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# Newsletter Update

Friday 18th January 2013

## Stats

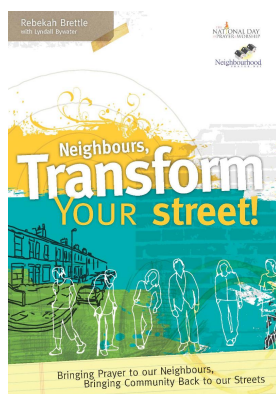
1,039 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)  
 104,939 Houses on those streets (101 per street)  
 249,360 People living there (240 per street)

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



**Neighbourhood**  
 P R A Y E R . N E T

## Our New Book



240 pages of stories, ideas, prayer guides and practical advice to help mobilise prayer for your street. A great resource for prayer groups and local Church.

Order the book from our website and Rebekah will sign your copy.

Profits from the sale of books helps to run Neighbourhood Prayer Network

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)

£10 + P&P

## Dear Carl,

This last few years we have heard harrowing stories of elderly people being abused in care homes. Even this week, the [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk), ran a story entitled "Loneliness map to help isolated elderly amid concerns of effects it has on our nation's health." (14th January 2013). In this article we were informed that:

- \* Half of over 75s regard television as their main source of company.
- \* Age UK says that 1 in 10 pensioners feel lonely most of the time.
- \* A further 1 in 10 see friends and family once all month and also feel cut off from society.
- \* Growing evidence says that loneliness can cause health problems and lead to higher rates of dementia, heart disease and high blood pressure.

In the Bible, we learn that Moses was over eighty, when he lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus), that Abraham and Sarah were well advanced in years when they were blessed with their son Isaac (Genesis 18:12), that Joshua (Joshua), was over eighty when he took over from Moses to lead the Israelites into the promised land. Elizabeth gave birth to John the Baptist when she was advanced in years, (Luke 1). God honours those who are older. They have a lot of wisdom to give to the younger generations!

This week's testimony from Anne Ravenscroft, shows how over many years of prayer and action, a sense of community can come to a street. If all of us followed this example, perhaps we can help some of those, young, and, old, who feel isolated and lonely. Please remember that many of the testimonies we present are the result of years and years of prayer and few of them occur over a short period of time. Stay encouraged!

## Testimony

*"A retired Canon of the Church of England, and his wife lived in this road on the Suffolk Coastal town of*



*Felixstowe, but they had gone to be with The Lord by the time I moved here in 1989. The wife, along with some other neighbours, started a coffee morning in the road over thirty years ago and I am still facilitating the coffee mornings today! I am at present asked to inform 31 residents from a road of 62 houses, when and where the next, monthly coffee morning will be.*

*Last April we hired a very local community centre and hosted a giant coffee morning for the whole community to celebrate our 30 years of meeting for coffee. The stalls that we manned sold the things we make or are interested in:- bread, cakes, jam, eggs, flower arrangements, plant stall, art, homemade cards, jewelry and bric a brac. Over £950 was raised for charity in two hours and the event featured in the Parish Magazine to encourage others to get together.*

*In December 2012, twenty four ladies from the road enjoyed a Christmas Lunch together in the local pub. This was a first and a great success.*

*When I moved here in 1989 I asked other Christians walking home from morning prayers at the very local parish church, if one of them would be my prayer partner. All three offered and so for nearly 20 years we prayed weekly together. The four members changed as time went on and people moved away, but two of us remained constant for all that time. One of the four was sure that the Canon and his wife would have prayed for the road regularly and I can confirm that for the last 23 years this road has been prayed for! The empty houses that go on the market are especially prayed for.*

*I am compiling a history of the road which was built from 1924 and so many Christians have lived here! Church Wardens, Missionary Reps, Lay Readers, PCC members, church organists, church treasurers, Sunday School teachers and from all Christian traditions. A vicar in the 1980's called it The Holy Road!*

*It is a road where a community spirit is very evident. We don't always get it right, but I try to co-ordinate celebrations of special birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Get Well Cards and will arrange lifts to hospital if I'm notified. It really relies on neighbours keeping me informed and they are getting better at doing this!*

*We have had many new people move into the road and I send a handmade 'Welcome to Your New Home' card along with a letter telling them about the ladies coffee mornings and inviting them to join. So many of the single ladies have said this has been a real lifeline and have made friends who have introduced them to other clubs and meetings. We pay £1 for coffee and biscuits and when we have accumulated £50 or more, members nominate a local charity to send the money too.*

*In February we are going to try a Safari Supper where couples and single ladies can get to know each other better. We are starting with sixteen people and if it is a success will co ordinate a bigger one next year.*



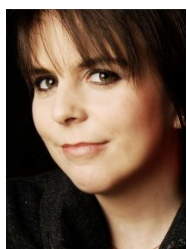
*So my challenge for 2013 is to find two or three people to pray with me for this road, and to inspire others in my local church to 'catch the flame'.*

*Thank you for writing the book which is a real inspiration and for the Friday Newsletters which keep me focused."*  
Anne R

Thanks for continuing to pray and don't forget if you haven't already got you copy to order 'Neighbours Transform your Street, it's the manual we're working from to see local community transformation. To order [Click Here](#).

Until next time....

Every Blessing



Rebekah Brettle

## **Today is Neighbour Friday**

### **PRAYER**

Matthew 25:35-36

Lord, please open my eyes to see those on my street who are hungry, thirsty, sick or imprisoned. In all things, let me be Your hands, Your feet and Your mouth, as I represent You in my street.

Find two other Christians on two other streets and form a prayer triplet. Use the prayer triplet guide in "Neighbours, Transform Your Street" to help you set up your group and pray together, (pages 98-123)

### **CARE**

Can you donate food to a local food bank, or even start one up? See page 183 in Neighbour's Transform Your Street, for

more details.

## SHARE

Could you consider ordering copies of the Father's love letter from UCB (our partner), to give out to your neighbours on Valentine's day, Father's day or over the Lent/Easter period? See pages 218-220 in "Neighbour's, Transform Your Street" for more details. You will not yet be able to place an order, details to follow.

## UCB's Prayerline

**If you or your neighbour need prayer this Christmas you might want to ring UCB's Prayerline, there are dedicated staff who will pray with you on the phone or you can send them a quick email and they pray for that need. To get more information about prayer line and to submit a prayer request [Click Here.](#)**

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