

## Prepare in Prayer

As Hope 2008 is potentially such a significant event many Christians have designated 2007 as a year to prepare in prayer through focused and wide-ranging intercession for this nation. This is partly to pray for Hope 2008, but also to encourage as many people and churches as possible to give prayer a fresh priority. We are encouraged to prepare the ground in prayer as we look to meet local people, serve our communities and share our faith with them. The following will help us in our praying:

### Pray on Fridays

The World Prayer Centre in Birmingham is producing Friday Focus, a leaflet produced every quarter with prayer items for each Friday that can be used by individuals or prayer groups. The aim is to bless our families and friends, our communities and nation as we pray for the whole of society and for people to know the transforming life of Jesus. Pray for Exeter ([www.pray4exeter.com](http://www.pray4exeter.com)) is one prayer network that has adopted "Pray on Fridays"; they also use a business card sized prayer card to remind us to pray for wherever we are, and whoever we are with, on Fridays as an act of unity together.

Friday Focus can be ordered by ringing 0121 633 7393 or can be downloaded for free from [www.worldprayer.org.uk](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk).

### Day of Prayer for the County of Devon

This will take place on Saturday 6 October at Southernhay United Reformed Church in Central Exeter from 10 am until 3 pm. Jane Holloway from the World Prayer Centre in Birmingham will both speak and help facilitate prayer. This day arises out of a conviction that concerted and united prayer is ordained by God with the purpose of seeing His Kingdom come. Many individuals and groups are praying across the county and this day is an invitation for them to join together to pray for the people, authorities and churches of the county. For a booking form please contact Dr John Simkins, e-mail [johnannesimkins@aol.com](mailto:johnannesimkins@aol.com) or telephone 01392 277217. Alternatively, visit [www.pray4exeter.com](http://www.pray4exeter.com).

*Hope 2008 will present the Church with a tremendous opportunity to respond to the calling of Christ to be relevant to the needs of today's society. It will encourage churches in Devon to once again work together in the service of the Gospel both in mission and social action. I am happy to give it my wholehearted support.*

Major Cliff Bradbury, SW Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army

**HOPE 2008**

This leaflet has been designed and published by Churches Together in Devon. For more information about Hope 08 in Devon please contact the County Ecumenical Officer, Simon Taylor. Telephone 01822 890412 - E-mail [taylor921@aol.com](mailto:taylor921@aol.com)



*The whole church for the whole nation for the whole year*

### What is Hope 2008?

At its heart, Hope 08 is about making Jesus known through positive involvement in our communities. It is about loving and serving people in the name of Jesus; it is about coming alongside our neighbourhoods, listening to their needs and working in partnership with others. Although it is a national initiative supported by many denominations and agencies, it depends on churches taking grassroots action in their own localities. Although, the focus is on 2008, the underlying desire is that the impact and outreach of Hope 2008 will continue through 2009 and beyond. The Hope 08 vision is for a whole year of mission, in which churches unite to do more in the communities they serve and to make Jesus known both in word and deed. Hope resources will be designed as a catalyst to encourage and enable churches to do this in the long term.

Hope 08 arose out of a desire to see the good experience of events such as Soul in the City (London) and Message 2000 (Manchester) used alongside the rich experience of others to reach thousands with the Gospel of life.

*Here is a national call to focus on God's core activity - transforming lives and communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. I strongly commend all local churches to join together in this venture.*

The Right Revd Michael Langrish, Bishop of Exeter

Hope 08 is flexible with churches able to design a programme for their community, harnessing the energy of young people and the commitment of those already engaged in serving and praying for our locality. It will rely on locally organised initiatives which will benefit from relevant and accessible national resources. These will focus on key moments in 2008, the Hope high points which are listed over the page. Hope 08 is a fantastic opportunity to unite churches in bringing lasting change to transform the lives of individuals, families and communities. It offers fresh energy and new enthusiasm to churches working together and could be the catalyst for new partnerships. Hope 08 urges us to get on with what we should already be doing together - telling people about Jesus in our words and our actions.

