

## Reports from Global Day of Prayer 2010 Pentecost Sunday across the British Isles

### **Channel Islands - Jersey**

After 10 days of lunchtime prayer at St Helier Parish Church Sunday May 23rd was sunny and hot. From 3pm three church venues in St Helier offered an hour of prayer in different styles. Well attended. At 4.15 we converged on St Helier's Royal Square in front of the Parliament building for our first ever united church GDOP event. Eight leaders from across the church in Jersey led the crowd in powerful prayers, enthusiastic singing and lively declarations. The shout 'Jesus Christ is Lord' echoed around the Square.

A particular focus for prayer was righteous dealings in our finance industry, upon which the island heavily depends. Also, thousands of tonnes of Jersey Royal new potatoes should be exported, but through drought potato yields were less than 50% of normal, and the ground too dry to plant later crops. Farmers were desperate. 2Chronicles 7:14 is preceded by verse 13: '*When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain...*' We prayed, and two days later it rained hard all night. Next year we will do it again. Thank You, Lord for your forgiveness, mercy and generous hand upon us. This island *will* become the 'jewel in the sea' You have promised.

### **Ireland**

Armagh, known as the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland and therefore a place of great significance was the venue for the GDOP 2010. We started with a dramatisation celebrating Patrick and the arrival of Christianity to Ireland and concluded this with a time of worship. Following our prayers of repentance everyone stood and made the "Armagh Declaration" committing themselves to putting the Kingdom of God first, loving and serving God above all earthly kingdoms, and loving and serving each other.



Our time of intercessory prayer touched on very timely and sensitive issues. We gathered in Armagh because we believe God wants to shift something in the heart of the church. It seemed appropriate therefore to pray for the church recognising our failings, our need for God's love and grace, and for the Holy Spirit to guide and give us ability to listen and to obey.

A priest then gave an inspirational discourse on the issue of child abuse within the church. There was also a very moving testimony of a father who lost his son through suicide. We had a time of prayer into these issues and the problems of alcohol and drug addiction affecting many young people and families. This concluded with a very passionate prayer ending with the cry, "Jesus the door of Ireland is open, come rushing in!" The final section of the programme involved prayers by some representative church leaders commissioning everyone to flood their communities with the love of God through acts of kindness during the ninety days of blessing.

### **Isle of Man**

The Isle of Man took its place on the global prayer platform on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 in Britain's youngest Cathedral in Peel. Christians from all denominations and around the island, met to take part in a Global Day of prayer service led by Ian Skidmore. There was an opportunity for testimony to hear what God is saying to His people now and also a time of corporate prayer The world

prayer (which was repeated in 219 countries over 24 hour period) was led by Manx PrayerNet Co-ordinator David Talbot.

The Cathedral kindly offered participants refreshments in the North transept café, whilst ministries teams offered pray for healing in the south transept. Many people were blessed and encouraged by the unity and strength of the Churches voice on the Island. Manx PrayerNet as a member of the Prayer Forum of the British Isles [www.prayerforum.org](http://www.prayerforum.org) joined with the other nations of the British Isles who were organising their own gatherings.

## **Scotland Edinburgh**

Approximately 200 people gathered on Blackford Hill, to once again celebrate the Global Day of Prayer in Edinburgh. The sun shone, and huge banners unfurled in the breeze, giving movement and colour, as the sound of drummers drew folk together to worship and pray.



This year our focus was the 5 world continents. To start our afternoon a couple from the local Korean church represented Asia and blessed us with a short burst of traditional Korean drumming and a traditional worship song. Then a Polish group, dressed in vibrant traditional costume, represented Europe. A group of Brazilians came

to represent the Americas, lifting up the name of Jesus with drums, guitar and vocals. Some Filipino believers represented Australasia and brought a traditional worship song. Finally a group of Africans came to represent their continent, leading us in a lively celebration of worship, getting the crowd to their feet in both song and dance!

After each presentation we gathered in small groups to pray for that continent, before moving into the corporate praying of the 'Prayer for the World'. In closing a local church leader led us to raise our hands and pray blessing over the four corners of our city and he then sent us on our way with a deeply moving rendition of the Aaronic blessing sung in Gaelic.

