



CHAINLINK

The Magazine of the Christian Motorcyclists' Association UK

Summer 2023



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From the Editor's Garage

What an *absolutely fabulous* day we had back in early June – the ‘we’ being just Pete Bressington and me. The highlight of the ride must have been the single track twisties circumventing Llyn Brianne (see front cover). The destination was the *Owls Nest Tearooms* in Llandovery, South Wales. The weather was glorious, the company was excellent – our riding skills were very similar and we made ‘good progress’.

Pete had just collected his bike after extensive repairs following an accident and the *Owls Nest* was a bikers café that he had particularly wanted to visit. It was definitely worth the long journey to get there. At the café we talked about the wonder of God’s creation, having stopped on the track overlooking Llyn Brianne and absorbing the stunning view over the lake. Must do it again!

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

John



Managed to catch up with Steph at the National Rally at Quinta. Lovely to see her (and Cliff) again!

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.

My Rugged Mountain Moment

Mike Fitton, National Chairman, CMA UK

'My moment was on the side of a rugged mountain.'

'The sheep that are My own hear My voice and listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me'

John 10:27 Amplified Bible

Some of you will know that Sandy and I decided to celebrate our 20th Wedding Anniversary this year by joining a tour of the Holy Land organised by a group from Andy and Naomi's church, Family Life Church, Thirsk. Our wedding also represented the first time that we met Naomi; where Andy had asked if he could bring his new girlfriend to the wedding, and we are so glad he did.

The trip was very well organised and led by Kingsley Armstrong and his wife Cathy (The Joshua Project & International Gospel Outreach).

Sandy and I were unsure of how we would cope with a coach party in Israel and the daily itinerary; we always travel independently and love to explore new cultures. But how wrong could we be! Our group was a wonderful mix of Christians from the UK and from a small church in Texas; within minutes we knew we were all there for the same reason – 'To Walk Together Through the Bible'. Our local guide, Ronit Livnat Maoz, was superb as she shared biblical, cultural, and archaeological information on all the locations we visited.

Everyone had special moments with God in a variety of places. Sandy and Naomi's were at

Shiloh, Andy's was in a church as he sang his heart out in praise. My moment was on the side of a rugged mountain where a boy called David would herd his sheep – he had

no idea God was preparing him to become the King of Israel. It was a very hot day, I scrambled down through the rocks to the edge of the steep ravine to be alone with God. As I looked through the heat haze, I saw a line of small dark images moving together way across the valley. Then I heard a man's voice calling and realised he was a shepherd leading his sheep to a water source and a small patch of grass. The sheep followed closely, but I noticed the shepherd regularly called them to keep up.



He led them to green pastures and fresh water in the middle of a barren hillside. Their greatest need was to be nourished by the grass and their thirst quenched by the stream. If they had ignored his voice they would have missed being fed and watered by the only pasture and stream in that barren land.

It reminded me of the moment Jesus told His disciples, 'The sheep that are My own hear My voice and listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me'.

It was an emotional moment for me because I felt Jesus was speaking to me on that mountain – I NEEDED A REMINDER to take time to HEAR Jesus' voice, to take time to LISTEN to Jesus' voice, and to obediently FOLLOW Jesus whenever and wherever He leads.

Following isn't enough though, those sheep needed to be CONSTANTLY alert; if the shepherd suddenly changed direction, their lives would depend on their obedience to follow. They HEARD his voice and obeyed. BUT they would only HEAR the call if they were LISTENING.

As the sheep were drinking water from a small stream on the edge of the ravine, suddenly the nearby trees burst into flames! The shepherd simply called his sheep, they listened and followed him to safety.

When David became King, even though he had a heart for God, he didn't always listen for God's guidance; he made decisions that sadly had life changing consequences – BUT

he ultimately learnt to recognise God's voice and humbly repent and obey.

Never underestimate that God has a plan and purpose for you, especially in CMA. If we choose not to HEAR HIS VOICE, LISTEN and OBEY, we will so easily wander off the route we should be taking.

John Stott said the following:

'Jesus still says to us today, "Follow me."'

He never told us to gain a lot of knowledge about him but rather to be with him, to remain in him (John 15) and then, to live as He would in our place—to do what he did."

I'm glad God spoke to me on that mountain; I needed to be reminded.

I hope God speaks to you too. Find a quiet place and listen to God.

It is our privilege to serve alongside you in CMA, but let's do it by hearing, listening, and obeying together.

God Bless you, Mike and Sandy.



Many of you will remember our daughter Emma from when she was in CMA and attended the National Rally, The Farmyard Party Rally and Stormin the Castle Rally.

Emma is married to Jonathan, this is their first child (our third granddaughter) Otilie Grace Pickard.

At a recent event in Teesside, Emma sat Ottie on this Blood Bike and it was obvious how happy she felt! I hope it will be a memory she never forgets...

Official Stuff...

CMA UK Trustees

Adam Baker	adam.trustee@bike.org.uk
Brian Carbonero	brian.trustee@bike.org.uk
Naomi Hogan	naomi.trustee@bike.org.uk
Fraser McDougall	fraser.trustee@bike.org.uk

CMA UK National Chairman

Mike Fitton	chairman@bike.org.uk
-------------	--

CMA UK National Executive

Adam Baker	adambaker.exec@bike.org.uk
David Ball	davidball.exec@bike.org.uk
Lee Jones	leejones.exec@bike.org.uk
Dave Lock	davelock.exec@bike.org.uk
Phil Roberts	philroberts.exec@bike.org.uk

CMA UK National Officers

National Administrator	Adam Baker	contact@bike.org.uk
National Secretary	Adam Baker	natsec@bike.org.uk
National Treasurer	Phil Roberts	treasurer@bike.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Wren	memsec@bike.org.uk
Chainlink Editor	John Hodge	chainlink@bike.org.uk
Merchandise	Kobus Bensch	merchandise@bike.org.uk
Fast Track Coordinator		fasttrack@bike.org.uk
Fast Friday Coordinator	Fred Gill	fastfriday@bike.org.uk
Rally Coordinator	Lee Jones	rallyorg@bike.org.uk
Rally Bookings		rallyreg@bike.org.uk
Ladies Conf. Coordinator	Sandy Fitton	ladiesconforg@bike.org.uk
Ladies Conf. Bookings	Pauline Lowery	ladiesconfbooking@bike.org.uk
Health & Safety	Adam Baker	hands@bike.org.uk
Safeguarding (Male)	Chris Houghton	male.safeguarding@bike.org.uk
Safeguarding (Female)	Kate Moore	female.safeguarding@bike.org.uk
Data Protection	David Ball	gdpr@bike.org.uk
Webmasters	Philip Head	webmaster.philip@bike.org.uk
	Stephen Hughes-Burton	webmaster.stephen@bike.org.uk
Workbooks	Ian Cameron	workbook@bike.org.uk

CMA UK Branches

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

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

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



CONTACT US:

CMA UK
PO Box 8155
Loughborough
LE11 9AR

Freefone
0800 0154479

contact@bike.org.uk
www.bike.org.uk



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Got the new bikel

Magali Ellis, Essex

In the last issue of Chainlink we published an article from Magali in which she was buying a new bike. We went to print before the bike arrived so here's a pic of the new steed.



