastic people and fellowshiping together. 🙏

SPRING FELLOWSHIP AND AGM APRIL 2023

Alexandra Dyer

News of an AGM usual elicits a collective groan. I'm not sure why because we had an absolute 'hootenanny' of a time at this year's Spring Fellowship and AGM in Arbroath. If like me, meeting a whole host of new people is terrifying, then attending a Fellowship and staying on site is ideal.

This year we were at the Windmill Christian Centre in Arbroath. We were warmly welcomed by the hosting Branch and shown to our rooms. This took a little time because we were hugging and catching up in the foyer. I kid you not we were three steps over the threshold and the fellowshiping began. It was so good to see so many people we'd met over the previous season at various meetings and serving together in Holy Joe's at numerous MAG Rallies.

Five from Gloucester Branch were in attendance arriving by motorbike, car, train, bus and airplane. I think we might have an award awaiting us for using the most varied forms of transport!

The weekend consisted of food, fellowship and shopping in the Merchandise area cleverly situated in the foyer. There was time for a rideout or walk in the town, on the beach or even the sea if the tide was in.

The AGM itself was very informative, witty and elicited a few 'oooohs' due to the blessings we had received. We have an extremely competent Executive who managed the reports, questions and time very well. Sunday brought us to the end of our time together. It took just as long saying goodbye as it did to say hello. We worshipped, laughed and broke bread together in the chapel before journeying home. We may have arrived wearied from our travels, but we left buoyed up in the Spirit and readied to go out on the Mission field. ✝





You've been Nabbed!

Ed.

We spent most of the day on Thursday 4th May setting up for the 30th (and possibly final) NABD Rally in Cheshire. As usual, we met for a fellowship time that evening in our Holy Joe's marquee. Following a time worshipping the Lord in song, I sensed that our Father wanted to speak to us through His word.

Chris and I had been reading that morning from Colossians chapter 4 and I was drawn to verses 2 to 6 as being particularly appropriate for our time at the rally.

Under the heading, 'Further Instructions' (in the NIV and ESV Bibles) it reads:

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ ... that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

In the previous chapters, apostle Paul goes to great lengths in instructing the hearers how to live



godly lives in Christ. The above *'further instructions'* are really important for us when we are connecting with non-Christian bikers. Prayer is essential – not just our time alone with Father but constantly during our time serving others – keeping that 'hotline' open to heaven, awaiting 'further instructions' and guidance from the Holy Spirit in the various situations we find ourselves in. Whether it's in serving tea or coffee, listening to other bikers' problems or whatever, our conduct is vitally important, from how we greet people, being considerate and compassionate (see verse 5), to what comes out of our mouths (verse 6).

The various bike rallies that we participate and serve in can be hard work but great fun – demanding, physically and mentally, but times of great blessing. Remember – from the time we enter the rally site, until the time we leave, exhausted, we have been worshipping the Lord, in 'word and deed' – Colossians 3:17. Consider also Paul's words in Galatians 6:9 – *'let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.'* There's an old gospel song that has the words, *'It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus.'* †



Even the very stones will cry out!

Steve Wilds, SY&NL

One of the joys in our Christian life is to be members of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association and through our love of biking we have many opportunities to serve the Lord and to spread the good news of the Gospel. What a great joy it is to share the love of God with others and to give out our Biker Bibles, sharing the word of God.

In Luke 19 verses 37 through 40 we read that as Jesus was entering Jerusalem His disciples began to rejoice and praise God. They were excited at the fact that they were going into Jerusalem in triumph – however as we know the triumph turned out to be somewhat different from what they had hoped or expected!

The fact that the disciples were shouting and being joyful upset the Pharisees and they asked Jesus to shut them up – they couldn't cope with the praise and adoration that was being given to Jesus.

Jesus in reply said – "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out!" I have never heard the stones crying out and as long as we continue to praise the wonderful name of Jesus then we are not likely to ever hear them.

It struck me that in this modern day of fast growing digital technology that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being developed and I wondered if such a technology could be used to the glory of God. So I went on line to 'Chat GPT' and asked the computer to generate an article on the CMA – this is what it said – see page opposite:

Even the very 'stone' will cry out!
artificial intelligence to
artificial about
God that He is
telling the

Let us make sure that we never need to rely on
speak the Word of Truth – there is nothing
Jesus, our faith or our salvation. Thank
the way, the truth and the life – keep
world! 🙏

"The Christian Motorcyclists' Association (CMA) is a unique group of bikers in the United Kingdom who share a passion for motorcycles and their faith in Jesus Christ. This organisation has been operating in the UK since the 1970s and has been making a positive impact on the lives of many people.

The CMA has a strong mission to share the love of Christ with those who may not have heard it before. They accomplish this through their love for motorcycles, which has created a bond between members and the community. The group organises regular events and rides, and they are always looking for new ways to engage with others and share their faith.