For more details visit [www.hope08.com](http://www.hope08.com)

**HOPE 2008**

## Hope Co-ordinator visits Devon

Ian Chisnall, the national co-ordinator for Hope 08 visited Devon in May to tell us more about how we can get involved. He informed us that in December 2007, Songs of Praise on BBC television will use Hope 08 as its theme. It is also hoped that worship ideas will be provided for services to mark the beginning of Hope activities in 2008. For young people, Hope Revolution is already underway, giving ideas for action through podcasts and their own website ([www.hope-revolution.com](http://www.hope-revolution.com)). The Christian Publicity Organisation (CPO) are working on a range of publicity materials for Hope events and the Christian Enquiry Agency will also work with Hope 08 to help maximise its effectiveness. Urban Saints (formerly Crusaders) are offering summer teams of young people to do community events ([www.urbansaints.org/react](http://www.urbansaints.org/react)).

Ian encouraged us to work together to find the right ideas for where we are to enable the whole church to engage with our communities.

*Hope is about looking, listening and praying for our communities to discover ways which we can engage with need and punctuate the year with activities which engage where people are to show that our faith is a 24/7 reality.*

Revd John Carne, Chairman of the Plymouth & Exeter District of the Methodist

## Working in Partnership

For Hope 08 to be effective, churches will need to make strategic partnerships with other churches, statutory agencies and community groups. In community engagement churches should work alongside local councils and listen to local people. For the Police, Hope 08 accords with a renewed emphasis on neighbourhood policing and working with churches to transform communities will be welcomed. Hope 08 is also planning nationally produced resources on working in partnership with local schools, which are increasingly looking at ways of being involved in their communities.



## The Hope 08 Values

**Do more  
Do it together  
Do it in word and deed**

## The Hope High Points

- 1) Fresh 'HOPE': (January) an opportunity to make a fresh start and be supported in it.
- 2) The Big 'HOPE': Exploring Holy Week
- 3) 'HOPE' Where You Live: (May Bank Holidays) The Church on the street
- 4) 'HOPE' Explored: (September) Inviting the community to explore the Christian faith
- 5) A Gift of 'HOPE': (Christmas) Unpacking the Christmas Message

*The Revd Stuart Nixon, minister of Derriford URC and Bere Alston United Church reports on Ian Chisnall's talk in May on how to use the Hope high points:*

Ian gave some practical examples of how we can use the various festivals of 2008 year to focus our outreach. New Year could be used to help people fulfil their resolutions, for example, set up a support group to help people give up smoking, lose weight or start a parenting course. Themes around Easter, such as mourning and washing feet, could be used to support people in our communities who are grieving or who serve us. Pentecost could be used to show a united outpouring of the love of Jesus into our communities by clearing up litter, repairing fences and working alongside Police and other agencies with across the nation churches giving "1,000,000 Hours of Kindness." In September the focus will be on 'Hope Explored', helping people to explore the Christian faith in a friendly and accessible way (through Alpha, Christianity Explored, Emmaus, etc.) And in December the focus will obviously be on Advent and Christmas, bearing gifts and hope to our communities.

*Hope 08 offers churches a fresh opportunity to engage with their local community in mission – a project which will enable the delivery of both evangelism and social action in making Jesus known.*

Revd Jez Brown, Senior Regional Minister, SW Baptist Association

## Promoting Hope 08 in Devon

A working group facilitated by Churches Together in Devon (CTD) is exploring how to encourage Devon's churches to get involved in Hope 08. Members of this group are available to give presentations on Hope 08 and share ideas for Hope initiatives. Resource materials, such as Hope DVDs or leaflets, and a small display are also available. Please contact Simon Taylor (see over) to find out more. We want to encourage Devon's churches in villages, towns and cities to arrange their own Hope programmes. Currently under consideration are initiatives that could be run across the whole county. Some areas of the county are setting up working groups to plan outreach activities in their locality.

*If Hope 08 manages to stimulate a year of prayer and missionary activity it will enable the Devon Christian Communities to become clear unambiguous signs of our hope in Christ for the whole county. We must support it in prayer and deed.*

The Right Revd Christopher Budd,  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth

## Hope 08 Resource Booklet

Hope has just published a 160 page full colour publication, packed with creative ideas on how to prepare for and deliver Hope 08 in villages, towns and cities all over the country. Anyone who is considering initiating a Hope event, however large or small, will find great ideas and practical advice to further support and encourage their planning. Written with a magazine design style, you can dip in and out of the sections which are relevant to you. The booklet gives many suggestions for marking the Hope high points and fulfilling the Hope values. Its writers have experience of running big and small projects. It can be purchased direct from the publisher (telephone 08704 208188) for £2 plus postage and packing quoting the code HPC8. CTD believes this publication so useful that it will be sending a copy to every Churches Together group in Devon.