Salt and Light Rally 2023

Steve Clarke, Sussex

When does something become an 'annual' event? In June this year we held our third Eastern Region 'Salt and Light' rally at Sizewell Hall, so it must be annual!

There are good reasons why we keep going back to Sizewell. The campsite is nestled in woodland on a clifftop overlooking the sea and surrounded by beautiful Suffolk countryside. We had over forty registrations for the weekend, from Norfolk, Norfolk Borders, Towcester, Essex and Suffolk branches. Our speaker was the Reverend Cole Maynard, a Baptist minister, biker and former military Padre.

As campers began to arrive on the Friday evening, Suzie and her team got busy in the kitchen to make sure there was a hearty meal waiting for them. Tents were set up, camper vans parked and friendships renewed over cups of tea and coffee. Cole gave us the first of his talks from the book of Psalms, and conversations continued as darkness fell over the campsite.

Saturday began bright and early for those who headed down to the beach for a brisk swim in the sea. We then had Cole's second talk on Psalms followed by a full English breakfast.

Once again our rideout took us to Thorpeness. It's only a couple of miles away as the crow flies, but crows and bikers are very different animals. Our route meandered through 35 miles of back lanes and villages. Using the 'second man drop off' system meant that no-one lost their way and everyone was able to enjoy ice cream on the village green at our destination.

A number of us then headed to the David Silver Honda Museum in nearby Leiston, which houses the largest collection of Honda

motorcycles outside of Japan. So many memories of the bikes of our youth! Those who were not Honda fans headed back to the campsite to relax.

Saturday afternoon gave us the chance to try some sports, starting with some golf and archery. Then Maddie, Lissy and Esther, our three youngest campers, organised a very energetic game of rounders!

Our evening worship session gave everyone the chance to sit back in the evening sunshine to recover while listening as our great friends Joe and Jemma provided the music, while the catering team got the barbecue ready.

As Proverbs 16:9 reminds us, sometimes we make our plans but God takes things in a different direction. We had arranged for another Christian musician to lead our campfire worship session, but it was no surprise to Graham Sharpe when he had to drop out due to illness. God had spoken to Graham on his journey to Sizewell, and he was prepared for just such an eventuality. As the fire lit up the woodland clearing, he brought us a powerful message about God's greatness.

Sunday morning meant another chance to swim, another talk from Psalms and another of Suzie's delicious breakfasts! After which, everyone headed to the Worship Barn for our service and communion.

Cole is a man of many talents but few of us realised that he's a very proficient ukulele player! What could be better than to worship with an Hawaiian flavour?

After the Sunday service, all that remained was to eat any remaining cakes, clean and tidy the campsite and ensure that *Salt & Light* is officially annual by promising each other to do it all again in 2024. ✝





God of the Dark and God of the Light!

Dave Finan, North Yorks & Coast Branch

Holy Joe's Cafe at Into the Valley 2023

The Call

The phone rang in January 2023, "Hello Dave," said the voice on the other end of the line, "We want to invite CMA to run a Holy Joe's at this years *Into the Valley* at Drifffield in East Yorkshire in May 2023". The call came from the Motorcycle Action Group executive and was a genuine invitation.

After the call, my first thoughts were, 'Lord what an opportunity for mission and outreach, coupled with, is this for me to arrange and can I do it?' True, I had run Holy Joe's at ITV for over ten years, as the first MAG rally of the year, early season in all weathers including the water on site freezing solid one year and having to wait until it thawed until we could brew our first cups of tea for customers. But surely that chapter of my calling was now over?

It had been a whole three years since we last had a Holy Joe's at *Into the Valley*, owing to the pandemic and dreaded Covid. The rally had moved to a new site on Drifffield Showground. I had thought that I had completed my last oversight of a Holy Joe's but it seemed that MAG management had other ideas and clearly God had other ideas too.

In the previous three years a lot had happened in my life. I had moved house and was now in another geographical area. I was with a new twig (now branch) of CMA—North Yorks Moors & Coast—a new-to-me group of people, few of whom had served in a Holy Joe's before!

I had been diagnosed with Brain Fatigue (following a bleed on the brain some years earlier) and as a result could no longer work as a manager in Children's Services, child protection, a job I had loved as a calling for over 30 years. This also resulted in my being mentally tired and having to take early retirement. Could I therefore arrange and manage a Holy Joe's? All that organisation, buying stock, checking equipment, getting the CMA volunteers to come and help. Was this my responsibility? Could someone else take on the task? Lord, not my will but yours be done!

The more I prayed about this, the more I realised that God was saying, "You can do this, I am with you". He calls and He equips. "Not in my strength Lord, but in yours", was my prayer.

Preparations: I made some phone calls, saying to the Lord, "If this is your will bring others on board to help". And thanks to Oliver and the West Yorkshire Branch I had enough boilers and all the equipment I would need. In faith, knowing we had little funding in our branch account (I am the current treasurer), I took enough money for a float and



The brothers Finan, John & Dave, riding the NC 500 in 2022

used my own money for the purchase of the stock. If we lost money it was my/er, Gods risk, as He had first given me the money to use! But that's another story!

Called to Serve

Now all I needed was some committed CMA volunteers. How could this be achieved when MAG, owing to its financial position, could no longer provide a meal allowance/any marshall privileges or other remuneration. 'Come and help at Holy Joe's with no guarantee of any support other than a free entry to the event', was not the invitation I wanted to make.

In ones and twos CMA members answered the call to serve. I had calculated on needing at least fifteen as a minimum to run the rota. I ordered fifteen T shirts in

faith to give to those attending and decided on a £5 meal voucher per shift to recognise the support given by each one attending.

I got eight confirmations including myself to serve, can we still do this Lord or do we give apology to MAG and say we cannot do it due to numbers of volunteers? In faith we proceeded. Those eight volunteers (they know who they are) worked tirelessly with a commitment to Holy Joe's and every shift was covered and every task completed. It was as though I had more than fifteen people working in Holy Joe's. Friday Morning on the event we were ready to serve, everything in full swing, we were open.

The Darkest Hour

On the Saturday night all was in full flow in Holy Joe's, customers, chatter and fellowship, then in a moment the lights went out. It was pitch black. We called in the MAG crew on duty, but couldn't get the lights back on. Was it moisture that tripped the lights? We had had rain – a faulty connection? MAG crew tried everything as they were supplying the electricity from the site. Even running a by-pass did not work. We were in the dark with a few small lights from customers on tables. The gas boilers continued to boil, but we could not see to serve. My heart sank, all this preparation and work and now faced with closure, not able to meet our commitment of a 24 hour service to MAG. Where was God in the darkness?

In the darkness I heard a voice – it was Rev Eddie Marsden, my brother in Christ who is 76 years old and thinks he is still 21. His nickname is Caleb, he rides a

Yamaha 1100 Virago and despite losing not one but two wives to cancer, sings praises to the Lord everyday. "God is God of the darkness as well as of the light," said Eddie, at which point he turned on a high beam light which illuminated Holy Joe's. "Thank you Lord," I said, "you are a God of miracles". We could stay open, meeting our commitment to serve despite no electricity and the cold of the night. "In Christ we have all we need, Satan can never win", said Eddie. I knew in my heart and spirit he was right.

