

CHRISTMAS 2014 NEWS & PRAYER LETTER

Those living in darkness have seen a great light!

When God calls, God equips, God sends and God goes with us and God meets us there.

As we approach the end of another year celebrating the Christmas Gift of God the Father in sending his beloved Son, I want to thank God and each and every one of you for your support over this fantastic year of challenges, opportunities and of course God's faithfulness. Its been a mind-blowing experience, with some real highlights and challenges for me personally and for the family. Such as my part in the Round the World Clipper Race, a visit on behalf of Church Army to Buckingham Palace, and my ordination in June.

On a even more personal note the family is also about to expand. We have already been recently blessed with two beautiful granddaughters, Eva and Francesca, but in the coming New Year we are expecting two more! Yet I feel equally blessed by what God is doing with us out in the arena of the world, with the Church Army team, the local Churches and those we work with via the Jesus Bus and Narrow boat Andrew across the wider community. We of course also celebrated James' commissioning and the great news that Colin is to take up training next year with the intention to also become a commissioned Church Army Captain.

The Bus Project . 'The Jesus Bus'

Wednesday nights in **Ellesmere Port** continue to further develop as we get a new influx of the next generation appearing weekly. Folks, sharing the love of God through words and action is not hard in this country. Let your lights shine please. Conversations and opportunities to share His love abound if only we dare to be who we are called to be and step out in faith.

Tuesday nights in **Neston.** We have just began a six week post Christmas taster session with the good people of St Mary and St Helen's Neston and any other members of the local Churches who wish to accompany us out. So far its being going pretty good. Again a fabulous openness within the visitors as they ask us who we are and why we do what we do.



Please pay that after the Christmas break the local Neston team will clearly discern God's will and that the six week taster would become a weekly event. The young folk visiting have had a taste and love it, it would be so sad to not return to them after Christmas.

Wetherspoons Pub Ellesmere Port. Beyond the bus. We have been meeting with some of the lads off the bus weekly in the pub. Not to have a booze up! But to help them see that their faith is for out in the world, including the pub context. As we began this, we have been very graciously received by the regular drinkers. There are some very beautiful people in there, hidden behind a horrible and painful addiction. They know this and join us weekly to chat and occasionally ask us to step outside (not what that used to mean lol) and to quietly pray with them. Please hold this up in prayer as I believe its God's will that this develops in to a very significant part of his Church, and I with all my heart want to be able to play my part in helping them become worshipping members of Christ's body in what ever appropriate format of church facilitates them in this.





Narrow boat Andrew

Well I never believed this would work so well. Over the last three months we have been given the God given privilege to accompany a number of men along the Shropshire Union canal and share God's love and truth with them. A group of men from a new hostel for the homeless in Chester, and a group from 'Narcotics Anon' from Birkenhead have joined us weekly for breakfast at a local Café 'The Scouse Monk' run by a lovely man who loves to share his faith in Jesus,. Then a three hour trip on the boat enjoying each others company and sharing the gospel. This ministry looks like its going to widen as other similar groups are making contact with us. Please pray for wisdom in running this in a way that facilitates all and that increasing numbers would not lessen the depth of relationships and the consequential sharing of the gospel.

THE WIDER MINISTRY.



Please also hold up the wider picture in regards to networking across the Diocese and on occasions beyond.

St Asaph diocese are so close to us and we want to encourage and facilitate Evangelism with them if possible. Some good contacts have been made both locally and by our national staff. Please pray and lets see what God would have us do together, if possible.

Some of the doors that have been opened up over the recent years

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A FRUITFULL GOD FILLED NEW YEAR. LOVE, ROB & PAM

Your support

God has called us; we stand in faith that He will resource us! As a Church Army Evangelist, prayer support and financial support is vital from those who wish to stand alongside me in this ministry.

Each year Church Army commits to underwriting the ministry costs of each evangelist. Therefore I have committed, wherever appropriate, to share about those financial needs with a view to alleviating the cost to Church Army.

Church Army relies solely on Christian giving and therefore supporting us enables mission, training and outreach to take place. It also enables us to practice living by faith and dependency upon God as our provider. I give thanks to God for His increasing provision.

If you want to regularly bless us prayerfully and financially in this ministry, or would like to make a one-off gift, please email ess@churcharmy.org.uk quoting ESS1998RB

Contact details

You can contact the Chester Centre of Mission at: Reverend Captain Rob Barker The Vicarage, Seymour Drive, Overpool, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH66 1LZ

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Or contact Church Army for more information on Email: ess@churcharmy.org.uk
Tel: 0300 123 2113