## **Wales Cardiff**

We were pleased to host a GDOP event in Cardiff. God opened up a new venue in the heart of the city which was exciting and it was a privilege to join with our family throughout the world knowing our unity in His Spirit. We were only a small group 18 during 6hours of worship and intercession, but God met with us in a very real way and I believe we were representative of other small groups in Wales who were blessed as they joined with us in focussed prayer. We have confidence that the Father hears and responds to every prayer.

## **Swansea**

This year's event in Swansea was different from those held in previous years. About 150 people from several local churches gathered for an hour or so on a gloriously sunny afternoon. Rather than hold one central event in the centre of the City, we met at two separate locations. One location was on a hilltop with a commanding view overlooking the city; the other was at County Hall.

At both locations, the plan was very simply to encourage those present to pray in small groups and together for those in authority, including our new national government; business; as well as those in education. We also prayed for families, children and the church. The gatherings ended with all those present joining in a declaratory prayer for the city and the nation based on the GDOP Prayer for the World.

It is always difficult to assess the effectiveness of such gatherings, but several commented that they had enjoyed an opportunity to stand and pray together with Believers from other churches. I am confident that blessing will flow from the events held throughout the UK and all around the world.

## **England**

### **Birmingham**

It was a hot and glorious afternoon. The crowds slowly grew as the stage was set for Birmingham's 2<sup>nd</sup> ever Pentecost Sunday / Global day of Prayer. The Healing on the Streets



team set up to. People from across the city, country and different parts of the world embarked on and filled Victoria Square.

Shofar blasts followed by messianic dances preceded the main service. At 4pm the service began with a welcome and opening prayer. The band comprising young and older musicians and singers from a range of racial cultural and denominational backgrounds led the growing crowd in dynamic songs of praise.

Highlights included the story of a young man who was born again and set free from a life of crime gangs and drugs. Church leaders from a range of denominational backgrounds led us in passionate corporate prayers of repentance, thanksgiving and intercession for the peace and prosperity of the city nation and nations. Prayers concluded with the Lord's prayer spoken in different languages and then finally by all present.

Between 1600-1800 believers gathered. Many testified of a wonderful service as Baptists Methodists Catholics Pentecostal Black led churches and the free church gathered as God's family with one voice, because of our one hope: Jesus Christ. It was truly awesome to behold and experience and a great witness to the city and beyond.

### **Canterbury**

This year's event was held at St Andrew's United Reform Church right in the middle of the City Centre. We felt before the event that God wanted to reconnect His body as It was the first time in a while the Churches in the region were coming together in worship and prayer. The evening kicked off with worship and almost immediately everyone felt a real presence of God. Many people were on their knees encouraged by the worship leader to bow before the King. The prayer points were prayed with great faith and enthusiasm and there was a real sense of expectancy in the congregation. We had around 10 Churches involved from different denominations but the unity in purpose was evident for all to see. There were approximately 200 people in attendance

which was a drop from last year however the atmosphere was very much the same. Something amazing seems to always happen when the churches in the region unite in prayer and worship. Many people were greatly encouraged in their faith and some said they felt angelic presence during the time of worship. We look forward to GDOP 2011

### **Carlisle**

The event was held in a local church building 6.30pm. 150 Christians from across the denominations turned up, about 150 in all. The meeting began with some scripture readings: This was read by a Malay, and she read Acts 2v4 in her own tongue. The theme of the evening was: "The Love of God Across the World" based on John 3v16. Refreshing seemed to run through the evening also, this just happened, the idea being that we were there to refresh the nations in prayer, and we would also be refreshed in so doing.....and we were! Following this we shared a time of inspired worship.

Then 4 people in turn were brought up to the mike. They were from a range of Churches across the city. They shared 3 prayer points from their own country (Thailand, Brazil, Norway and Poland) for the congregation to pray about in different ways. Each read out John 3v16 in their own language, and declared the Lordship of Jesus over their nation. We also had some fun asking some more personal questions about their country.

Next we set up a live link /skype to Chile, and spoke to a pastor in Santiago, praying for needs he had expressed previously. This proved to be a wonderful exchange. A local minister led us next in a time of reflection and personal repentance. Another minister followed with prayer for Carlisle and the generations represented. The evening had been a great exercise in cross city prayer and fellowship, and further across the world. The evening spent had been both inspiring and fun.