True, in the early hours we didn't have many customers, just Eddie and I sitting by a gas heater with the boilers bubbling away, with Eddie talking about making sure we had a better lighting rig for next year's event. It was clear that God was with us and we managed to stay open all night despite the darkness and cold. MAG marshals and night security were grateful for a hot drink.

The outcome

It was a great event with mixed weather, a good bike show, a choice of musical listening and a well used Holy Joe's.

Around 30 Biker Bibles were taken during the weekend. God blessed us with a large profit ensuring that we were able to bless MAG by paying our way and covering all costs. Conversations were had, friendships made and renewed, and we were able to witness and share – being there and allowing God to do the rest!

MAG would like us to return next year, hopefully with our new lighting rig.

South Yorkshire and Humberside Branch will be taking on Holy Joe's Café, as it is in their area. I

hope to help out and not organise into 2024. God and MAG want us at this event because God's not finished there yet! (Please contact Kate Moore if you want to help next year – first Bank Holiday weekend in May.)

Lessons learned

Remember, "God is God of the darkness as well as of the light," don't be afraid, He created all things and His radiant light will always shine where and when it's needed.

If you are called to serve he will equip you with all you need, not just some of what you need, all you need! Physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Trust in Him!

So my prayer is now, 'where next Lord?' As one chapter ends another always opens. He will go with me, even in retirement – in spite of my shortcomings and, because of them, I may be the unique person He needs to fulfil a task. Now, there's a revelation!

