



Regional Trumpet Call Journey

An Introduction

This booklet covers the journey of the Notts Prayer Network from its inception many years ago to its present day journey of Trumpet Call. Trumpet Call began locally in 2005 & is now being established at a regional level, partnering with our neighbouring counties of Derbyshire, Lincolnshire & Leicestershire. The booklet also includes information from some of these counties.

An Introduction to Notts Prayer Network

Jeremiah 33 v 9, 10 "Then this city will bring me joy, glory, and honour before all the nations of the earth! The people of the world will see the good I do for my people and will tremble with awe! This is what the Lord says: You say 'this land has been ravaged and the people and animals have all disappeared.' Yet in the empty streets of Jerusalem and Judah's other towns, there will be heard once more the sounds of joy and laughter." **Jeremiah 33 v 9, 10 (NLT)**

Notts Prayer Network is made up of Christians who pray for the city and county of Nottinghamshire in local prayer groups or as individuals, and who meet regularly together to pray and praise God and for teaching, encouragement and support. The Network is overseen by a group of church leaders from various denominations and facilitated by Ruth Bussell. Prayer for the City of Nottingham and the County of Nottinghamshire has been taking place in many ways over many years. The Notts Prayer Network has had its own journey as part of this prayer.

The Journey and the Vision

The journey starts in the early part of 1960. Over a period of time, the Lord revealed to Ruth Bussell His plans for 'preparing the way of the Lord' through prayer, in order for His purposes to be established in the city and county towns of Nottingham. He revealed His intention to

establish this city as a 'City of God' (See Jeremiah 33 v 9, 10) and a 'house of prayer for all nations' (Isaiah 56.v7).

This was unheard of language, the present wealth of books and other materials on taking our cities for God and His plans to transform our cities and nations had not yet been written. Many years later we learned that God had been speaking similar things to a number of people, and it has been a joy to share and to travel this journey together.

In 1978, the Lord gave Ruth an aerial vision of Nottingham, with dark clouds covering it and a war going on. God revealed that He was calling an army of pray-ers together, from different church denominations, to begin to take the land. From the beginning He made clear that we were not to focus on the enemy and what he was doing as he had already been defeated by the Lord at the Cross. We were to concentrate on the Lord; our weapons being Praise, the Word of God, the Name of Jesus and the Blood of Jesus. As an initially small group of people we worshipped the Lord together and He began to share His strategy with us.

- ♦ **Divide the Land into seven parts**

God showed that firstly the land should be divided into seven parts, these being:

Law and Order, Local Government/Politics, Education, Church, Health and Social Services, Media and Business & Commerce.

The Lord showed that these areas of the life of the city and county were wrapped around with a ribbon with 'Freemasonry' written on it and that we were to cut the ribbon before we could release these areas. The weapon we used to 'cut' the ribbon was 'high praise'. God showed us from scripture the principle that as we focus on Him in praise He is the one who fights on our behalf, causes chains to fall off and bonds to be loosed. We spent the next two years on an amazing journey with the Lord which culminated with a nationwide focus on Freemasonry, with bodies such as the Church of England and the Police and Judiciary saying that Freemasonry was not compatible with

being a member of these bodies or organisations. We later discovered that many other Christians across the UK had been praying in this area also.

For many years, 'task forces' or task groups of people met regularly to pray over each of these areas partnering with people who worked in these places.

- ♦ **Praying at the Gates of the City**

Historically, in common with many other cities, Nottingham had been enclosed by walls with high gates as the points of entrance. Although the actual gates and walls no longer exist in any substantial way we believed God was showing us the significance of the spiritual 'gates' of the city, North, South, East and West and that He wanted to establish Gatekeepers (spiritual leadership) and Watchmen (pray-ers) at each of the gates of the city. A watchman is someone who watches and prays and is vigilant for the life of the city, from their position on the walls they can see inside and outside the city. The gatekeepers are elders and leaders of a city who have the authority to open or close the gates as alerted by the watchmen. So, they work hand in hand to guard and protect the city. Through research and prayer God revealed the characteristics and spiritual significance of each of the gates and prayer was established in churches located at these gates.

- ♦ **All Kinds of Prayer**

Prayer took place in many ways through Prayer Breakfasts and different prayer support teams at the city gates, prayer walks, prayer clocks, prayer walls, and the Neighbourhood Prayer Watch. As well as people praying in their local church and own homes. During this time people from around the county were meeting together and a relational prayer network began to develop.

We 'gave' this city to the Lord in January 2000 in a millennium celebration in the Market Square, with about 6,000 people, including officials of both church and city.

