

# Newsletter Update

Friday 14 March 2014

## Stats

2,226 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)  
 224,826 Houses on those streets (101 per street)  
 534,240 People living there (240 per street)

**\*\*Click here to see our research sources.**



**Dear Carl,**

We have been encouraged this week, following on twitter the #do1nicething and @40acts on twitter...many of their suggestions have directly related to getting to know neighbours and we have been so encouraged!

Follow us on twitter [@Neighbours\\_Net](#)



This week we want to share with you a testimony about Street Parties from Jenny from FUSION. This charity specialises in Street Parties and they have much to teach us about forming community in our streets. We also want to share some of what God has been saying to us in one of our latest prayer meetings. Please also consider distributing the Father's Love Letter with the UCB word For Today in your community over Lent.

## Heart Matters



This week, during one of our prayer meetings, we felt God was speaking about our human hearts and our attitudes to our neighbours. The Scripture, so famously read at many wedding ceremonies 1 Corinthians 13, came to us during this prayer time and challenged us about how much we truly love our neighbours. What is our heart attitude to them, is it one of judgement, distrust, fear, indifference...do we really love them?

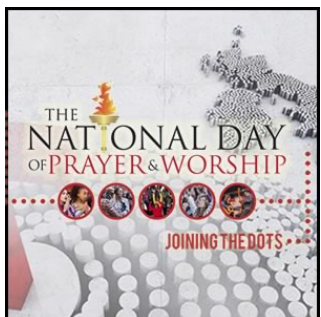
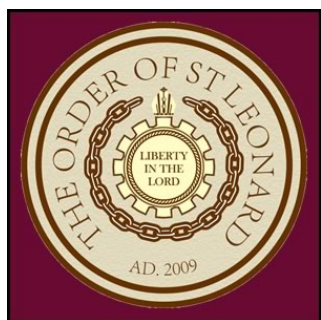
We pray this week that all of us will have hearts that genuinely love our neighbours and that if we have the wrong attitudes towards our neighbours, that God will fill us with His love and compassion for our neighbours.



Every thing we do must come from a place of love and let us all share the love that we know Jesus has for us, with our neighbours.

## 1 Corinthians 13: 1-7

*If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others,*



*what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. 3 If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever.*

*4 Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, 5 never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. 6 It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. 7 If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. (Living Bible)*

## Street Parties



*Jenny Woods from Fusion Youth and Community lives in south London. She will be shortly organizing, with others in her street, their fourth street party. Over the coming weeks she will share some tips on building community at street parties as well as some stories of streets that are totally been transformed because of a street party.*

**Community doesn't just happen. It needs a group of people to build it intentionally.**

*There was a time when most people didn't venture too far from home. They worked and shopped locally and knew everyone in their street. These days many of us don't really know the people around us. Sociologists say what has gone missing is Social Capital. This is the glue that holds communities together and measures the level of trust and good will.*

*A Street Party is a natural way to bring your neighbourhood together and can be held at any time of year for any occasion. Find a reason to celebrate - start of summer, Football World Cup, Commonwealth Games or join in a national network of street parties like the Big Lunch.*



*The Big Lunch means you don't have to start from scratch. They help make it easy - [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com). Here you will find information on resources, activities, decorations, council requirements, insurance, food etc. Each year the Big Lunch facilitates bringing neighbours together on the first Sunday in June. Last year 3.65 million people joined in. This year's Big Lunch is on Sunday 1 June.*

*Our own neighbourhood in London has become a friendlier place since we started hosting Street Parties 3 years ago. Several new families have thanked us for providing a platform where they could meet others. Older ones stop and say how much they are looking forward to the next all age get-together. In fact one 90 year old resident in the street joined in the limbo. She's since become a legend in the street!*

*After our first street party a resident stood up and said, "I have an announcement...our street has become a community!" And it has.*