Did you know that God dwells in thick darkness? That the God of light, at times, dwells in darkness? This idea flies in the face of much of our imagery and imagination about God. After all we so often hear that God is light (1 John 1:5) and that the Lord will be our light (Isaiah 60:19) and this is true. But what is also true is that *'The Lord has said he would dwell in thick darkness'* (1 Kings 8:12). God is with you in the dark places you experience bringing his resurrection light. ✝

~~~~~

***P.S. I have a Ural 650 and sidecar. Is there anyone out there who can help me get it on the road to use for the Lord? Location – Scarborough, North Yorkshire.***



# Ride to The North West 200 – 2023

Michael Carter, Bristol Branch

For some years, I have wanted to travel on my motorbike to watch the *North West 200*, a road race on the Northern Irish Coast which started in 1929; taking a ferry from South Wales, biking through Ireland to Northern Ireland then making my way home through Scotland and then South to home in Wiltshire.

Having taken the ferry from Fishguard, I had a smooth journey from Rosslare to Dublin where I saw family and stayed overnight. The next morning, I had an Irish breakfast (much the same as an English breakfast but always with black pudding, sometimes known as Drisheens) where I was joined by Irish motorbike Garda (Police), with whom I had a friendly chat about our respective bikes. I took the M1 to the North, knowing for sure that I had crossed the border when I saw a Royal Mail van on the road. I made my way to Bushmills where the Old Bushmills Distillery is to be found. I was introduced to the delights of spirits distilled from the waters of the River Bush since

1784. Upon seeing some bikes around Bushmills village, I contacted Jonathan, the Secretary of the Northern Irish branch of the CMA, who put me in touch with Robbie and Colin who were also planning to watch the races.

The next day, the race was starting at around 5pm. Earlier, I went to look around some sites on the North Coast, taking the coastal road to the Rope Bridge. When I arrived there, the scenery was beautiful. I walked across the Rope Bridge, from which you can see Scotland across the Irish Sea on a clear day. Then I rode down to the Giants' Causeway for the first time, which was truly magnificent.

Upon contacting Robbie, I realised that we had met eight years earlier at the Ulster Grand Prix





before I joined the CMA. Robbie told me that Mike Fitton, CMA UK National Chairman, was also there, watching the practice sessions.

Later, when I was at Portrush, Robbie called suggesting I meet him, Colin and Mike for tea and we went on to watch the race in the coastal village of Portstewart. The bikes tore around the roads, many of which were closed for the duration of the race. It was as though this scenic town was a private bike track. The total race length is just under nine miles, with each race consisting of five circuits, and average speeds of 120mph. Sadly, Mike told me that a racer had needed to be airlifted to safety earlier in the day, but we subsequently heard he was recovering.

The next day, I met Mike and Colin on the road to Bothy Café which had previously been a petrol station. We shared tea and a prayer at the Café. Colin offered to show me around other sites in Northern Ireland. We rode via the old race circuit to Joey's Bar, a venue dedicated to

Joseph Dunlop, a North West 200 racer. We stopped at Ballymoney where Colin took me to the Robert Dunlop Memorial Garden which has statues of William, Michael and Robert Dunlop. We walked down to Joey's Bar and going inside was reminiscent of being in a museum, with a motorbike hanging from the ceiling and trophies displayed at the bar. The whole area was busy, swarming with bikers. We moved on to the Gortmore Viewpoint, with the Sea God statue above and Benone Beach below. The Republic of Ireland is visible on a clear day but it was misty on this occasion. A railway line runs right along Benone Strand and perched above is Mussenden Temple, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century for the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bristol. Then we rode back to Portstewart, meeting Colin and seeing a mixture of bikes going out on the circuit. The friendship and support of the CMA had opened my eyes to the full North West 200 experience and I am grateful to the entire crew.

The next day, I watched the final race in Portrush. Seeing how fast they went around the corners filled me with admiration for the riders and their immense skill, no doubt honed over years of practice. In the course of the day, one bike caught fire and another rider fell off but walked away safely. When the race was over, I rode to Belfast, where my ferry was due to depart the following morning.

Leaving Belfast on the ferry, I could see the Harland and Wolff cranes which have become a landmark in their own right. I arrived at Cairnryan Harbour in sunny Scotland, then took the A77 along the shores of Loch Ryan to Stranraer for the night.

The following morning I set off early, stopping at the Old Toll Bar for lunch, just a few yards from the English border. Seeing a sign for the Lake District, I decided to ride down to Lakeside to see the beautiful Lake and Heritage Railway, my final stop before heading home. †



# National Chairman's Award 2023

*Glen Knight, West Yorks Branch*

I would like to start with a big 'Thank you' to Mike for considering and awarding me the National Chairman's Award at the National Rally for services going above and beyond the call of duty. When Kate and Simon came to present it to me along with the video clip, I was greatly honoured, it brought a tear to my eye and Karen was pleased.

When I had my accident on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023, I was on the way to the Farmyard Rally in Helmsley. I went first to York hospital to have all my injuries assessed. I was then transferred to Hull where the plastic specialists were able to operate on my leg.

Whilst recuperating in Hull, Mike and another person came to visit me but they had to wait as I was seeing some doctors. A little while after this, I received an e-mail from this other person saying that some healing had taken place, as he found it difficult to talk to Mike at first and that a hurdle had been overcome. In some way, having my

accident, which I know through the extent of my injuries was severe, it was evident that God was working in this situation to repair relationships.

After a week's stay in Hull, I was transferred to Huddersfield Royal, much closer to home. As you can imagine, all the travelling from Halifax to Hull and back for Karen and everybody else who came to visit, was tiresome. After four weeks in Huddersfield I was discharged to go home. On arrival, Karen had put up 'WELCOME HOME' banners and again I was a bit overwhelmed, after a total of five weeks in hospital.







I am continuing to recover but it will be a long process. Karen and I would like to thank everyone for their get-well cards, phone calls and e-mails, and especially being upheld in your prayers. I continue to log onto Biker Church at Warrington, which I have attended and supported since the birth of Biker Church from our trip to CMA South Africa for their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which I think is either 13 or 14 years ago.

I have also decided that my biking days are now over after 47 years of riding. This is my first serious accident and a warning. I have also had my bumps and scrapes, but will continue to be a member of CMA and do whatever I can that God will allow. So it grieves me that I have to put my Kawasaki GTR 1400 up for sale – see details below.

Once again thank you all for your continued prayers for a full recovery. 🙏

## FOR SALE

My bike is a 2011, Green Kawasaki GTR1400. 1 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](mailto: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





*Anyone remember Saturday afternoon at the 2023 National Rally at Quinta?*

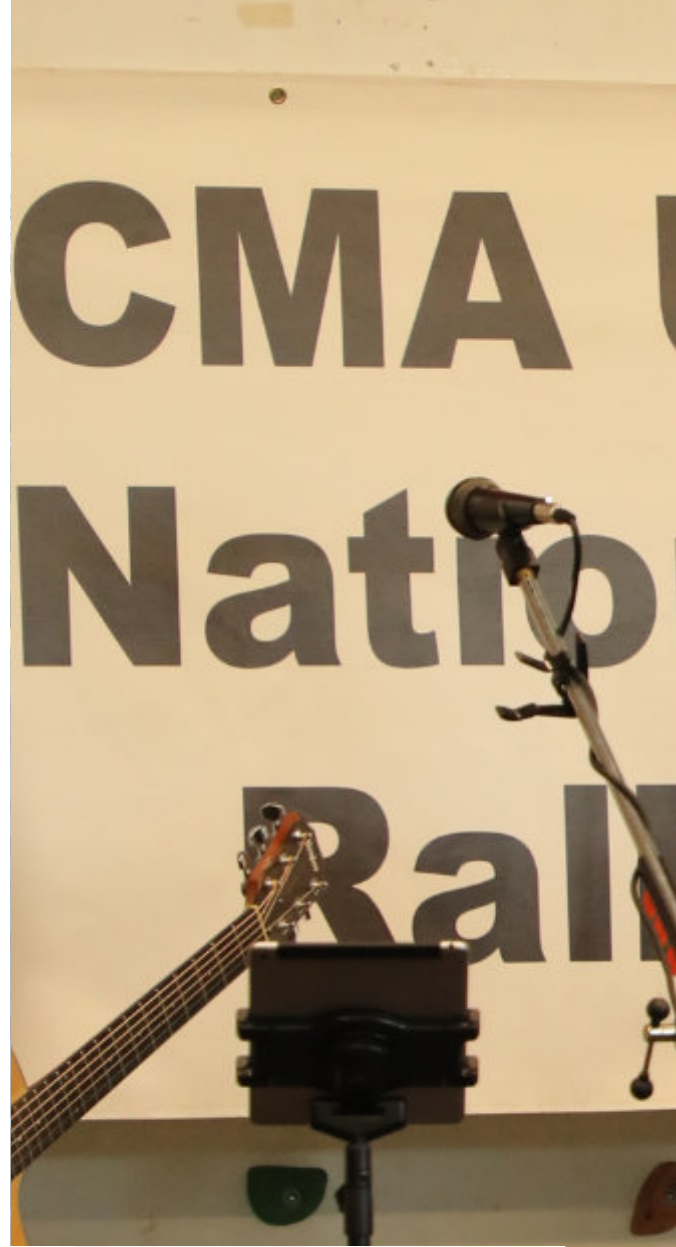
*It was supposed to be an organised water fight but I reckon God won that one!*

*Ed.*


















The **Barry Sheene Classic** meeting at Oliver's Mount brings together a great mix of classic and modern bikes, sidecars and riders. Oliver's Mount is England's only real road race circuit and spectators for race events are known to have reached 58,000.

I went as a photographer and Caz wore her cross and talked to anyone and everyone she could, despite the rain. Yes, it rained all weekend, but British people's enthusiasm couldn't be dampened by the



weather and spectators lined trackside all day long to see 'close up' racing at its best. The only people I talked to were my wife Caz, and Steve Parish, who stood inside his tent most of the day, next to two of Barry Sheene's bikes, talking to anyone.

George 

# The Barry Sheene Classic

*George and Caz Laws, Tyne & Wear Branch*

I wore my CMA rain jacket with my CMA waistcoat on top. The rain didn't know what it wanted to do but I knew what I had to do. With my pockets filled with two CMA travel mugs and two bananas we set off round the paddock. There was a female rider I wanted to talk to, **Lissy Whitmore**, number **34**, *The Purple Princess*. With a name like that I had to meet her.

I spoke quite openly to her, and she was forthcoming with a good deal of insight and knowledge on bike racing. Her goal is to be a BSB rider but at 18 her father feels she is not ready.