In the Easter of that year we raised a flag on the royal standard in the Castle grounds, which said 'Jesus is Lord, This is His City'. We were then discovered the significance of this as history tells us it was important for the Kings of England to take Nottingham castle for whoever raised the Royal flag in Nottingham ruled the Nation. We were preparing the way for the King of Kings to rule our Nation. The Lord then told us He would set up His governments.

Over the years we have seen many people raised up to serve our city in all walks of life but significantly to work in the areas of homelessness, prostitution and in the drug scene. God has many people in this city carrying His presence.

Over a period of time we received a number of pictures and visions that portrayed a man on a white horse in full kingly regalia. Behind Him were many other horses. He was looking back with His hand up seeming to indicate it was not time to move. We could see that He was also waiting for people to mount their horses. Later as He turned to look still with His hand up all the horses seemed to have riders. He then lifted His hand and signalled it was time to go forward.

The Present Day: Trumpet Call to Pray

Intimacy, Identity and Authority

In January 2003 we began a journey that was to be both challenging and exciting. We believed God was saying that we had been preparing the way of the Lord; we had removed the stones and pebbles but that now we had come to the boulders. He showed us that He was going to remove the boulders Himself. It was going to be a completely new stage on our journey and very different, a new level. It was going to be like the return of the Ark of the Covenant in King David's time and we had to take a step at a time, bringing a sacrifice. We had to be prepared for this new level and God showed us how. God gave us a very strong promise from Zech: 2 and 3 that during this time He himself would be a 'wall of fire around us' and 'the Glory within'.

The first thing we had to do was to lay down all the past ways of doing things. The things we had built up over many years were to be laid down in readiness for the next part of the journey. By the end of 2004 the prayer breakfasts which had been taking place for many years were laid down. What remained were the relationships that had been established between the people who were praying for the county.

As the time of preparation progressed we became aware that the Lord was sounding the trumpet, calling us to Himself. Since January 2005 we have met together in response to the sound of the trumpet. Our instruction was to not concentrate on the consequences of the breakdown of God's order in society but to focus on the restoration of His order. From Genesis we saw that the key things are the restoration of intimacy with God, which leads to the restoration of our identity and then of authority.

Worship was to be the foundation of this journey. God made it clear that in establishing greater intimacy with us He wanted to share with us the secrets of covenant. He emphasised some key elements:

- ♦ The Cross as the central point of focus as it always must be. At the cross we submit ourselves to Christ afresh and call upon His name. Here we rededicate our lives, renew our focus and regain a proper perspective on life. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.
- ♦ The covenant/communion table, representing the basis of our relationship, our intimacy with God and its outworking in our lives. We renew our covenant with Him, and recall His covenant with us. We can particularly bring to His remembrance those qualities or ministries of His that we need at that moment, such as His health, strength, wisdom, discernment, healing, etc.
- ♦ The importance of holiness - clean hands and a pure heart. 'Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?' Psalm 24 (We have a wash bowl in place in the prayer room to help us focus). This is not the ceremonial washing of the Pharisee, but for the confession of sin, proclamation of our forgiveness, and the

remembrance and renewal of our baptism for a clean conscience. Here we remember that the Lord has rolled away the reproach of Egypt, the land of bondage, and set us free.

- ♦ The Flame - signifying a place where:-

**1) O God of burning cleansing flame, send the fire!
Burn up *every* trace of sin!**

2) To put ourselves on the flame of total surrender. We not only submit to the fire of His refining, but also bring those weights that encompass our lives and slow us up to be burned up in its heat.

The Lord gave us an illustration of the race horse: if it wants to keep up front it has to be the right weight. Some of the things we surrender may be good and apparently harmless but they are not for now, not for this stage of our journey towards intimacy and holiness.

3) To move into being a carrier of His Glory. Revive us, Lord, and let it start with me!

4) I declare I will never walk as a powerless believer, but as one who contains the flame of the Holy Spirit, and a carrier of His Glory!

Then as a consequence of knowing who we are in Him we find the restoration of our authority in God. So that as we carry the sword of the Word of God, God Himself can wield it at any time and in any situation as we respond in obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This was a journey into, not only a new phase of our lives with God, but a new dimension in Him

Early in 2007 we moved into increasing new levels at each Trumpet Call where God began to lead us specifically to release His power through worship. At this time God began to speak to us about getting things in order.

We began to have an increasing understanding of the Kingdom of God and that in restoration of God's order we were looking at the restoration and advancement of His Kingdom. This is to do with land and people.