### **Driffield, Yorks**

About sixty of us from all the denominations gathered in the Parish Church for a 2-hour service of prayer and praise. Flags were carried in to represent each area of the world with brief commentary on what was happening in each area. Also the flags of Haiti (prayer for the disaster), North Korea (prayer for the persecuted church) and Afghanistan (prayer for the conflict there) were also carried in. We had a dance group perform 'Raise up the Standard'. Prayer was made for each continent and at the end a prayer shawl was wrapped around all the flags as we brought the whole world under prayer for God's outpouring of His Spirit

### **Leeds**

This our 6<sup>th</sup> year got off to a lively start with the unfurling of a 60 by 30 foot banner consisting of



over 120 flags of nationalities living in Leeds. As it passed over people's heads they were asked to pray for the nation represented above them or any other nation they could see. After this a Polish lady prayed in Polish for the recent situation in Poland

and an ex- Thai missionary prayed in Thai for recent troubles in Bangkok. A powerpoint

presentation was given about the significance of the 1910 Edinburgh conference and it was linked with the importance of 2010 in terms of global mission partnerships and strategies.

People prayed in groups for the persecuted church in 7 nations. The importance of praying for “unreached people groups was also highlighted and everyone was given a card with details of the 28 unreached people groups now living in the UK. Particular focus was given to the Mirpuri Pakistanis as there are about 20,000 in Leeds. Children representing 7 different nationalities led us all in prayer for the needs of children in many nations. Everyone was greatly encouraged by the way they prayed. Worship was led by African-Caribbeans, Iranians and Mauritians.

GDOP has proved to be a catalyst for a major international event which has been held in July in the city centre for the last 4 years when the banner of flags is used again and 30+ nationalities are involved in creative presentations, including music, dance, international food etc.

**Watch the video clip of the Global Day of Prayer on You tube Type in ‘Hope for the nations Global Day of Prayer’**

### **London**

All of the London boroughs took part in the Global Day of Prayer and there were around 42 different prayer events on Pentecost Sunday 23 May. On June 13<sup>th</sup> at West Ham stadium thousands gathered from across the capital and nation for a national prayer event hosted by Global Day of Prayer London organisation. Prayers were offered for a wide range of issues from government (including the Mayor Boris Johnson who took part for a time), youth, the persecuted church and the church. Different gospel artists, worship leaders & dancers took part. ‘Today the church drove a stake into the ground and we drew a line and said in the spirit that this nation belongs to Jesus’. Further information [www.gdoplondon.com](http://www.gdoplondon.com)

### **Luton**

Hosted by Transforming Luton, the Ten Days of Prayer, which had churches taking slots of six hours to pray for our multi-cultural town of Luton, preceded Pentecost Praise, held again at the Calvary Church of God in Christ: there were members from seventeen churches in the worship band and choir. For the first time the Mayor and MPs were invited and were given an enthusiastic welcome by the congregation of several hundred.

After wonderful opening praise to God, there was news of what God was doing through Christians working together in the town: of Azalea, a ministry to street workers, over 90 of them; of Street Pastors, launched in the town in the last year; of ministry to travellers: of the appointment of the first Town Centre Chaplain, fully supported by the Council and Public Services: and of the health of a much loved minister, for whom there has been much prayer across the town to which he witnessed very movingly of God's healing work. Then pastors of many churches led the congregation in the Global Day of Prayer before there was prayer in small groups for many ministries in Luton and finally glorious worship and praise.

### **Medway, Kent**

The sun shone magnificently over the great marquee pitched on a high hill overlooking the River Medway and the city. The whole scene reflected the steady transformation that has been taking place in this region since we joined Global Day of Prayer. This was our 6th year, and held on a ‘high place’ (Isaiah 40.9)



24 prayer centres were open during the Ten Days of Prayer. Many came at different times and in different ways to seek God for these towns and nation, and the nations of the world. On Sunday morning BBC Radio Kent broadcast a live interview on their 'Sunday' Programme.

We began with a Joint Churches Morning Worship Service and continued praying throughout the afternoon. Most main stream and independent denominations were represented, and the mix of nations and generations was in clear evidence. The day climaxed with everyone assembled along the high ridge overlooking the towns, and as the shofars sounded we raised our hearts, hands and voices and blessed Medway. It was a day of prayer, praise, worship, unity, salvation and fellowship – quite simply “righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14.17). We thank God and give Him all the praise and glory.