I gave her a card and a small wooden heart saying 'Peace' with a diamond on and **Philippians 4 v 6-7** on the back. I also gave her a key ring with a tiny slip of paper in the baggie attached saying 'The diamond on the back symbolises how precious YOU are to God.'

Just as a bit of background, Lissy fell ill at the start of the year just as she was getting herself ready for BSB Round One at Silverstone. Her year didn't get off to the right start and because of this she lost a few sponsors and became unhappy with her racing at the top level. This meant that for the sake of her mental health, she had to take a step back from the national series and returned to enjoying her racing again at Oliver's Mount and Club Meetings whenever the remaining budget allowed.

Meanwhile George left to take photos...



Walking along the length of the paddock I prayed for the riders' safety and asked God who he wanted me to speak to. Eventually I was directed to a woman whose name was **Sam** and gave her a heart and keyring. She told me her husband was a rider and was in the paddock ready to go. She was very pleased and thanked me so much for the CMA items. **Steve, her husband** also thanked me. I said I would pray for his safety.



Motorbikes and sidecars have always interested me and as I walked through the sidecar paddock I stopped at **Steve and Matty Ramsden's outfit**. He thanked me when I told him I would pray for their safety and wrote 'Stay safe' on the back of a CMA card.

There was another sidecar team I felt led to speak with, number 96. The pilot was **James Saunders** and the person in the chair was a woman. **The woman, I found out, was Sarah Stokoe who used to be in the chair with Maria Costello at the TT.** I spoke to Sarah and gave her a heart and card as well. I said I'd pray for their safety and wrote 'Stay safe' on the back of the CMA card. I also managed

to give out a prayer card to other sidecar riders and their passengers.

Sunday racing was cancelled because of a persistent bout of fog and rain, so we left after the last race on the Saturday, exhausted from the constant walking in the rain but happy that God had worked through us.

Steve and Matty Ramsden came third in race one, and in race two James Saunders and Sarah Stokoe came seventh in both.

Despite the rain it was a busy weekend.

Caz ✝





# Safeguarding

Chris Houghton, South Lancs Branch

## The most frequent question

Hi everyone, it was good to hear at the Arbroath AGM that everyone present recognised that Safeguarding is 'everyone's' responsibility. For a brief moment I wondered whether I might get a 'tumble weed' moment.

As of the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2023, I will be standing down as the Male Safeguarding Officer for CMA UK.

The role has not been too onerous and I'm sure the Trustees will announce my successor in due course. I want to put on record my gracious thanks to Mel, Kate, the Trustees and Exec members and the telephone support line operatives of 31:8\*. Without these people the role would have been more challenging. So a big 'Thank you' to you all.

The regular question that I do get asked is about CMA members engaging with under 18's. So perhaps my closing article will be to offer some clarity.

If engaging with under 18's safeguarding has to be a priority.

The question is often where responsibility lies and can sometimes be a grey area without immediate clarity, especially where an outreach ministry has evolved over time. In this situation, please ask the question, 'where does safeguarding responsibility lie?' Please don't just go along and assume. To 'assume' just makes an 'ass' out of 'u' and 'me'.

So here goes: if a Church or organisation ask CMA UK members to be involved in their Church's or organisation's outreach to under 18's then CMA members need to clarify and abide by the safeguarding policies and procedures of that Church or organisation. In the case of the major Christian Church denominations or local government, there will be policies and procedures to comply with. In the case of Free Evangelical Churches they will probably have a policy modelled on one of the other bigger Church denominations. The Church or organisation is within its rights to request it's own DBS check prior to engaging with 'their' under 18's. As such you need to comply with their request. In this instance the Church or organisation has initiated an outreach ministry to

the under 18's and has invited members of CMA UK to help. You will have to comply with all safeguarding requirements as required. You can ask to see a paper copy of their safeguarding policy and you may be asked to affirm and sign your compliance with their procedures. If there are areas of concern ask them for clarification and cc the CMA UK safeguarding officers in any email. An email trail is important.

If CMA UK members instigate a new outreach to under 18's and ask a local Church or organisation if CMA UK can use the Church's or organisation's buildings, then this becomes a ministry initiative created by a branch of CMA UK. As such, as a basic minimum, Branch Officers will need a DBS check instigated by CMA UK and at least one officer will need to have oversight and be in attendance at such activities. Also, always ensure that no one is left alone in a 'vulnerable' situation. DBS checks from other organisations **cannot** be accepted as CMA UK need their own DBS checks to be undertaken for insurance purposes.

I appreciate that this means some people accumulate multiple concurrent DBS checks in their varied different roles. Believe me, I have a folder of DBS check certificates. This process can be made easier if people register immediately after receiving a DBS check for the ongoing service with the gov.uk website.

If your Branch instigates a new ministry or outreach to the under 18's please email the safeguarding officers and they will see how they can best support your initiative.

Helpful is what we want to be.

So I hope this answers the most regular question I get asked for clarity on.

Blessings to you all.

Chris Houghton

07710 978338

[male.safeguarding@bike.org.uk](mailto:male.safeguarding@bike.org.uk)

Standing down as at 21/10/2023 but any emails will be transferred to the successor in post. 🙏

\* <https://thirtyoneeight.org/about-us/>



# Lawrence Weston Bike Show

*Liz Robertson & others, Bristol Branch*

Compiled by Liz Robertson of CMA Bristol and CMA members present at the show

## ***Here's how it went!***

**How do you run a bike show for the first time?** It was the question on the minds of Bristol Branch members when it was first suggested by David Ball, Bristol Branch Vice Chair. The task seemed daunting but what made all the difference was that David had a vision for the show and truly believed that this is what God wanted us to do! So some background info to put this in context: Bristol Branch meets monthly at St Peter's Church, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, and also hosts a biker carol service annually. David and Angie Ball also worship there. It is an 'outward' looking church, working into its community, which is in some need.

With the vicar and church fully on board we set about the process of organising a bike

show. It was decided early on that the show would wholly raise funds for the incredible work of the South West Children's Hospice (SWCH). The first and most important task: prayer—a lot of prayer. Although we felt a bit overwhelmed at times, we caught the vision and committed each stage to the Lord. More on this in what Tony Williams and Penny Cavill have to say below.

Well, we praise God for answered prayer. The day was bright and dry and lots of bikers turned up. The community came out to see what was going on. Other CMA branches arrived to help and encourage—Gloucester, HSB and TV—we thank you! Many visited the church – for the first time in many years in some cases. Bibles given away, LOTS of cakes eaten! And over £1,000 raised for the SWCH. But most of all we believe that seeds were sown that day and that the Kingdom of God will grow as a result. Hallelujah.

## ***How do you pray a Motorbike Show into being?***

Tony Williams,  
CMA Bristol Treasurer

CMA Bristol Branch had a vision, well at least David Ball did, to run a bike show in our own area, Lawrence Weston. This is an area of some need and as we use St Peter's Church as our base a joint venture was agreed.

So how do you go about it? Well, it was thought that a good idea would be to form a

prayer group, and an organising group to work hand in hand with each other. That sorted and put into being, what about the church itself, would they be up for it or against it? Well, they were up for it big time and so on a cloud of prayer and with willing helpers the branch set off on its course to run a bike show. Now came the reason to have the show; would it be just for the church and branch? No, there must be a deeper reason; so who shall we partner with? The local children's hospice was our final choice and so a contact was made and, hey presto, they jumped at the chance to be involved.

Now the scene is set – we have the players so we need to plan the fixtures and fittings. Have we got enough from our own sources – gazebos, food, electricity, show bikes and so on? This was a mammoth task, or at least it seemed so at the beginning, but never fail, we were wearing out the knees on our jeans for a past time and the church was backing us up. Prayer time was so important at this time of uncertainty. But our Lord was listening and things started to fall into place. A local 'International' Bike Show said they would help and bring some show bikes and a large gazebo – this would complete the set. The children's charity would provide the food and catering and have their own gazebo to sell their wares and the raffle. That's two done, we just have to provide the rest. Into the shed to see what's available and lo and behold we have three gazebos of our own, so job done. More prayer and the