The Lord was impressing on us in our journey that we are being led into what God had already put into place, for example when we were recently introduced to the National Director of 'Freedom in Christ' we saw God's provision already in place for the people who we were going to be set free through prayer.

At that time we felt the Lord was leading us to look to our borders. This led to a meeting with some church and prayer leaders from Lincoln, Leicester and Derby. The result was Regional Trumpet Call. At a meeting of representatives from the 4 regions in 2008, a picture was given of a grafted apple tree. Although the four apple trees were grafted into the same root they retained their individuality. We believe that God is strengthening us in joining us together in the call He has given us to prepare the way for Him to destroy the Strongholds in our nation. (*See Regional Trumpet Call notes below*).

In 2008 the Lord began turning us to Revelation 4.

"I saw a door open in Heaven"...

"I heard a voice and it sounded like a mighty Trumpet blast"... (an urgent sound)

"I saw a throne and One sitting on the throne"...

This began to lead us to new levels of worship where we experience the weight of the Glory of God. Chapter 5 talks about John weeping because of the desperation of the situation, much like today is for us. One of the elders says to John, *"Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals"* Then John saw the Lamb. (Rev 5 v 5-6)

This is what God began to say to us as we looked at the situations around us – ‘Stop weeping – here is the Lamb’. We realised we have been given the answer. As we create a space for Him through worship, we come into the throne room. This is the place where we find out what God wants to do. We then release the word He gives us through declaration and proclamation He is able to change the situations, enable us to ‘re-write the laws’ (as in the book of Esther) and to see His order restored. What an amazing privilege.

God began to show us the importance of the children being involved and hence they started to attend with their parents and become an integral part of our journey. As we release God to work, He is raising up people to Pray for the city in a new way, to partnership with people working in the city, and to begin to stand with London and others places around our Nation in Prayer and support.

When we partner with God, Heaven begins to connect with earth and amazing things begin to happen.

2009 was a year of birthing the new move of God. A healing mission with Craig Marsh at the beginning of the year was a special time in many ways not least that it was a time of bringing us together in unity. At a subsequent Trumpet Call meeting a ‘birthing’ process started through worship and the ‘head’ was born which God revealed to be ‘David’, worship, He is restoring the tabernacle of David; taking us to a new level in worship, a holy place of worship; the restoration of the Ark of the Covenant, the presence and the power of God.

While we were attending a prayer event for the monarchy at Windsor we watched the changing of the guard and God brought us some revelation about ‘the changing of the guard’ in the nation. The old guard left and to the sound of the trumpet the new guard took their place. The Kingdom of God is rising. The old systems of the world are falling but the Kingdom of God is rising. There is going to be a new government, the government of God. At the following Regional Trumpet call meeting in Buxton, the ‘shoulders’ were born, ‘the government shall be upon His shoulders’ (Is 9 v 6). There was a ‘sound’ of the clash of the kingdoms (of darkness and light) and the

Kingdom of God ‘shot ahead’. The rest of the body will be emerging until Jesus returns.

God is putting his ‘directors of heaven’, his Josephs and Esther’s etc., in place as we take our place in our homes and jobs to carry His Presence into all these situations and places. However to be a director of heaven on earth we have to be in the Holy place, the place of intimate worship. We need to carry the fragrance of Jesus.

Together we are living stones being built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2 v 5), a dwelling place for God.

We have a Pray for the City team and for more information about that and Notts Prayer ‘Network Partners’ see www.prayer-network.org.uk. Partners include: Business Alpha, Nottingham Youth for Christ, Jericho Road Project (an outreach ministry to street sex workers), North Nottingham Healing Rooms, Nottingham Community Prison Chaplaincy, Ignite (evangelistic youth ministry) Social Services prayer and Prayer for Ollerton.

Regional Trumpet Call

The Lord has been showing us the importance of our city borders and neighbouring cities coming together in a strong relationship. So as Lincoln, Derby, Nottingham and Leicester begin to come together, Regional Trumpet Call is birthed. Already there are strong relationships being made with other cities neighbouring each other. In time relationships will exist on a national level that will impact the life of our nation in every way.

Our first regional Trumpet Call took place in Nottingham in November 2007 when, joined by Ian and Pauline Cole (World Prayer Centre 'WPC'), Lloyd Cooke (Saltbox) and Jane Holloway (WPC), we met, listened to and prayed with representatives from these four cities. We had communion together and committed ourselves to standing together for God's purposes. We had no idea how this was going to come about but we had every faith in God by now to know that if we continue in our intimate relationship with Him He plans it all ahead. It was very exciting and scary at the same time.