One of the main objectives of the CMA is to support and help those in need. They work with a variety of organisations, including charities and local churches, to provide practical assistance and support to those who need it most. This may include financial aid, food donations, or other forms of assistance.

The CMA has a strong emphasis on family values and encourages members to bring their families along to events and rides. This creates a welcoming atmosphere that promotes a sense of community and belonging. It also provides an opportunity for families to bond over their shared passion for motorcycles and their faith.

Membership in the CMA is open to all Christians who have a love for motorcycles. They have chapters throughout the UK and welcome new members to join them. Members of the CMA are expected to live according to biblical principles, and they strive to be a positive influence in their communities.

One of the unique aspects of the CMA is the way they use motorcycles to share the gospel message. They often take part in parades and other events where they ride their bikes and display banners with biblical messages. This provides an opportunity for them to share their faith in a creative and impactful way.

In conclusion, the Christian Motorcyclists' Association in the UK is a fantastic organisation that combines a love for motorcycles with a passion for sharing the love of Christ. They have a strong sense of community and are committed to supporting those in need. If you're a Christian biker looking for a community of like-minded individuals, the CMA could be just what you're looking for."

Note from the editor:

I wouldn't normally accept something that was not written by a live human being but on this occasion I included it to illustrate the point that Steve was making!

Water and a chap called Geoff

George Laws, Tyne & Wear



This is a story about water and a chap called Geoff.

**Because water is such an essential component of life,
God created it on the first day.**

John 4:13-14

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

This is not just a story about bottled water, or the water God gave me, but it's also about Geoff, a CMA Christian I met only briefly at Stormin' the Castle. In fact, I know so little about Geoff it wasn't until I read his obituaries in Chainlink that I found out his name. Someone probably mentioned his name, but as I have a few problems remembering people's names it never came back to me until now. My poor memory for names is a constant joke at work but something I must work around.

I was going to write this article and send it in as soon as I heard Geoff had gone home to God

but felt what I had to say about Geoff would be inadequate. I didn't have the right to join those that knew him and mourned his passing, as I didn't know him that well. What I have to say is just a very small window into a moment in time that will stay with me, and those that witnessed it, for a long time.

After a bad accident on the bike, I have a lot of pain in my left knee and standing for long periods is a problem. This hasn't stopped me working behind the counter at Holy Joe's but means I must have a seat handy when I need it.



On this occasion word got out that we were running out of water and, with it being such a hot day, more water was needed. How bad would it be for a Christian organisation not to be able to give out water to those who are thirsty? Mike was on the case and immediately took the van and went out to buy water and other supplies we needed. Unfortunately, Tom, a member of CMA Tyne & Wear, also heard the cry for water and went out with his van. Because of the heat of the day, both parties decided to buy more water than usual. Returning to Stormin' Holy Joe's, we realised

we had an abundance of water which would never sell under normal circumstances. Tom looked crestfallen as he would have to transport the remaining water back home and store it in his garage for the next rally if we didn't sell it.

Did you know bottled water has an expiry date? It's been kicking around in streams and rivers for hundreds, no thousands of years and as soon as it's put into a bottle it must be consumed within six months. Apparently, the water is fine, but the plastic bottle may have affected it, especially if left in the heat.

I've always had a problem talking to people and at school memorised a number of jokes so I could get in on conversations I would normally not have been able to. This method of communication became a coping strategy. By the time I entered college I was doing stand-up comedy performances for anyone that wanted to hear and needed a laugh. For years, I and a friend performed a comedy routine for the Men's Ministry Weekend. After joining CMA Mike got wind of this and, together with Barry, another CMA member from The Northeast Branch, we did a Christmas routine which I have done a few times since.

Possibly with this in mind Mike asked if I could go outside of Holy Joe's and, seated, try and sell bottles of water to those passing and not entering the tent. Feeling a bit daunted, 'How do I do this by myself?' God answered a silent pray. Geoff stepped forward and said he would love to help. Do you ever get the feeling that you have missed the party? I did when I realised I hadn't got to know Geoff better. That was the moment, the one and only moment and I'd missed it.

When I first saw Geoff at Stormin' the first thing that sprang to mind was 'Santa on his day off'. He walked around with purpose but mostly sat outside Holy Joe's and read. He seemed busy behind his white beard, so I just nodded and got on with my shift.

Geoff, I realised, was a man that spoke his thoughts without much of a filter. After visiting a meeting which I was at I overheard him comment, 'If I ever tell you I want to go to one of these meetings again please take me outside and kick me...' I'll leave the rest to your imagination.

Finding a comfortable seat wasn't hard, as outside Holy Joe's the majority were empty. People in their haste for alcohol rushed past, some never even looking our way. I sat out in front filled with the love and protection of the Holy Spirit. This was going to be a difficult task and could go sideways if I wasn't careful. Between Geoff and myself were boxes of water piled on top of each other, which took ages to bring out. Deep breath, quick prayer and off I went.