*Alan with Rep. from SWCH*



appointment of a Show Prayer Co-ordinator to see us through to Show Day. What shall we do for the smaller people who will undoubtedly be coming with their mums and dads? 'How about a bouncy castle?' was the cry. So, where do we get one from at reasonable price? Job for secretary to do. So, in her capable hands the order was given to procure a bouncy castle for the little ones. Next it was agreed that some form of advice be available. A friend of one of the committee had the skills to offer advice to the bikers of the area on how to look after their bikes and be safe. As a lot of youngsters rode bikes in the area without proper protective clothing, what can we do? Well, we were in possession of a small



*Ian with Peppa Pig!*

number of used and loved motorcycle boots and jackets plus other bit and pieces. This would be the basis of a 'shop' where we could sell this gear off cheap or give away if needed. Once agreed on this idea a lot more gear came our way – enough to set up our own shop should we wish.

Well now all was going to plan and as with all good plans a hiccup, health issues rear their

ugly heads and we need to rely more and more on prayer to see us through. Now it all falls into place and Show day approaches. What will it be like? Will it be a failure or a success, will people come or stay away? We needn't have worried as for the first show we had run it was great and we raised a good amount for the children's charity on the day.

### ***Based on the daily topics for prayer leading up to the show***

Penny Cavill,  
CMA Bristol Chair

#### **Lawrence Weston Show Prayer Topic – seeds sown and the Kingdom grown:**

*Ephesians 3:20: 'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work in us.'*

We prayed for conditions on the day:

- good weather: that it would be dry.

It was a beautiful dry and sunny dry day despite the prolonged wet weather leading up to the event.

- atmosphere: welcoming and loving.

It turned out to be a family occasion, bouncy castle, ice-creams and children politely asking if they could sit on the bikes although they were rather too enthusiastic with the throttle!

- against opposition: for those who may find this show with a Christian presence to be threatening.
- for the Holy Spirit to be preparing opportunities and conversations, to open hearts and minds and give a thirst to know more.

'Would you like to take a Biker

Bible?'

'No, I won't have anything to do with those because of one word!'

'And what is that word?'

'Abomination'.

- for the courage and confidence in our God to provide all we need because he is already at work in us!
- for the success of our show.

Amanda Leonard from the Children's Hospice South West sent us the following message:

*'Thought I'd just quickly message before I have a couple of days off with family. The total raised was £1,038 – incredible. This is an amazing amount.'*

### ***What we've learnt – reflections on the Lawrence Weston Bike Show:***

Anne Egan,  
CMA Bristol Secretary

Helping to organise this bike show was a huge lesson for me on relying less on myself and more on God. Being someone who likes everything pinned down and decided and who would not normally leave anything to 'chance', I learned to let things go and let God work how He wanted and not how I wanted. Consequently it was much less stressful than it might have been for me. I met my limits a few times but the bike show that God put on was small and beautifully formed.

We worked together as a branch, with other branches and the people from the church that meet at St Peter's, where Bristol Branch meets monthly and where the show was held. It was a real joy to do so.

Branch verse of the year – Luke 14:23 *'Then the master told his*



servant, “Go out along the backroads and make people come in, so my house will be full.””

### Reaction of new Bristol Branch member – Nathan:

‘The show really spoke to me – how many people CMA can reach! I also really liked the support of other branches.’

Liz: Isn’t it great to encourage new CMA members like this? To see how God uses us to plant seeds for the Kingdom and to bless those we meet, and to be inspired by the Lord to be part of the CMA ministry.

### *How did we use our talents – a reflection on Matthew 25 and the Lawrence Weston Bike Show:*

Alan and Liz Robertson,  
CMA Bristol

God has given us talents and gifts to use for His Kingdom. The ‘talents’ in the parable are monetary but the message is clear: what do we do with what God gives us? The bike show, both preparation and the actual event, was a wonderful demonstration of how God equips us even when sometimes we can’t see it for ourselves. From the cool head, leadership and organisation of David; the invaluable experience of Pete Scadding being part of the team running Nailsea Bike Show; the admin skills of Branch Secretary Anne, without whose emailed notes we would have struggled. And on the day, for those who set out the gazebos, bike parking, signs, tables and chairs in the café, the prayer stations in the church and for those who gave their time to pray during the event and with people who wanted it; for

those who ‘manned’ stalls and spoke to numerous people on the day; for CMA Bristol member Martin Bridgewater who was on First Aid duty (and who, thankfully had a quiet day!); for Angie Ball and others who made dozens of scones (the cream teas were very popular), cakes and biscuits; for Sue Brailey and Liz Osgood who made hot drinks all day: we thank you all. All these



*Miche tries out a bike jacket from our second hand bike kit stand*

talents and gifts used to glorify God.

We were so pleased, personally, to see how many people came into the show and how brilliantly the CMA members worked together as a team. Our bike and sidecar always attracts attention and, of course, Alan is always happy to show it off and have people try out the sidecar! He spent the day in the Control Tent, just where bikers entered their bikes into the show. He had lots of lovely conversations, including with a young local rider on a 125cc, who is about to take his MOD1; so great to encourage him. Liz spent the

day in the church on duty at the prayer stations and chatting to people from the community in the café.

What a privilege to serve God in this way. We are called to ‘sow seeds’ and use our God-given talents for Him; we place all of it in His Hands.

### *Blessings at the Lawrence Weston Bike Show:*

Colin Wright,  
CMA Gloucester

I was privileged to be part of the prayer team at the first CMA Bristol Bike Show, which took place in the grounds of St Peter’s Church, Lawrence Weston.

In the church were several prayer stations spaced around the church. In another area were tables with the facility for colouring, chat, and an area for prayer.

When I first entered the church I could feel a great sense of the presence of God and His peace.

Although I signed up to cover a couple of one hour slots, I actually spent most of the day in there.

There were people from the local area (which is very deprived) coming in and were unsure that they were allowed in, but a warm welcome from us encouraged them to come and join us and look around. I was able to pray with a young father, whose son has special needs.

In between, I started colouring in a page with a verse of scripture on it. This verse God had given me the day before. This is now my home screen picture.

What a blessed day, not only for those attending, but the Lord blessed me as well. 🙏



In my youth I sought to understand the meaning of life.  
I searched as I rode over mountain and vale,  
through wind and through hail,  
through city and village, each place a new find,  
but something was missing, my sight it was blind.

*No one to tell me or show me the way.*

I see a biker wearing a white cross,  
does he know, or pray?

In my Thirties, I settled, not travelling so far,  
the bike in the garage, for work I had to use a car.  
A marriage, young children and mortgage to pay,  
was anything out there to follow and say,  
surely this is the truth for me to know.

*No one to tell me or show me the way.*

I passed a church on Sunday with bikes parked outside,  
do they know something?

In my Forties my bike on the road,  
to pick up the journey on one lonely road,  
still seeking and riding, the wind on my face,  
but something eludes me, I quicken to the chase,  
my heart like a stone, it feels like a race.

*No one to tell me or show me the way.*

At the biker cafe this weekend, I saw a white cross,  
a man with a smile we shared for a while.

In my Fifties, a time for reflection,  
some roads are still fast and some are now slow,  
no one to tell me which way I should go.  
Still seeking and looking, the media is wrong,  
the politicians faulty and my belief is not strong.

*No one to tell me or show me the way.*

At a bike rally, I had a cup of tea.  
that white cross again, these people not plain,  
something of a spirit, now what do they  
know?

# *Lonely Rider on Lonely Road*

***Dave Finan, North Yorks & Coast Branch***





In my Sixties, they tell me it's time to slow down,  
my elbows are weaker and my face wears a frown.  
There's a knocking on my door, but no one is there,  
I ride on my bike with seldom a care.  
At a local bike meeting,  
a man gave a greeting,  
that white cross much more then,  