*Here are a few tips to get you started. More over the coming weeks...*

*Do it together Toss around the Street Party idea with a few neighbours and invite those interested to join you in organising the event. Invite them to meet in your house. It is a great way to get to know those in your street.*

*Decisions include the date, time, theme, format (i.e. BBQ, lunch or afternoon tea, sit down or buffet style). Allocate all the jobs. When people grasp the concept, they are happy to take on some level of ownership so share the load.*

*Invite everyone in the street personally by door knocking and leaving an invitation. This allows your neighbours to discuss any concerns they might and to catch your enthusiasm for the event. Make sure the invitation covers what food or drink to bring, possible road closures, wet weather plans and a contact detail.*

*Have someone who can act as the MC (Master of Ceremonies) for the Street Party. Their job is to make everyone feel at ease by letting people know what is happening and when and encouraging them to get involved.*

*Decorate the street with bunting a few days before so people will be reminded of the forthcoming event. Add a few gazebos to help to create a festive look. Borrow tables if everyone is to be seated over lunch. Let people bring things from home e.g. chairs so they feel they are contributing. On the day, have a rota for serving drinks or manning the road closure barriers. Watch how momentum and excitement builds!*

## Upcoming Events



## **Heart of Community Training Days 15th March & 29th March**

I had a great time sharing about Neighbourhood Prayer Network at the Community Training day on 1st March, being run by FUSION, as part of Crossing London and HOPE.

Jenny Bailey, one of our trustees, is working very hard towards her presentation at this event on Saturday 15th. If you can go to this great event please do and encourage Jenny as she is a little nervous!

### **Central London**

Saturday 15 March, 10.30am to 4pm  
City Temple, Holborn Viaduct  
EC1A 2DE

### **South East London**

Saturday 29 March, 10.30am to 4pm  
New Life Centre Croydon. 5 Cairo  
New Road, Croydon CR0 1XP  
- See more at: <http://www.crossinglondon.co.uk/church-heart-of-community#sthash.S8CDSv7w.dpuf>

These days are so invaluable and it is an event I would have like to attend as a delegate, as there is so much to learn about Messy church, putting on a community festival, the Big Weekender, how to get involved with the WW1 Centenary, how to share faith with people you know. You can only go to 3 sessions in the day with a choice of 6 every hour and most peoples main comment, was they wanted to attend more of the sessions! I won't be at the next two, but Beverley Killa and Jenny Bailey, two of our Trustees will be there instead.

Marty Woods from Fusion Youth and Fusion community Europe, Lucy Moore from Messy Church, Roy Crowne from HOPE, Andy Frost, Crossing London, Rebekah Brettle, Neighbourhood Prayer Network (Other members of our team will represent Rebekah Brettle on 15th and 29th March.

## **Neighbour Friday**



## JOHN 6:63

Forty Day Prayer Guide for Lent  
[www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/pray](http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/pray)

Tip 1: invite some neighbours to a planning meeting in your home with someone else from your church.



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**15th March** - Spread the niceness on Facebook and Twitter - compliment some of your friends #do1nicething

**16th March** - Organise a Love Your Streets Easter street party for the Easter weekend in your neighbourhood #do1nicething

**17th March** - Write a letter to a local emergency service and thank them for the work they do #do1nicething

**18th March** - Say hello to people #do1nicething

**19th March** - Look at joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme #do1nicething

**20th March** - Spot ways of helping people and do it #do1nicething

## Sharing Jesus with Our Neighbours

### Word for Today and Father's Love Letter Distribution Over Lent



We are hoping that many of you will distribute the Father's Love Letter, together with a copy of the Word For Today to your neighbours. Ideally when you given them out, write, TO ( and the name of your neighbour and FROM number 24, or the details of your church. Only write your name on the envelope if you know your neighbour well. It might be good to give them a Easter card and a small present if you are able this Easter. It is likely to be more enjoyable if you work with others in your church and please tell your church leader what you are doing. This activity is not suitable for children under 18 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Here is what some people are saying about the Word for Today and the Father's Love Letter.