"Water, get it while it's wet, Get your water here." Then from behind me Geoff began shouting comical comments, which I could use and expand on.

"You know you want it. Go on treat yourself. 50p a bottle or two for a pound. You can't say fairer than that now can you. I'll tell you what, for one day only you can have four bottles for £2. Why? Because you're worth it." The bottles of water began to move. In twos and threes, they were snapped up by passing bikers, some too drunk to know what they were buying but knowing they needed what we were selling. The comic comments bounced off Geoff and off me as if we'd been a double act all our lives.

"Get your water here, there may only be one hydrogen, but you get two oxygens in every molecule." Looking around I realised that all the seats were now taken. It was like a scene from Hitchcock's 'The Birds.' One minute they were empty then the next full of people laughing and smiling. People were stopping just to listen to whatever came out of our mouths. I've done stand-up comedy before, but this was the first time I'd done sit-down.

"Get your water here. You can have two bottles for a pound if you are wearing a funny hat" (Group had just walked past with funny hats.)

"You can have two bottles for a pound if you have a jacket on with leopard print" (two women just walked past suitably dressed). "Buy one bottle for a pound and get one free." I would say something, and Geoff would bounce his ideas off me and vice versa. The water was now moving at a fast rate.

"This isn't just water – it's hydration in a bottle. The very thing after a heavy session. Get it now before it's gone. Remember, when it's gone... I'll go and get some more." One chap came up to me and gave me a pound and said, "Keep it for your charity. This is the funniest thing I've

ever heard." Brandishing a bottle, I miss-quoted Samuel Coleridge's poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. "Water, water, everywhere... so buy some." When we found out what other stalls were selling water for, I decided to throw that into the mix. "You're saving 50p a bottle buying it from us. In fact, buy it from us and sell it to your mates for a profit."

Geoff was in good form and rattled out the banter as quickly as I could. Picking out people that were passing we goaded them into buying from us with humour.

"50p a bottle for any man dressed as a woman and wearing WW2 fighter pilot goggles." Would you believe three men came forward matching the description and bought water. A young man

ran up to me and stated quite categorically, "My girlfriend is wearing a hat that looks like a cat, can I have two bottles for a pound?" I couldn't remember mentioning it as a criteria for sale, but sold him two bottles anyway. It wasn't long before I realised that people were standing still outside Holy Joe's entrance listening to the comic remarks. As others pushed past, either I or Geoff would pick out something they were wearing and offer them two bottles of water for a pound. Most bought more than two. One chap bought three for two pounds. Apparently, it was all he wanted but was happy to pay, thinking he had a bargain.

After a while I turned to pick up another bottle to sell to an unsuspecting biker when I realised all the boxes were empty. I asked a CMA member if he could bring more

boxes out as we were on a roll but was told there weren't any left. They just had enough to sell behind the counter. Turning to Geoff he smiled, as only he could, and forcing himself to stand headed back into the tent.

"Is that it?" one person shouted. "It's been the funniest thing I've ever seen," said one bearded biker dressed, quite fashionably, in a twin set and pearls.

"The waters all gone but there's more in the tent," I said, picking up the discarded boxes and heading back into Holy Joe's.

I saw Geoff a few times after that but never managed to talk to him. As of this day he's the funniest man I've never talked to. One day, in Heaven, I will see him again and express my gratitude for his help and support when I needed it most. †

When I first saw Geoff at Stormin' the first thing that sprang to mind was 'Santa on his day off'

Sacred or Secular?

A.W.Tozer

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Col 3:17, ESV)

One of the greatest hindrances to internal peace which the Christian encounters is the common habit of dividing our lives into two areas, the sacred and the secular. As these areas are conceived to exist apart from each other and to be morally and spiritually incompatible, and as we are compelled by the necessities of living to be always crossing back and forth from the one to the other, our inner lives tend to break up so that we live a divided instead of a unified life. Most Christians are caught in its trap. They cannot get a satisfactory adjustment between the claims of the two worlds. They try to walk the tightrope between two kingdoms and they find no peace in either. Their strength is reduced, their outlook confused and their joy taken from them.

I believe this state of affairs to be wholly unnecessary. We have gotten ourselves on the horns of a dilemma, true enough, but the dilemma is not real. It is a creature of misunderstanding. The sacred-secular antithesis has no foundation in the New Testament. Without doubt a more perfect understanding of Christian truth will deliver us from it.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is our perfect example, and He knew no divided life. In the Presence of His Father He lived on earth without strain from babyhood to His death on the cross. God accepted the offering of His total life, and made no distinction between act and act. "I do always those things that please him" (Jn 8:29, KJV) was His brief summary of His own life as it related to the Father. As He moved among men He was poised and restful. What pressure and suffering He endured grew out of His position as the world's sin-bearer; they were never the result of moral uncertainty or spiritual maladjustment.

