

# Newsletter Update

Friday 6th September 2013

**Stats**

1,771 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)  
 178,871 Houses on those streets (101 per street)  
 425,040 People living there (240 per street)

**\*\*[Click here to see our research sources.](#)**



**Dear Carl,**

Most children returned to school this week and this is the time of year that often feels like a new start for adults as well. This week we bring you a testimony from Portishead about how a couple believe that two people from their street of 12 houses have started attending their church in response to their prayers. We also give you information about how you can get involved in 'Back to Church Sunday.' Our regular 'Neighbour Friday' is at the end of this newsletter.



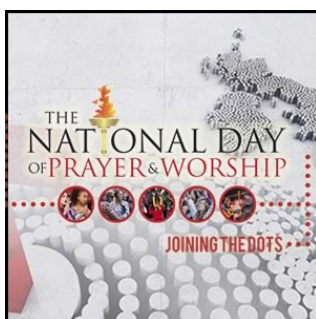
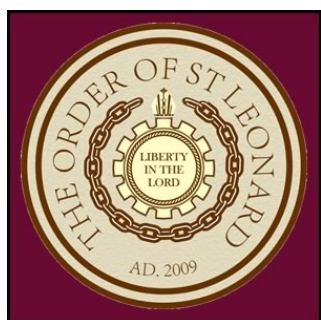
**Testimony from Portishead:** Gerwyn Owen, one of our postcode co-ordinators brings us this update:

*A couple in our church have been regularly praying for their neighbours and 2 of them have now been attending our Sunday morning meeting regularly, they write, We have been praying for the neighbours in our "street" of 12 houses. Two of them, ladies, have been to our church together on several occasions. They first came when a relative of one of them came to stay and she found our church from the church website. We have continued pastoral input to these two neighbours - as it happened to both of them separately today!*  
*We run a holiday club every summer for primary and secondary school children in the first week of the holidays. This year some 270 primary age children came to the day time events. At the end of the week we were able to give every child a "Father's love letter" to take home to their families. We pray for the long lasting effects of the week and the distribution of the Father's love letter.*



**BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY 29th September 2013**

Click the image below to see the Video invite from Archbishop Justin Welby.



## One-to-One Invitation



or Visit website [www.backtochurchsunday.co.uk](http://www.backtochurchsunday.co.uk)

Back to Church Sunday is nine years old this year, and has a lot to celebrate. It is reckoned that more than 260,000 people have returned to church since its national launch in 2004. This year will be the final year that the initiative is run in its current format, as with its 10th birthday, in 2014, plans for some changes are afoot.

Back to Church Sunday's key to success has been to help ordinary Christians in ordinary churches unlock the potential of a personal invitation. It really is the simplest and shortest step in evangelism: to simply invite someone we already know to come to church with us.

And - it works. No wonder Back to Church Sunday has become passionate in helping churches across the country grow by encouraging local church members to invite their families, friends and neighbours to church.

Nationally, Back to Church Sunday has had a significant impact. Not only do tens of thousands of people 'come back' to church on one Sunday in September, but it also sees many go on to become members of their local churches. A few testimonies from 2012 bear this out:

*"One family found that the invitation arrived just as they were considering what Christianity might mean to them."* Adam Meredith, Crewe by Farndon Methodist Chapel

*"A family who are interested in having their children baptised came to the Back to Church Sunday Service. They now want to become part of the church before having their children baptised."* Richard Law, Chester Diocese

*"We were thrilled by the response - our numbers were more or less doubled that day."* Simon Boxall, Southwark Diocese



Register your church (all denominations are welcome to take part)

Register at <http://backtochurch.co.uk/taking-part>

packs can still be ordered from the Traidcraft website at <http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/p-13044-buy-back-to-church-sunday-pack-2013-traidcraft-online-shop.aspx>

This pack provides posters, a DVD introducing BTCS and invitation cards.

### **NEIGHBOUR FRIDAY PRAYER**

Lev 25:35

Lord, I pray for families living on my street, who are struggling following recent benefit cuts, price rises and changes in circumstances. Use us, the christian community, to help those who are in need at this time.

### **CARE**

Get together with a friend from church and invite a disabled neighbour out to dinner or afternoon tea.

### **SHARE**

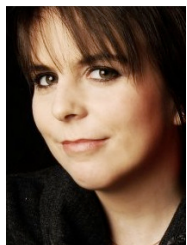
Invite your neighbour to a local [Alpha Course](#)

OR

Invite your neighbour to 'Back to Church Sunday [www.backtochurchsunday.co.uk](http://www.backtochurchsunday.co.uk) (29th September)

AND/OR: Order the Bag of HOPE to give out at Halloween [www.ucb2go.co.uk/pages/bag-of-hope.html](http://www.ucb2go.co.uk/pages/bag-of-hope.html)

Every Blessing



Rebekah Brettle

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

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