In September 2008, we met in Lincoln where we experienced the Lord in His glory take over our agenda and our day, changing people's lives. For many of us this was a day when God moved us to a new place in Him that changed lives forever.

God does have a way of turning our plans and agendas upside down and this is what happened in January 2009 when our Nottingham partnership day became a Regional Trumpet Call, as we were joined by a number of people from Lincoln, Derby and Leicester.

The worship, the presence of God in such a powerful day led to repentance of attitudes between cities, forgiveness and the experience of seeing four cities' worship rising up to heaven. This released a real Heaven on earth time in our midst. How amazing our God is becoming to us. The more we run into Him and worship and adore Him the more the things of the earth grow dim and we release His incredible power and Glory into those situations that seemed impossible and see them changed. What an amazing God.

Derby

So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire 2 Kings 6:17

Angels on the Hills

Some years ago an intercessory leader here had a clear vision of angels on the hills surrounding Derby poised for action, waiting for the City to be ready. Since then a number of Intercessors have been getting a sense of anticipation that the time is very near. A warrior angel has been seen by one of the City councillors on top of the tower of an inner city church and by others on top of the Council house itself and elsewhere.

Historically

In the past, Derby has been a place of 'firsts': The Quakers were first called Quakers in Derby (1650); the first water powered Silk Mill was built here (in 1717); the creation of the nation's first public recreational park (the Arboretum, 1840).

Derby has also been a sending-out place – the founders of the City of Boston USA came from Derby and Mount St Helen's in Washington is named for 1st Baron St Helens, born in Derby. It is now home to a massive multimillion-pound teaching hospital, yet to be completed. Derby was the final stopping place of Bonnie Prince Charlie (1745) en route from Scotland to London in his quest for the Crown.

In the 19th Century Derby became a centre for rail and steel works. Andrew Handyside's foundry produced bridges and pillar boxes seen around the world today. Rolls Royce, Toyota and Bombardier have continued to put Derby on the map in terms of Engineering. Derby has also become a significant cultural centre for the deaf community in the UK. It is estimated that the deaf population in Derby is at least three times higher than the national average and that only London has a larger deaf population.

Current Initiatives

1. Prayer Shield - An internet-based 24/7 prayer network was launched in '02 based on the M25 prayer network. This has continued with monthly briefings, although not every hour is covered as yet.

2. Prayer4Derby - Prayer Shield and the local Lydia Fellowship launched a joint initiative in '05 to cover Derby in prayer, drawing in Intercessors from across the City. It meets monthly on Monday afternoons at the Derby YWAM base.

3. Prayer walks (City and County) - Derbyshire has been prayer walked 3 years running ('06-'08), and the whole City was prayer walked in 06/07. There are also initiatives afoot to pray at significant high places and trouble spots.

4. Derby Prayer Walk - This lasts about 1 hour and meets on the 13th of each month from 7 – 8 pm. It has been fascinating to see the different faces of Derby on different nights of the week and in different seasons.

5. City Council involvement – Involvement with the City Council began in '06 and continues. There is pastoral cover for the Christians on the council, and a small team continues to sit in the Public Gallery during the full Council meetings to intercede.

6. City Vision – A group of church leaders from across Derby meet together monthly to pray for the City.

7. Street Pastors

Street Pastors were launched here early in 09. This has found favour with the Police as violent crime rate in the City on Friday/Sat nights has dropped 40%. Although the primary role is to model the Gospel rather than preach it, a number of life changing conversations have taken place, bouncers have received prayer, suicide has been thwarted. This initiative has grown to involve small teams walking in a couple of the more troubled estates seeking to thwart the gang culture.

8. Watching and Networking

A 'secret' group has been set up on Facebook in order to alert intercessors across the City to prayer needs as they arise and to coordinate response.

There was a series of prayer walks in the City during Halloween Week when we learned of various occult events taking place. Also at times of anticipated threat to the peace of the City, intercessors have gathered at the City Centre HQ to pray through the night for the Street Pastors. The result every time has been phenomenal.

9. Citywide Celebrations

A new initiative for 2010 is the launch of occasional City-wide celebrations with an emphasis on worship, intercession and warfare for the sake of the City, with the emphasis on being led by the Holy Spirit. Not many know what this level of prayer looks like but we hope to stir up a passion for prayer and see the Church drawn closer to the Lord through this.

