



On Thursday 4th August 2011, 86 people from local projects, partner organisations and supporters of Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network travelled to London for a Reception the Houses of Parliament hosted by Stephen Timms MP, the Vice Chair of the Labour Faith Group.

The day was held to honour and celebrate the work of over 100 local projects and partner organisations from across the UK who work to support those vulnerable in society.

Guests were welcomed at Portcullis House by Paul Blakey MBE, the Founder of Street Angels and CNI Network, and given opportunity for photographs as a commemoration of the day. After security checks, Adam May, Director of Development, showed visitors to the Atlee Suite within Portcullis House.

The afternoon started with a drinks reception followed by an introduction and welcome from Stephen Timms MP. Mr Timms encouraged those at the heart of CNI to continue making the difference within our local communities and commented on the vital importance for the work as CNI is now a national brand name within Parliament.

The vision and five strands of the work of CNI were shared by Paul Blakey MBE before three of our many partner agencies spoke. The Revd Kathryn Morgan, the Mission Advisor for the Baptist Union, Dr. Michelle Pyman from Mercy Ministries and Louise Davies of Hope City Church all shared about the work they do and how there is strength in partnership working to better meet the needs of our communities. Be it through Crossing Places and national denominational initiatives, working with those with addictions, those who need help towards a changed life or those who find themselves in a place of difficulty CNI, local projects and partner organisations are often best placed to offer support along with a life-changing encounter.

The guests then heard from three local projects all with very different approaches to work within the night-time economy. Sarah

Digby from Watford Street Angels shared about the work in Watford and the UK wide family she, and other volunteers, now belong to as a result of the CNI Network. Sarah talked about Love Your Streets London and the conversations that were had over Pentecost weekend and the forthcoming More Than Gold Olympic Games Pastors. Andy Burns from Dundee ROCK Street Chaplains shared of how 12 years ago a fish supper at midnight led to the starting of Street Chaplains. This project is now going from strength to strength with many people encountering a changed life because of help from the Street Chaplains. Mike French, night-club chaplain in Bournemouth shared about his experiences and the need to challenge the drink-fuelled night experiences with more wholesome clubbing scenes which do exist but are less advertised and promoted.

Following more drinks Paul and Jean Blakey and Adam May launched a 62 mile Caledonian Canal walk that they are planning to accomplish in September over three days from 17th - 19th. This is part of a Week of Prayer for CNI, local projects, partner initiatives and the night-time culture of our country. The walk will also raise money for the ongoing work of CNI.

Following closing comments from the Chair of the Trustees, Trevor Bendrien which highlighted new ideas such as Youth Angels, a Street Angels comic and linking together projects working in sea-side towns, photographs were taken outside the Houses of Parliament and 37 of the guests enjoyed a meal together overlooking the Thames.



Andy Burns from [Dundee Street Chaplains](#) - Is off to London to the CNI reception at the houses of parliament, thanks to all who have supported Rock Street Chaplains and made this trip possible.

Louise Davies from [Hope City Church](#) - Know how Jesus must have felt going to Jerusalem on a donkey. On Thursday I am going to the House of Commons on National Express

[Halifax Street Angels](#) - Looking forward to the Reception at the Houses of Parliament on Thursday - along with over 80 others from all across the UK

[@TippeyMarketing](#) - Looking forward to attending drinks reception at the Houses of Parliament tomorrow with [@hxstreetangels](#) & [@cninet](#). Taking my Mum as my guest

Adam May is up and preparing for the Christian / Community Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Network reception in Parliament this afternoon hosted by Stephen Timms MP...

[@STP890](#) - Looking forward to going to the Houses of Parliament on Thursday, along with other street angel coordinators (Stocton Town Pastors)

[@PastorPaulAbell](#) - Time to head to London, Portcullis House at the Houses of Parliament for the Christian Nightlife Initiatives Meeting :-)(Scarborough Youth / Street Angels)

Hi Guys. Just back to my hotel and have had a great time today, great fellowship and it is good to know that we are not alone, may we all be encouraged. Blessing. Andy Burns [ROCK Street Chaplains](#). Dundee.