Order the Father's Love Letter & Gift Edition of the Word For Today to give out to your neighbours. Ordering copies is free of charge and an excellent way of blessing your neighbours.  
<http://www.ucb.co.uk/communitydistribution> OR phone 08456040401



### And/Or Order a copy of a Sharing Jesus book

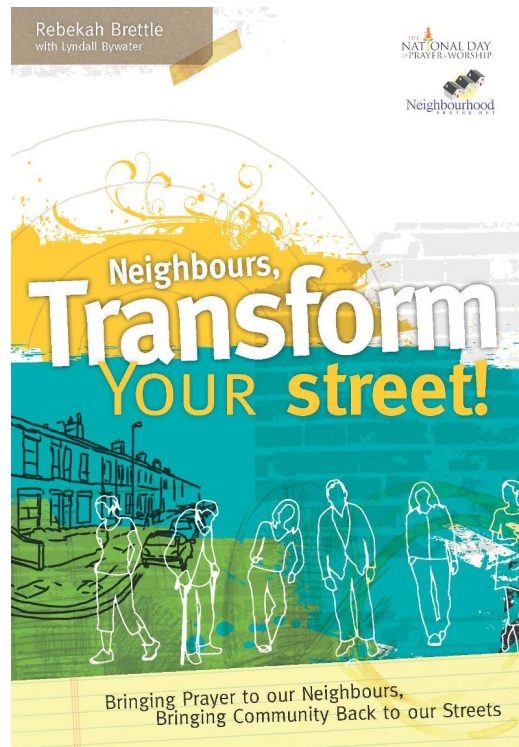


HOPE & Crossing London have produced a resource called Sharing Jesus which I am currently reading myself.

This new book continues to inspire me. This week I have been reflecting on an article on page 50 called Four Symbols as a framework for sharing God's good news. A heart to represent that God Love Me, A X, to represent that I've messed up, A christian cross to represent that Jesus died for me and a ? to represent that I need to decide... To read more buy, Sharing Jesus from us for £3 plus postage  
[www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/book](http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/book)

### Book Offers:

Buy:



- One copy of Neighbours Transform Your Street and receive a free copy of the Sharing Jesus Resource.
- Set up a regular monthly donation to Neighbourhood Prayer Network and receive a free Neighbours Transform Your Street book.
- Buy 10 Neighbours Transform Your Street and have free postage.

[www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/book](http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/book)

Finally, we hope that this week, you will encounter the Lord, in a new and special way. Please send us testimonies of what God is doing in your street and in your lives.

Every Blessing





Rebekah Brettle

## Donate

The real cost of running Neighbourhood Prayer Network, is over £2000/month. If we are to see our vision of every street covered in prayer across the UK with many people becoming Christian, we urgently need regular donations to prepare for an expected surge in growth. We need to get the word out to more people and build on the success the Lord has allowed so far. We want to produce flyers, produce resources for churches and engage more staff and volunteers to help roll out the vision across the country.

If you are not in a position to donate, please know that we value your prayer and support in other ways. If you are able to donate, all donations of any size are greatly appreciated:

We need three things to happen

- 1) We are looking for 40 churches to donate £25 per month and in doing so become pioneer partner churches.
- 2) We are looking for 100 people to donate £5 per month.
- 3) We are looking for 50 people to donate £10 per month.

Are you able to choose which one you could help with ?

[Click here](#) to donate via stewardship so they can claim gift aid on our behalf

or if you are not a UK tax payer:

Donate directly to:

Neighbourhood Prayer Network

HSBC Bank  
Sort Code: 40-42-12  
Account number: 22285975

P.S. Don't forget to click on the block advert links to some of our great partners (on the left).

Neighbourhood Prayer Network is a registered Charity: Charity Number 1150306, established 31st December 2012

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