



GOOD NEWS STORIES



GOOD NEWS FROM THE WIRRAL

Heather Cooper

During the pandemic, a number of asylum seekers were billeted at a hotel in Hoylake. Along with the other churches in the town, St Luke's Methodist Church became heavily involved in supporting them. Some of the asylum seekers are Christians who were forced to flee their homes or be killed because they followed Christ. A few began to worship with us at our weekly Zoom services and four asked to be baptised. This was something they had been denied in their home country. So, on 25 October, a COVID-secure and socially distanced baptism was held. The local Independent Evangelical Church was used as they have a baptismal pool. Their pastor and a member of the Methodist Church did the immersion as they were part of the permitted social bubble. The exuberance of the men as they rose out the water brought tears to many eyes - those who were in the church and those watching it being livestreamed. This was a celebration that brought the churches and the community together and provided a powerful sign of hope.

From the Revd Heather Cooper, St Luke's Methodist Church, Wirral Circuit



GOD'S HEALING GRACE

Rachel Saxton

In February 2019, I suffered a brain haemorrhage whilst staying at my mum's flat in Liverpool. I was staying there whilst my husband John was working in America. I felt very sick and then was rushed to hospital as I had apparently collapsed.

I was taken to Walton hospital in Liverpool and was in ICU for two weeks. I was then transferred to a ward and then to a rehab unit. I was in hospital for about four months and God saved my life literally. In rehab I learnt to walk, talk and eat again. My family were amazing and God stayed close to me the whole time.

After a few months, I was given my own flat to live in. I became independent. I learnt again how to cook meals and to buy food. I was then allowed home for two weekends, which was great. Soon afterwards, I was able to be discharged and my husband helped me each day; he was amazing. The care I got in Walton hospital was exceptional and God gave me such courage. I am now living and doing the things I never thought I would do again. Praise God! He has healed and restored me.

Rachel Saxton lives in Lymm near Warrington and attends Lymm Methodist Church where she is a worship leader.



ETERNAL WALL OF ANSWERED PRAYER

A new national landmark which aims to profile a million answered prayers has been given the go ahead to be built on a site near Coleshill on the outskirts of Birmingham. Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, which will eclipse the size of the Angel of the North, will stand at 169 feet and is expected to attract 300,000 visitors each year, contributing £9.3 million to the local economy.

The iconic 'eternal' arch structure will be constructed using one million bricks with each representing individual prayers that have been answered for people across the country. In addition, using interactive technology and a bespoke app, visitors will be able to use their smart device, holding it against any brick to read the individual answered prayers and the personal stories behind them.

After North Warwickshire Borough Council granted planning permission, the Secretary of State ratified the decision, giving Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer CEO Richard Gamble the green light to start the build. The former chaplain of Leicester City Football Club is the visionary behind the monumental structure.

Richard Gamble says: 'It's been 16 years since the idea was first born. To finally receive the official consent is incredible. We are building a very special landmark and it is an amazing opportunity for the British people to leave a legacy of hope for future generations. Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer will make hope visible to the UK. It is unique in that it is all about the community: it is crowd-funded and a million people will come together to crowd-create this incredible piece of art with their stories of hope. What we're doing is historic.'

It is anticipated that Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer will create 60 new jobs during its two year construction phase from 2021, thereafter providing 20 full-time positions for employees to work for the charity in the visitor centre, café, bookstore and a 24 hour on-site chaplaincy support service. It is also estimated that the monument will generate an additional gross social value of £1.4 billion, including £430 million in charitable donations. It has recently been announced that the project plans to fund one million bricks to social housing projects - a brick for each answered prayer.

Richard continues, 'We want to celebrate and remember all the prayers that God has answered for individuals throughout our nation's history. Each answered prayer could provide hope to those who visit. Our desire is to create thought-provoking public art and offer a space for recreation and reflection for everyone. Our hope is that those who visit will see how God can bring peace in life's storms and be encouraged to reflect on the power and relevance of prayer.'

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands comments: 'I am delighted Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer has now finally got planning permission and work can get underway. It's an incredibly ambitious, stunning project and is a landmark for the Midlands. It has been a long process, but this landmark will serve as a place of hope for many, and one that will help us remember the Christian heritage of our nation'.

Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2021 with completion in Autumn 2022.

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer is looking to gather one million answers to prayer. Share yours by going to eternalwall.org.uk/testimony