it's a person who knows.

In my Seventies, my passions my interests,  
not much has changed,  
my body gets tired, it's all re-arranged.  
I think I now know this meaning of life,  
it's not a something –  
it's more a someone that I strive to meet.  
He always was there, in the home, in the street.  
The bikes and the white cross, I now understand.  
*Thank you for telling me, and showing the way.*

In my Eighties I'm ready to hang up my boots,  
I don't need to search now I'm sure of my roots,  
because someone took time to tell me of Him.  
My journey through life, through each twist and turn,  
Jesus was with me, I just had to learn.  
That journey in Heaven I will someday soon take,  
with my Saviour beside me, my throttle and brake.

Well, I've lived a life and it was not all fun,  
to my God I now turn to pull the last ton.  
My white cross I will wear on roads with no end,  
looking for bikers to share and befriend.  
How I wished I'd known sooner about Jesus my Lord,  
please go tell other bikers both near and abroad,  
whatever your age,  
before other bikers run out of road  
and get struck off God's page. 🛐

*Dave Finan*





# *A Safe Haven in a Surprising Location*

*Mark Coupe, Towcester Branch*

I am sure that there will be many articles on the CMA UK presence at the EMC rally 2023 in Solstrand, Norway, from those who were there<sup>1</sup>. This is a different story around the event.

The ride to Norway was going to be our first trip together outside the UK; we being my wife, Lizzie, and my Moto Guzzi Norge. Taking a Norge<sup>2</sup> (called Hugo) to Norway was very appealing but it would be a new experience for me, using Hugo, and for Lizzie, touring in Europe on a motorcycle. We had hoped to fit in a bit of practice of travelling two up with full luggage beforehand. As it was, we had to attend this year's CMA UK National Rally in a car as some part or other had not arrived to get the Norge back on the road. This meant our only preparation had been the previous year's National Rally and that ended badly.

My plan was to reduce the time on the road to maximise the time in Norway. The ferry from Emden, just over the Dutch border into Germany, to Kristiansand was not cheap but saved us at least a day's travel in each direction, and the food was excellent and plentiful. If you remember the Autumn 2022 edition of Chainlink you will know that Lizzie and I got married



that April. We had three other weddings and a funeral to fit in during 2022 and were still due a honeymoon; so I booked an Airbnb in Oslo for the week after the Rally. This would give us a long break to soak up the views and the culture.

Having loaded the bike to the gunnels the day before I was suddenly greeted by the RED LIGHT OF DOOM on the instrument panel and the dreaded 'oil can' logo on the LCD panel. I had referred to the 2022 National Rally not being entirely successful for us; because the same light had come on just as the contents of the sump were fired out of the centre of the oil pressure switch into the lower fairing. We ended up being low-loaded home from Shrewsbury. This time it was different because the sump had the right amount of oil in and the light went off above 2,000 rpm. There was no 'plan B' as the Ducati Monster wasn't suitable for two up with luggage even if it was running properly, which it

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1. Really? Ed.

2. 'Norge' is the Norwegian way of saying Norway. The Moto Guzzi Norge is a 1200cc V Twin sports tourer which is more tourer than sports.





*Hugo overlooking Oslo*

wasn't. Back to 'plan A', which was lots of prayer and setting off in hope.

The bike ran fine, apart from the oil light, and we made it to the Rally without any deterioration in performance or new rumbling sounds from the various bearings. Probably just a dodgy switch?

Mike Fitton had mentioned that Holy Riders MC Oslo had the most amazing Club House with a workshop on the ground floor. We were heading off to Oslo after the rally. An oil change might help? What I needed was an answer to a prayer for a way in. On the Saturday, at one of the mealtimes, a gentleman sat down next to me and introduced himself as Johnny Vaganes, the President of Holy Riders, Oslo Branch. I don't think he was expecting me to open with "You are an answer to my prayers." Johnny agreed to help, well he couldn't really not after that line, but he was heading up to Trondheim on the Sunday for a week's holiday. Somehow keys would need to be passed around, not clear who, or when—then the weather stepped in. A severe weather alert for the west of Norway delayed Johnny's departure

until Wednesday. In the end Oslo just got a couple of very heavy rain showers, one of which I was riding round in whilst looking for 4 litres of 10W60.

I met up with Johnny at 6pm at a service station, and I followed his Ducati Multistrada to a hole in a wall of rock, literally, because the Holy Riders MC Oslo Chapter club house is a Second World War bunker sunk into a hillside. It consists of a relatively narrow entrance of two blast doors which were wide enough for the Volvo estate that followed me in. A sharp right turn takes you into a long cavern filled with bikes, a classic American car and a two-post car lifter as well as lots of racks and tools. Wow, this is amazing. I hadn't the right tools with me but there were plenty of options carefully hung up on boards or in tool boxes. Unfortunately, Hugo and I immediately blotted our copybooks by missing the oil collector before I quickly repositioned it. The oil was replaced, with help from Johnny, and, after the old oil was cleaned up, by me, it was time for a tour. There are three floors in the bunker with bunk beds for 260 people on the top floor. The middle floor provided



meeting areas, kitchens and all manner of useful spaces for entertaining club members and visitors. It turned out that Monday night is not mechanic-ing night – that is Wednesdays. Monday is *Reflections and Prayers* night, to which I was invited, and which was held in English so I could follow and take part. In the presence of the Holy Spirit there was no thought about what the original purpose of the club house might have been, only that it was serving Jesus now.

Having been blessed in so many ways it was with a heart full of gratitude and joy that I rode back into the centre of Oslo to my lovely wife.

In case you are wondering? We made it back on the bike. The oil light came back on slightly less often than before. We had a wonderful time throughout the whole trip; better when I could get the recently purchased intercoms talking to each other but still good without. As a couple you gravitate towards different groups and I spoke to people I had seen at previous rallies but not been able to strike up a conversation with. We hope to see them again in the years to come. Swimming in fjords and rivers had not been on my list but both were highly enjoyable; the former being a short dip due to the coldness of the sea water but highly invigorating. Others will hopefully tell you more about the worship, praise, music and conversations because they are definitely worth remembering and reflecting on. Cooks, and the Disciples MC, did a fantastic job and were Spirit-led in amazing ways to serve us all.

It is clear, without doubt, that our God is good and His love will always exceed our expectations. ✝



*Holy Riders, Oslo, club house*



# The Northumberland MCCs 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BBQ

Ruth, John and George, Tyne & Wear Branch



**For the last four years** CMA Tyne & Wear have been asked to put on a Holy Joe's serving tea and coffee for the Northumberland MCCs BBQ.

The event attracts MCCs from around the area and includes everything from axe and knife throwing to weird sculptures, raffles, and games. This year there was a full-size HOG sculpture for the Harley Davidson Owners Group. The Infidels MCC brought several models of trucks and diggers. Stocks were erected by the Lucky 7s for sponges to be thrown at selected individuals and they also put on horseshoe throwing. Hopefully they didn't get them mixed up.

The event was well attended with a number arriving on bikes of all shapes and sizes. Amongst the mayhem CMA offered coffee and tea from the gazebo free of charge. Tom and Glenys served customers as well as manning the Bible stand and giving out cards.

Northumbria Blood Bikes weren't left out and brought a bike of their own.

The event was hosted by the Revenants MC and a bucket for donations was available in Holy Joe's. All money went to the Northumberland MCs and MCCs charities.

The Chairlady of the Twisted Sprockets was in attendance as well as the Vice Chairman of the Kindred Spirits. Other MCC groups also came along, such as the Red Devils MC and the Patriots MC.

It was a great day. Bikers were prayed for, Biker Bibles were taken, and plenty of networking was carried out with free coffee and tea flowing, literally. People insisted on paying something, which meant the bucket for donations raised just over £125 for the day's charities.

Not forgetting the great time together for CMA

members Tim, Amanda, Paul, Ruth, Tom, Glenys, and John.

Dave Makepeace, Chairman and founding member of the Revenant's MC was there with his daughter Sam, enjoying the proceedings.

Our branch is so blessed to be invited to this MCC event with MC and MCC members attending from Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and other areas.

Thank you, Jesus, for your blessings.