Derby and Regional Trumpet Call

In 2006, at the invitation of Ruth Bussell from the Nottingham Prayer Network, a group of intercessory leaders from Derby – along with others from Lincoln and Leicestershire – became involved in an initiative to stand together as four cities/counties to seek the Lord's face for the Region. It is not yet clear what Derby has to offer to this mix; we have much to learn from our neighbours. But the journey is proving to be a great adventure. For further information on God at work in Derby/Derbyshire please see the following link: <http://www.derbychurch.net/>

Lincoln

Redemptive quality

A city with leadership capabilities – a pioneer, an instigator, a fathering city (kings of England were once crowned in Lincoln).

Scriptural declarations

- Matthew 5 v 14 “A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden (glowing in the night for all to see [NLT])”
 - Genesis 49 v 22 “a fruitful tree beside a well; whose branches reach over the wall”.
- Jeremiah 29 v 7 “Pray to the Lord for the city where you are living, because if good things happen in the city, good things will happen to you also.” (NCV)

Highlighted areas for prayer

- Ongoing revelation of what it means ‘to be salt and light’ across our large county:
 - ACTS Trust – Christian community-involvement charity **now** having 18 departments reaching out and connecting with various aspects of community life, utilising several hundred volunteers, and enjoying increasing favour with authorities.
 - Street Pastors – every Friday and Saturday night per week on streets in Lincoln impacting the culture and changing the environment. This initiative began in Sept 2007, and through its co-ordinated prayer strategy, has become a vital part of inner city life night-culture.
- Partnership between Christians and authorities, particularly regarding reduction of fatalities on county roads. In 2009 fatalities on Lincs roads were down 50% on 10 years previous.
- Standing ‘in the gap’ for something spiritually greater than the contribution made by the Wesley’s, which we recognise made a phenomenal difference to our county’s spiritual life.

For over thirty years in Lincoln we have recognised that God wanted to do something ‘amongst us and out from us’ which would bring a demonstration of His kingdom in a way never previously seen. This concept has at times been challenged, and at other times has seemed to almost recede into obscurity, but we do believe that its fulfilment is much nearer now than at any previous time.

However, one of the aspects which we have not always recognised has been that this fulfilment can only come about with the support and encouragement afforded by others from adjoining cities and counties. The opportunities which have been brought about through the development of Regional Trumpet Call have brought a wider dimension to what it means for ‘one city to stand alongside another’, realising that **our** unique qualities are enhanced, not engulfed, by partnering together.

There are quite a number of aspects of kingdom culture which are enjoying favour in Lincoln currently; with a good number of churches reporting increased numbers in their congregations; growth amongst youth focused ministries; increased favour upon community enrichment projects; and public acknowledgment of the service rendered by the Street Pastors, who with their prayer support team, are currently drawn from eighteen churches in the locality.

‘Lincs to Prayer’ is a county-wide prayer initiative which currently has approximately eighty believers who commit an hour a week to regularly pray for their county. ‘Lincoln Christians in Mission’ hold a monthly prayer lunch for Christian leaders which enjoys good representation across mission-minded churches, supportive prayer, and interactive discussions over a meal. ‘Churches Together in all Lincolnshire’ have recently launched a monthly newsletter called Notepad, which highlights numerous activities and initiatives across the county for strategic and informed prayer.

This level of favour and excitement seen locally is a reflection of the willingness of other cities in the Regional Trumpet Call network to stand alongside Lincoln in supportive prayer in order to see the kingdom of God manifest amongst us. Our current involvement in this is part of an ongoing journey towards seeing a greater release of the glory of God within a region which then has impact upon our nation and

further afield. This will be seen in a fresh breath of life within the church, renewed vision and vigour amongst believers, and expectancy in our communities of 'His kingdom coming and His will being done' amongst us. www.prayerlincs.org.uk

Contacts

- <http://www.prayerlincs.org.uk>
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Leicester

Leicester, a city in the heart of the nation was recognised by both the Romans and the Danes as a place of significance. Both used it as a strategic stronghold to control the Midlands. Now a city full of nations perhaps it is poised to again play its part in the nation and beyond.

For some years now Christians from many denominations have prayed through their hour each week on the 'Wall' as part of the 'Watchmen on the Wall' ministry. There are a number of other prayer ministries across the city including 'The Mission Prayer School Leicester', and quarterly 'Prayer 4 our City' meetings drawing Christians from a number of Churches and denominations.

For a number of years, Church leaders also have met in their differing denominations, but more recently a number are now meeting together to honour one another, to pray, to give support and to see a significant breakthrough with the gospel amongst the peoples of our city.

Some Christians from Leicester began to attend the Trumpet Call monthly meetings at the end of 2008 and have continued to participate in the journey throughout 2009.

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