[Watford Street Angels](#) - Super day at Houses of Parliament reception today with Christian / Community Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Network - thank for the invite!! See you all really soon xx

Adam May has just arrived home from a fantastic event at the Houses of Parliament to celebrate the work done by amazing teams of people - volunteers and supporters - to make a difference through Christian / Community Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) Network

Michelle from [Mercy Ministries](#) - Heading back up north after an awesome afternoon in the Houses of Parliament discussing the role of the Church in social transformation. Love that I got to share the work of Mercy Ministries UK in such a place! #saltandlight

Had a great time of fellowship at Portcullis House, Westminster, yesterday - 86 other street angel representatives there. Thanks to Adam, Paul and all the others that made this event happen - [Stockton Town Pastors](#)

[Viral Bible Project](#) - Thanks to CNI [@cninet](#) for taking #theviralbible to the Houses of Parliament yesterday! Welcome change of scenery after the so many Christian festival campsites.

Helen Bendrien - went to parliamentary reception for Street Angels/CNI - great day (slightly wet) and sore feet! fab to meet up with the nations Angels and other projects



Summer 2012 - be part of it!

July and August 2012 is a time when the world will be in the UK! There are numerous opportunities for local projects to help love and serve the millions of people who will be visiting this country as part of the Olympics and various other international events.

CNI is hoping to focus on two major events - the Olympics in London and at various centres across the UK and the Edinburgh Festival:

More Than Gold - Olympics 2012:

Up to 800,000 extra people will travel into London each day just to be part of the 2012 Games experience. They will swarm alongside the usual passengers around the transport system and be on the streets around Games venues, official big screen Live Sites and other venues.

St Pancras International Station, billed as the 'Gateway to the Games', is expecting around 100,000 additional travellers to pass through the station every day during the Games. Heathrow Airport will be heaving and is planning for its busiest day of all time after the Olympic Closing Ceremony and its second busiest day immediately following the Paralympics as everyone goes home.

On Thursday 1st September, at the Leadership Briefing in London, Games Pastors will be launched as a response to all that is going on during the Games.

Games Pastors are part of the More than Gold initiative providing practical and spiritual care for all during the 2012 Games. They are part of specialised group of trained volunteers sharing Compassion and love of Christ to others. They may be the first line response serving as part of a team to everyone attending the Games.



Games Pastors will be a Christian witness during the Games and prayer is an important part of our preparation and activity. It is important that all Games Pastors during the time of the Games have the spiritual back-up of their own church and home groups. Games Pastors should also be able to identify individuals who will need spiritual support during the games as well as practical assistance.

Being a Games Pastor will bring you into a wide variety of challenging situations and may be quite arduous at times, with lots of walking and standing during a typical four hour shift. It will bring great satisfaction. Once accepted and deployed you will be allocated to a small team, so there will be lots of day to day support

and normally you will not be expected to work alone.

All in all it will be a great experience, playing an important role that will put you at the very heart of the greatest sporting event in living memory.

Edinburgh Festival:

Each August tens of thousands of people a day visit Edinburgh to enjoy the month long Festival. With different Festivals such as Edinburgh Fringe, International Book Festival, Military Tattoo and Art Festival offering over 40,000 performances at over 2,500 shows the city is alive with people and fun!



Following on from an outreach run by Dundee Street Chaplains two years ago we want to take Love Your Streets to the Fringe! What we do is undecided yet but ideas include busking, handing out sweets, street patrols at night and helping visitors to find the next venue!

We are in the process of contacting some of Edinburgh's churches to see if we can link up and support them in the work they do around the Festival.

Summer 2012 is big! We have an amazing opportunity to show the world that the UK knows how to welcome people, love people and throw the biggest and best events the world has seen!

Go on - sign up - be a part of this!