As CMA members we are servants of God and need to put those who need God in their lives at the forefront of our minds. We are here to witness to the biking community, the majority of whom no one else will witness to. Philippians 2:3-4 states, ***'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.'***

When the call comes to serve, we must examine our hearts and do what we are called to do. Sometimes it's easy to say to yourself (and I do this a lot) 'I have other things I need to do', or, 'I'm busy.' One of my favourite things I look forward to, as a Christian, is when I get to Heaven, seeing the people that I helped along the way. What sometimes lays heavy on my heart is the people who won't be there because of something I did or, worst of all, didn't do.

So, when your Chairman asks if anyone is available to attend a rally or event go with the love of God in your heart and the knowledge that you are part of something a lot bigger than yourself. I'd like to thank again Tim, Amanda, Paul, Ruth, Tom, Glenys, and John for their selfless service. (George Laws, Vice Chairman for Tyne & Wear Branch) 🙏



# Commitment

*Phil Roberts, National Treasurer, CMA UK*

*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 1:3*

*After enjoying our wonderful National Rally this year it caused me to ponder: 'Why am I in CMA? Am I truly committed? And, to what am I committed?'*





It's a sad fact of life that in this modern world people seem to lack the desire to be committed to their cause, their work, their family, their faith, their hobbies – all the things that matter most. Sadly I find amongst Christians there can be a lack of commitment where church is required, and dare I say it, sometimes also within CMA.

I am heartened by some individuals that I see in churches and particularly in CMA that just demonstrate passion and commitment and desire to serve. It is so exciting, so encouraging and uplifting to see. But it's also quite worrying when you don't see that from many of our members.

People who don't go to national events because it's 'too far'; folk who don't want to volunteer to help in the many different roles needed in the CMA ministry.

Now the purpose of this article is not to chastise you, the membership, but rather to encourage us all. We all have pressures, work, family, etc. I get it. I have them too. CMA ministry takes time and effort. We are not here to eat cake and go on rideouts (although that's a pleasant additional benefit of CMA life).

First of all to have commitment, we need to understand what we are committed to.

We are here first and foremost to reach bikers who are lost souls needing the Saviour. We are an evangelistic outreach to the biker community. Period.

Check your affirmation clauses on your application form and in the Handbook – it is an urgent call to arms, to commitment, to evangelistic outreach – bikers are dying without Christ!

To quote the noted Atheist and TV Magician, Penn Jillette:

*'I've always said that I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward—and atheists who think people shouldn't proselytize and who say just leave me alone and keep your religion to yourself—how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? I mean, if I believed, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that a truck was coming at you, and you didn't believe that truck was bearing down on you, there is a certain point where I tackle you. And this is more important than that.'*

Jesus called for commitment when questioned by people who wanted to be his disciples, but then they gave reasons as to why they should wait until either relatives had died, or business interests or family mattered more – but Jesus called them to follow NOW! To share the good news NOW!

It's that kind of radical commitment that is lacking in much of western Christianity today. We want one hour of church Sunday morning, we want the music and the worship and we're very happy if it gives us a lift. Maybe we won't even go, just watch on YouTube – several hours later after we've enjoyed



our Sunday leisure, But oh no – we don't want to make an effort! What – give of my time? Oooh, I'm far too busy with life to do that...

However the whole of Christian life is about giving! I think it's very instructive that even a former president of the United States got his head round this concept when John F Kennedy said, *'Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country?'* JFK understood very clearly that nothing in the United States was going to get better unless people took ownership of the challenges and the problems they faced. It is no different in the Christian life. Indeed, I'm sure that a lot of JFK's thinking came from his background in a Catholic upbringing. I'm absolutely certain that the biblical standards that were perhaps a lot stronger in America in those days, were pervading his thoughts.

Surely this is the same question for us – to paraphrase *'don't ask what CMA can do for you, ask what you can do for CMA'* or more to the point, what you can do reaching bikers for Christ! Because that's why we're here.

It does dishearten me somewhat when I talk to people who are members of CMA and it's too much trouble to attend the National Rally or AGM. It's too far to go! Come on folks! MAG members manage to get all the way to their rallies in all weathers and there are thousands of them!

I was humbled earlier this year when I attended the mass bike gathering on May Day in Hastings, Kent. 20,000+ bikers! And two 'Holy Riders' from Germany made the trip over for the weekend specifically to evangelise at this gathering – they feel so strongly, they want to come back in 2024 with a real mission. To note, Holy Riders have around 450 members in Europe – 350 went to their National Rally this year. We have around 380 members and supporters in CMA UK. Only 150 came to our National Rally, and not even enough members for voting attended our AGM. Go figure!

I'm not saying attendance at the National Rally is the be all and end all of CMA commitment, but if you are a member the Handbook clearly states that

you have committed to attending at least one, if not both our national events. These are times to receive instruction, strengthen our fellowship, encourage each other and further the work of reaching the lost. If it's too much bother for you, might I suggest you review wearing the patch on your cut? Its not about the symbols, we are not a quasi-'MC'. It's about the intent of the heart.

At the South East Regional day, I gave the illustration of what our priorities were by referring to a gentleman by the name of David Marfleet, who was for some time the chief pilot of *Mission Aviation Fellowship* in the UK. David was a helicopter pilot in the British Army and in his biography he states (and it stuck with me ever since) that at all times he was a soldier first and a pilot second. Every member of the army is first and foremost a soldier, the other role they have is secondary.

Well there's a real lesson for us here, because we are Christians first and bikers second. What should be consuming us when we're out and about on our bikes is not so much the love of the ride (although that is perfectly legitimate, and something that God wants us to enjoy) but our overwhelming burning desire must be – what can I do to further the Kingdom of God in the biking world?

That means being committed to your local branch. It also means being committed to the national aspect of CMA. In a recent conversation it was suggested that having the AGM at Arbroath, as we did this year, was too far to travel - it was ironic that the person who said it was some 300 miles closer to Arbroath than members who rode all the way up from Cornwall! Doesn't matter where we have it, it will always be far for someone!

May God bless you and keep you as you *Ride for the Son*. And may his Holy Spirit reinvigorate our hearts to be on fire for this ministry and proclaim Christ to the biking world.

*'But in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,' 1 Peter 3:5* †



# Night Time Prayer

Steph Thomas, Hants & Dorset Branch

Father God I praise you in this hour, and thank you for my day  
I place my burdens at your feet—you come and take them all away  
Father God you know all about my day  
All those I have met along your pathway  
I hold each one of them up to you to bless  
May they know your mercy and your tender loving kindness  
Father God I know some I've met today are so weary from their trial  
I ask you Father God, 'would you take it all away for just a little while'  
Father would you cover them with your wing  
Tonight may they hear the love song over them you sing  
Father God please give each one a restful night  
May they feel your mighty arms holding them so tight  
Father would you fill them with holy breath from you  
Recharge their weary bodies, restore, renew  
Father God, in the morning when they open their eyes  
May they hear your gentle whispers of love before they rise  
And Father, may they know your holy presence in this new day  
And feel your mighty hand in theirs along the way  
Father God please protect them from all the enemies lies  
I know you will be attentive to your children's cries  
Father God, I pray they have a closer walk with you  
And your Holy Spirit in them will shine right through  
I thank you Father God for all these faithful friends  
I pray your supernatural power floods into them over and over again  
For I know that you my God will never leave our side  
You are always, always there with arms open wide  
Where we can run to you our Father God and safely hide  
Amen

Deuteronomy 31:8

*The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*