This truth must "run in our blood" and condition the complexion of our thoughts, if we would escape from the toils of the sacred-secular dilemma.

A. W. TOZER, IN THE PURSUIT OF GOD

Shared from PocketBible for Windows Store (<http://www.laridian.com>)



Our Heavenly Father has blessed Chris and me with a God-loving family. Both sets of our parents loved the Lord, our children and their spouses all love the Lord, and the older of our many grandchildren have come to know Him too.

Our oldest grandson, Joel, with his wife Amy, produced our first great-granddaughter in 2022. He has followed a bit of a family thing in now holding a full licence to ride a motorcycle. Now, imagine my very great pleasure in leading him, with my son-in-law Paul, on his very first group rideout a couple of weeks ago! The old Kawasaki Versys he acquired was by no means pristine but when we had set it up for him it did the job. We had an enjoyable short ride from the north end of Liverpool down to the south end, passing through the waterfront area where the Eurovision event was taking place. The area was buzzing – but my

buzz was in being out riding with my grandson! What a blessing!

The scripture reads in Ephesians 1:3, *'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.'*

Now I know we have received 'spiritual' blessings, but we also receive good gifts from our Heavenly Father (see James 1:17). Why? Because He loves us so much and delights in us much more than we delight in Him! What father amongst us wouldn't want to give gifts to his children! And his grandchildren!

But the greatest joy I have in my grandson is that he, too, loves the Lord and is a follower of Jesus. The fact that we can ride bikes together is just the icing on the cake!

Ed.

Soaring

Cliff & Stephanie, Hants & Dorset



*But they who wait for the Lord
shall renew their strength; they
shall mount up with wings like
eagles; they shall run and not
be weary; they shall walk and
not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

Soaring high on eagles wings
Pressing deeply into Jesus arms
Through the air riding so fast
Billowing clouds soft and calm

As I ride He draws me closer to him
And stills the storm inside of me
I watch as all the earth melts away
And the mountains fall into the sea

My face lifted towards the sky
Faster and faster I rise into the air
Arms stretched out closer to you
This journey with you I share

High up rising above the earth
Flying upon my Saviour's wings
The tenderness of his loving care
A beautiful melody to me He sings

I hear his mighty voice in the wind
The God of Jacob speaking clear
Although I tremble in his presence
I surrender I have nothing to fear

For I know that I am truly loved
And God is making a way for me
Soaring high holding onto his hand
As he leads me onwards to victory

Smiles Gallery





Smiles are infectious – Don't put a mask over yours!



Rally & Events Diary for 2023

Rally/Event	When	Where	CMA Contact
Cheshire Classic Car & Motorcycle Show	Saturday 27 th to Sunday 28 th May	Capesthorpe Hall, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9JY	
Farmyard Party Rally	Friday 16 th to Sunday 18 th June	Duncombe Park Estate, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5EB	Mike Fitton chairman@bike.org.uk
Yorkshire Pudding Rally	Friday 4 th to Sunday 6 th August	Escrick Park Estate, Escrick, North Yorkshire, YO19 6EA	Oliver Hamilton chair.westyorks@bike.org.uk
Hoggin' the Bridge	Dates TBC	Caldicot, Monmouthshire, Wales	Tony Williams cma.bristol.treasurer@gmail.com
Thunder in the Glens	Friday 25 th to Monday 28 th August	Aviemore, Scotland	Amy Stalker secretary.forthandtay@bike.org.uk
Stormin' the Castle Rally	Friday 2 nd to Sunday 4 th September	Witton Castle, Co Durham, DL14 0DE	Mike Fitton chairman@bike.org.uk
Dolau Afon Camping Weekend	Dates TBC	Dolau Afon, Pont, Llanafan, Aberystwyth, SY23 4BQ	Penny Cavill cma.bristol.chair@gmail.com
Isle of Man TT Races	Monday 29 th May to Saturday 10 th June	Isle of Man TT circuit	Mike Fitton chairman@bike.org.uk
CMA UK National Rally	Friday 7 th to Sunday 9 th July	Quinta Christian Centre	Mike Fitton chairman@bike.org.uk
EMC Rally	Wednesday 2 nd to Sunday 6 th August	Tjøsveien, Norway	See CMA UK website
Brighton Burn-Up	Sunday 3 rd September	Ace Café, London and Madeira Drive, Brighton	Stephan Powell chair.sussex@bike.org.uk
Classic Bike Show	Saturday 14 th to Sunday 15 th October	Staffordshire County Showground, ST18 0BD	

Please send any revisions and/or additions to the Editor at chainlink@bike.org.uk in time for the next issue.