To register your interest (without any obligation) email hello@cnietwork.org.uk with your details (name, contact details and project and if you would like to take part in London or Edinburgh). We would love to hear from you!

As part of More Than Gold, Paul and Adam are representing CNI at the **Big Briefing** at Westminster Central Hall on 12th September. Over 300 church leaders from across the UK will hear of the diverse and exciting programmes that are taking place and ask for commitment from the UK church to the London 2012 Games. Please pray for this event and for Paul and Adam as they network on behalf of CNI and the local projects...



An afternoon of entertainment with Adrian Plass

4.00pm till 7.00pm, **Wednesday 26th October 2011**
Moggerhanger Park, Bedfordshire

Tickets - £20.00 (to include light buffet and drink on arrival)

£5 from the sale of each ticket sold through a local project will benefit that project

To book (individual or group) contact Adam hello@cni-network.org.uk /
07736 949869 (*please tell us which project you would like to support*)



Adrian Plass is a writer and speaker who has produced over thirty books in the last twenty years. The best known of these is probably *The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass*, a gentle satire on the modern church, which has sold hundreds of thousands of copies worldwide. This and other books have travelled to other countries and are translated into a number of foreign languages. Other books include biography, novels, short stories, a fictionalised account of the author's experiences as a residential child care worker, and collections of poems and sketches. A bemused Anglican, Adrian lives with his wife and daughter at Scargill House.

This month, we welcome [Beth Ward](#), of Tippet Marketing and Events (based in Halifax) and [Sarah Digby](#), of Watford Street Angels to join the [CNI Leadership and Development Group](#).

Beth brings to the group a wealth of experience in marketing and event management. Beth is a huge supporter of Street Angels and CNI and runs the Social Media and Your Organisation training with Paul.

Sarah is the youngest member of our CNI team, but has bags of energy! Sarah is passionate about the work of CNI and the impact that local projects can make on the night-time of our towns and cities. She will be helping CNI focus on the growing needs of young people.

[Sharing Hope in Crisis seminar](#) - Saturday 8th October 2011 9am to 4.45pm in Whitehaven, West Cumbria. There is no charge (though an offering will be taken) and light lunch is provided - to book your place and handbook contact Adam who will send you details.

Thu 1st Sept - Adam, Paul and other CNI volunteers will be attending the [Games Pastors Leadership Briefing](#) in London. This event is by invitation only, so please contact Adam for further information

Mon 5th Sept - Adam attending meetings in London with the new head of Evangelism for the Salvation Army and the Chaplain to the Bishop of Soutwark

Thurs 8th Sept - Paul and Adam speaking on CNI at the [Night Time Economy meeting for ATCM](#) in Liverpool

Mon 12th Sept - Paul and Adam attending the [More than Gold Big Briefing and Commissioning](#) at Westminster Central Hall

Thurs 15th Sept - Adam will be

speaking at [Churches Together](#) in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

Sat 17th - Sun 25th Sept - [Week of Prayer for CNI and the night-time of our nation](#) - also launch of [CNI Sunday](#)

Sun 18th - Tue 20th Sept - Jean, Paul and Adam walking [62 miles Caledonian Canal](#) to pray and raise money for CNI

Fri 23rd Sept - Paul and others from Halifax helping [Blackpool launch Street Angels](#) - please pray for this new local project..

Mon 26th Sept - Adam attending the service for the [High Sheriff of Bedfordshire](#) at St Paul's Church.

Wed 28th Sept - Adam leading a [More than Gold vision event](#) in the evening at [Russell Park Baptist Church, Bedford](#)

The Malt Cross Bar in Nottingham was and continues to be an exciting response by 24 churches in Nottingham to the night time economy. The venture was set up 8 years ago to create a better night out for clubbers initially on just weekend evenings, but now the project runs 7 days a week. During his recent visit to Nottingham, Adam shared a drink with Jo Cox-Brown, the Operations Director for the charity. "Loving people, serving Nottingham."