### **Northampton**

10 Days of Prayer A dozen local churches joined in a rota of prayer with their buildings open for others to join.

Faith on the Streets. Teams of people representing 12 local churches were out in the town centre



for two days with questionnaires, invitations to the Pentecost programme. They supplemented this with a prayer tent during the Sunday Festival. Lots of great conversations with 13 people making commitments to Christ and nearly 50 asked for follow up material to be sent to them.

Festival! Starting at Noon and running to 6.00pm we joined with literally hundreds of millions of Christians around the world in the

Global Day of Prayer. The sun shone and three thousand people enjoyed the opening service, the mid afternoon GDoP service and a final Celebration led by the youth, gathered around the bandstand in Abington park with every available grass area filled with picnicking families and church groups. They were entertained by solos, choirs, bands with guest worship leader Graham Kendrick and band leading us in worship with many of his best loved songs.

The area was surrounded by a 'village' - gazebos and small marquees with numerous Christian groups displaying their work. A prayer tent was made available, and a Family Zone created where hundreds of young people enjoyed crafts, badge making, face painting, Juggling and a climbing wall. Prayers were attached to 300 balloons which were released in the final moments, a spectacular display of red, yellow and orange filled the sky emulating the fire of Pentecost.

### **Oxford**

Pentecost Sunday was truly a day of joy in Oxford, as over 40 churches gathered together in resplendent sunshine in a city centre park to worship, pray and hear God's word together! Now in its fifth year, LOVE OXFORD is now a much anticipated annual event of the cities calendar. This year's morning service saw over 4000 Christians gather together for passionate worship, which exploded from the large canopy tent towards the famous University spires of the city, and strong

preaching encouraging the city to be involved in the next generation through pray, schools work and making our churches friendly to younger people. This message was modelled in the afternoon, when Vertigo (the city-wide network of youth ministries) put on a large worship event for the cities youths. Hundreds came together for a time of fun games, worship, prayer and a message. It was so encouraging to see the younger generation get involved; a real inspiration to everyone else who was looking on.

Rounding off the day's events, the evening saw Oxford hold its Global Day of Prayer event. About one and a half thousand people gathered to pray and worship (led superbly by a gospel choir). It was a moving sight as the huge crowd split into groups of four or five and prayed for a number of issues – from the UK government to schools; the work of the church to the plight of the poor in Oxford – with brothers and sisters they hadn't met before. Truly it the tent became a 'house of prayer for the nations' that night! The evening was completed by John Arnott, from Catch the Fire ministries, Toronto, preaching on healing, with a number testifying to receiving healing, in particular a number with pain and immobility in their shoulders. God's kingdom was at work that day; we remain grateful for all that He did!

### **Sheffield**

The Global Day of Prayer in Sheffield was held at FaithCentre, Sheffield. The programme was broken down into 4 main prayer sessions; pray for our churches, for the nation, for the world, and included the liturgical responses to join in unity with all churches globally. We showed a video clip about sex trafficking in Cambodia which was then used as a prayer point. [The main UK Human Trafficking Centre is based in Sheffield.] The prayer leaders, like the congregation came from a variety of religious traditions from across our city. Culturally the congregation was very diverse with many different nationalities represented, including English, Jamaican, Nigerian, Zimbabwean, Australian, Zambian, Ghanaian, Ugandan, Eritrean and others. The prayer was a mixture of styles; small groups, leader led and also single people praying around the congregation.

All city councillors were invited, unfortunately there was a major political rally in Sheffield on that day and only one councillor was able to attend. Others gave their apologies and best wishes. This is a growing event in Sheffield and we hope that next year even more people will join us as we meet in spirit on the Global Day of Prayer 2011 to seek God's blessing for our city, our nation and our world.

### **Reading**

About 500 people from across a variety of churches in the town gathered together for a couple of hours. Worship and praise was led by bands from the Salvation Army and our host black Pentecostal church. Another church leader gave an inspiring message based on Psalm 67 about the importance of being conduits and connectors both to God and people.

Four testimonies were shared about God's healing of a physical condition, God's calling on a young man's life, God's dramatic encounter with a young suicidal mother and God's healing of a broken heart. Prayers were offered for our town, our nation and its leaders, and the world. Some film clips from GDOP 09 were shown and some suggested prayers for the day were made.

It was a brilliant evening. An impromptu generous offering was taken for a local Street Pastors project. The evening concluded with an unplanned "Tunnel of Prayer" in which most people participated.