The Malt Cross is an exciting and vibrant Christian Charity and Café-Bar on St James's Street, just off Market Square in the heart of Nottingham. It was set up in 2003 by a consortium of city centre churches, St John's College and the University Chaplains to preserve the beautiful Grade II listed former music hall for future generations, and with love and through charitable outreach work it aims to support and serve the people of Nottingham.



The Malt Cross runs a vibrant and much loved café-bar. It's a place where we hope that relationships and community can be built. It plays host to a diverse and vibrant programme of Arts, Events, Artistic Communities & Live Music. The profits of which are put back into the charity whose aims include.

Arts and Music

Working with young and up and coming musicians and artists to spot, develop and nurture talent, we host live music events and have an art gallery for hire, and our focus is on giving people with talent an opportunity.

Outreach work

In 2010 we started Street Pastors and Safe Space projects led by church volunteers who aim to care for, love and protect anyone using Nottingham's night life on Friday and Saturday evenings from 10pm-3am.

Preservation of the Grade II listed music hall

There are only 5 music halls left standing in the UK; at one time every city in the UK would have had one! This building is particularly unique as the architect, Edwin Hill, only built one building in his career; the rest of the time he used to build boats (you can probably spot that when you gaze up and look at the roof!) We were the first music hall to host CanCan dancers and Charlie Chaplin and have a fantastic archive in our basement. The Malt Cross Music Hall was built in 1877, and has retained its Victorian décor and whimsical features to this day. It is built over four floors, including access to the city's cave network.

Spiritual Awareness

The Malt Cross aims to be a safe place where people can if they want to explore the Christian faith, and we run various events that help people engage and explore faith and excitingly we have the most central prayer room in the city that can be used at any time whilst the bar is



open.

As a response to the recent unrest in various city centres, volunteers from the Malt Cross, Nottingham Street Pastors and Trent Vineyard Church, supported police officers all week by baking cakes and taking them to Central station. The Police were working really long hours without many breaks and many had annual leave cancelled so we thought we would cheer them up said Jo Cox-Brown Operations Director Malt Cross Trust she had asked the Police how best to support them during this time and they jokingly said cake and prayer so I thought that we would oblige with both!

The volunteers have also run a text prayer service, which started six months ago for police officers working in Nottingham, it normally operates on Friday and Saturday evenings but we extending it to cover all week. Officers can text prayers to a designated number, and the street pastors pray on their behalf. Jo said more police officers than usual have used the service this week. "This week there were lots of officers who didn't know the city because they were from different areas, so one of the prayers they asked that we could pray was that they would be able to find their way round and respond to issues," she said. "We have a team of people who are waiting and will pray for these people or that situation, what ever arises and it's totally confidential. Jo Said "Ordinary churches are closed at that time of day, but God doesn't shut down just because the church is shut down, and for some people it's comforting to know that we are supporting them in this way."

Give thanks for a successful celebration of the work of CNI in the [Houses of Parliament](#) and for those who were able to attend and share in the atmosphere of the event

Give thanks for the [volunteers](#) out of the streets this summer ensuring towns and cities are safe

Pray for [Street Angels](#) in [North East Lincolnshire](#) who celebrated one year of working last month.

Pray for those individuals and communities effected by [riots](#) during August; we commit to standing alongside them.

Pray for the work of [Street Pastors](#), especially for its leadership, [Les Issac](#) and [Eustance Constance](#).

Pray for the formal launch of [Games Pastors](#) at the start of September; for the right people to be chosen and selected for the role of Regional and Area Coordinators. Pray too for the right people to hear about the Games Pastors scheme.

Pray for the safety and stamina for Adam, Paul and Jean on their [62 mile sponsored walk](#) later this month and that finances to continue the work of CNI will be raised.