## Southampton



250 Christians from Churches across Southampton gathered for the city's fourth Global Day of Prayer meeting. The verses from Joel 2 gave us the focus for our meeting:

"...Gather the people ... bring together the elders, gather the children ... and everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

A youth band led us in a time of worship and we joined in using the Prayer for the World, which we read in 7 separate sections throughout the evening. Four children then prayed for children around the world and in our city. The prayers, which they had composed themselves, focused on the awesomeness of God and the needs of the poor, hungry, sick and destitute, as well as school and teachers.

A Chinese student (baptised that morning), a Sikh lady and a teenage student shared how Jesus has changed their lives so we were inspired to pray for Southampton – for the 4000 international students, for the ethnic churches that meet here and for our own friends and neighbours. We ended the meeting calling on God in song, to come again with the cleansing fire of his Holy Spirit as we laid our lives on his altar.

## Sunderland

For the GDOP we met in Sunderland on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May in the afternoon, choosing this year to meet at Sunderland Civic Centre (Council Offices) in a courtyard just outside the Council Chamber. In each of the 5 years we have taken part in the GDOP we have sort to meet at a strategic location. Starting at St Peter's the site of the monastery 5 years ago, where Venerable Bede worked on translation of the Bible and his various books. The Civic Centre is a location with powerful meaning at this time in our nation and city.

We had been challenged by the preparation notes from South Africa and the quotation based on Joel 2 that the 'gift of repentance is not merely turning from sin; the heart of repentance is turning to God'. So this thought was at the heart of the whole day. In Sunderland there are now a number of congregations made up of people from different cultures and back grounds specifically African and Pilipino. The Prayer for the world included a call for pray for the needs of Africa & Asia. We gradually turned then to our own nation and government, local government and finally the Church with a call for God to meet with us today and in the future in our now so secular society. Challenging and powerful days are coming we believe, but Joel 2 cares a hope that all will feel The Holy Spirits powerful touch.

**Ventnor Baptist Church. Isle of Wight** This was the second year we held an event on this day at Ventnor Baptist Church. This year, about one third of the fellowship fasted and prayed through lunch and on until around 4pm, using the seven prayers supplied. We then had a time of sharing and an evening praise and worship event. The Lord really spoke clearly and envisioned us for what He wants us to do in our town. Thank you for your vision in this,

## West Lothian

Six churches were represented at the West Lothian Prayer event. We gathered indoors in the Simpson Memorial Evangelical Church (FIEC) at 1500 to pray for the world, so as to offer disabled access and to cover the eventuality of inclement weather, and to prepare ourselves. Then 18 of us climbed up into the Bathgate Hills at 1600 to a place where we could overlook most of West Lothian to pray specifically for the towns and villages on a glorious afternoon, but with enough wind to spread out flags. The one advantage of smaller numbers was that a greater depth of intercession was entered into, and were encouraged that over 50% of participants were under the age of 30.

## York

In York churches organised a week of 24/7 prayer in a prayer tent inside York Minster. On the day itself over a thousand Christians circled the city of York on its historic walls, and at the sound of a trumpet blast these 'watchmen' began to pray towards the city, thanking God, after 5 minutes the blast sounded again and the vast crowd prayed looking down, as a corporate act of repentance. As the trumpet sounded a third time prayer went out from the city declaring blessing over the local communities and nation. With a final blast a great procession headed off for York Minster where a great family service of prayer and celebration began.



The service had sections for families with children, youth, those who like to pray quietly and those who like to make a noise too! The 'York Zone' was a display of images, facts and data that helped our prayer for our great city of York. As people walked around it, they were stimulated to pray for those in local government, for the Police, the education system and the health service. Business, tourism and the local economy were also a focus of prayer.

Archbishop Sentamu spoke briefly about the Holy Spirit falling on God's people and as we worshipped there was a great sense of God's presence in those hallowed halls and much manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the believers. Finally the Archbishop of York, Dean of the Minster, Chair of One Voice and civic leaders led us outside into the sunshine with flaming torches. Outside we sang and prayed together before a blessing was given.

*Jane Holloway UK Global Day of Prayer co-ordinator*

World Prayer Centre, Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG

Tel: 0121 633 7393 Email: [prayer@worldprayer.org.uk](mailto:prayer@worldprayer.org.uk) Web: [www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk](http://www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk)

June 2010