CNI is calling people to a **Week of Prayer** for the night-time economy of our nation. The week, from Saturday 17th - Sunday 25th September is the idea of Andy Burns from Street Chaplains in Dundee. A **Prayer Resource** pack is available on www.cninetwork.org.uk and we are encouraging volunteers, supporters, friends and churches to use this as a united prayer response during the week.

As part of the Week of Prayer, Paul and Jean Blakey along with Adam May are committing to a **62 mile coast to coast walk along the Caledonian Canal** from Fort William to Inverness. This is a prophetic act where we will be praying as we go, along with others who will join us, for our nation, local projects and the night-time economy in general. The walk will also help raise funds for the work of CNI and there is a sponsor form on the next page of this newsletter or text DUCK22 £amount to 70070 or give via www.wehelpedu.org.uk - please use this as a time locally to invest into the work nationally...



At the end of the Week of Prayer **CNI Sunday** is to be launched. This summer, Adam has been creating and compiling a new and exciting CNI Sunday resource to better tell the story of CNI and how the charity fits with the Christian call to love communities and people, especially those most vulnerable at night; hear endorsements from leading Christian and Parliamentary figures; committed to praying for our work.

As part of the resources, there is a sermon outline for preachers written by the Bishop of Southwark and Bishop for Urban Life and Faith, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun. Traditionally, the night time economy is seen in a binge drink culture, but Michael French, the Chaplain to the Night in Bournemouth offers his own reflections on making 'going out' a positive experience.

These resources will be available as downloads from the CNI website. It is hoped that as CNI develops, there will be more resources to better equip the local church to respond to its growing mission to the night time economy.

Paul and Adam are available to speak across the country on the work of CNI in services, community groups and church meetings. No group is too small, but we do ask for travelling expenses to be paid.

During August **England witnessed some of the worst scenes of unrest** seen for many years. CNI issued a call to prayer at the time of the unrest and still ask that we pray for the work in re-building and restoring the communities affected. Paul was interviewed in a special programme on Revelation TV in response to the riots and called for our communities to begin to invest into our young people and for us all to work towards increasing God's Kingdom here on earth - the interview is on the CNI web site.

As an on-going response we are asking local projects if any young people who volunteer could become role models to other young people in our communities. This could be as simple as including their story on the CNI web site or, through initiatives like ROC Café, getting alongside to invest into others. If you have any stories from your project please email them to us.

Adam and Becky were delighted to represent CNI at the Agape Celebration '**A Reckless Love for a Reckless Nation**' in Nottingham. The celebration combined a launch of a new DVD - looking at the state of the nation today with input from a number of leading Christian leaders - with the commissioning of the new National Director of Agape UK, Lesley Cheesman.

The DVD includes interviews with some influential UK Christians including: Krish Kandiah of the Evangelical Alliance; Shadow Education Minister Sharon Hodgson MP; worship leader and activist Andy Flannagan; workplace ministry pioneer Mark Greene; Youthwork magazine editor Martin Saunders; and our own Paul Blakey MBE highlighting the call for Christians to respond because the world is ready to see us take a lead in restoring the reckless society which we live in.

Speaking about the launch of this exciting film, Lesley Cheesman said "Shouldn't everyone in the UK have the opportunity to hear the message of Jesus and witness the counter-cultural values of God's Kingdom being put into practice? "We hold the belief that this can happen in our lifetime! We want to work closer with the wider Church to see lives changed and devoted to Jesus 100%."

The celebration featured stories of what Agape is doing to reach students, families and the unreached both in the UK and wider afield. In her own address towards the end of the afternoon, the new National Director reflected on the recent riots suggesting that this was a true demonstration of the reckless nation that we live in. She presented the vision for Agape that by 2015, everyone in the UK should know a someone who is a follower of Jesus. All of this, she said was only possible if we kept the faith.

Speaking after the event, Becky said "It was a delight to share in this exciting celebration for Agape and to pray for Lesley as she takes up her role as the new National Director. The challenge of an event like this is how are we choosing to respond - our call is to show that reckless love that God has for our world."

