



HOPE

FOR LONDON

**a Christian
response
to crime in
the capital**

Produced by the Evangelical Alliance



Sarah Prentice

Hope for London reports on dramatic transformation in ordinary, everyday communities in London and beyond. At the heart of these initiatives and many others are Christians committed to prayer and a practical expression of God's love through their lives and work.

Although London's bad news makes the news, that's not the whole picture. There are extraordinary stories of hope to be found too, in the capital and in cities around the UK. *Hope for London* is an introduction to what can happen when Christians pray for their neighbours and communities, and act on those prayers, to address the challenge of crime in their part of the city. Included are models from outside London which can be replicated in the capital.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir John Stevens has publicly stated his desire to make London the safest major city in the world. He, as England and Wales' most senior police officer, has championed the vision of *Hope for London*, first put forward by a Christian officer in the Met.

The challenge to all who are concerned about crime and the fear of crime is to identify the part that we might play. As Christians, we can offer something radical in response to crime – a transfiguring presence in the places where we live and work.

This booklet is written in the hope that many more stories of astounding transformation will be told in the days to come.

London: What's the problem?

Communities:

- London is home to three of the five most deprived boroughs in England.
- Two-thirds of England's most deprived local authority housing estates are in London.
- Unemployment in Inner London is almost double the national average, at 7.1 per cent, compared to 3.6 per cent.

Crime trends:

- Gun crime: offences rose by a massive 45 per cent in 2001-2002. Sir John Stevens, speaking in January 2003, said: 'I have made no secret of my support for mandatory prison sentences for firearms offences; it is essential that we make it clear to criminals that the use of guns will not be tolerated on our streets ... The growing culture of the casual carrying of handguns ... must be brought under control as soon as possible.'
- Youth crime: under-18s are responsible for...
 - 72 per cent of robberies.
 - 57 per cent of vehicle crime.

32 per cent of criminal damage.
22 per cent of domestic burglaries.

- Drugs: heroin and cocaine users commit an average of four crimes every week and rely on an average illegal income of £13,000 a year to feed their habit.
- Homicide: murders average more than one every two days, with a total of 190 in 2001-2002.

Families:

- There can be more than 10 calls an hour, 24 hours a day, to the Metropolitan Police relating to domestic violence, in a typical period.
- It is estimated that around 50 per cent of men who have abused their female partners have also been physically abusive to children in the family.
- There are over 50,000 homeless households in London (placed in temporary accommodation).
- London has the highest rate of child poverty in the UK.



Soul Survivor

London: What's the answer?

As Christians, we can do more than despair about the effect of crime on our communities – we can pray. History shows that nations and cities can be transformed when people pray. Prayer is

the one essential ingredient in any Christian response to community concern, as Christians in Haringey have proved. And over the page are two inspiring stories from outside the capital.

Hope for ... Haringey N17

Haringey is a troubled area: the Broadwater Farm riots were a low point of violence in 1985. Recently gun crime has risen by 12 per cent; five people were shot dead in Haringey during 2002-2003.

When half a dozen pastors in Haringey started to meet for a regular 6.30am prayer meeting, their community was touched powerfully. 'We were coming together to say we need God to do something in this borough,' explains Nims Obunge, pastor of Freedom's Ark church.

Their prayers led the church leaders to approach Haringey's mayor in 1997, to repent for not taking greater

responsibility as leaders. Pray Haringey was formed a few months later. Through this, 350 Christians from about 30 churches began to pray for their neighbours using a 'lighthouse of prayer' idea, praying regularly for the 10 households around their own house.

From this groundswell of prayer has come some extraordinary blessings of peace and healing for Haringey. In 2001 Obunge launched the Haringey Peace Alliance, a coalition of church, council, community and faith leaders who jointly address issues negatively affecting the borough, especially concerning young people. Peace and safety is high on the agenda and one focus is the annual Peace Week, attended by thousands in the borough each September.

So successful is the Peace Week that in 2003 *The Times* reported: 'Violent crime involving firearms has fallen by 47 per cent in a North London borough after community initiatives led by the police and local churches, according to a police report.'

Prayer underpins the Peace Alliance's activities. Prayer for the Peace Week itself is highly organised by Pray Haringey, with church members praying together before taking position along a prearranged route. Each has a prayer timetable with specific issues to pray for, including crime hotspots relayed by the police. A core of 15 churches works closely with the Peace Alliance, plus many others on specific projects.

Peace Alliance initiatives for the borough include the 'Empower' model of training and activities requested by local young people, such as performance arts workshops and skills training. 'As most crime is drug-related, we have a drugs education team for parents and others, and we are working towards at least six churches having two trained drugs workers each,' says Obunge.

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More real-life stories overleaf ▶

Why get involved?

Faith: people of faith can offer something radically different that reaches beyond traditional responses to crime and disorder. 'It is a simple, if challenging, fact of history: times of the lowest criminal and anti-social behaviour have followed the times of greatest spiritual revival in these islands...' *Assistant Chief Constable Ian McDonald*

Hope: the biblical message of hope has the power to transform lives and communities. 'Remember – hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things. And no good thing ever dies.'

Andy Dufresne, The Shawshank Redemption

Love: we are commanded to love God, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. 'Whatever is done out of love, be it never so little, is wholly fruitful; for God regards the greatness of the love that prompts a man, rather than the greatness of his achievement. Whoever loves much, does much!' *Thomas a Kempis*

These values propel us into ...

Practical involvement:

Christians also have a vital practical role to play in community regeneration – in the rebuilding of ruined places and the restoration of streets, described in Isaiah 58. But it is most effectively done together: 'I cannot be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. We are not independent, we are inter-dependent.' *Martin Luther King*

'You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuilding the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again!' *Isaiah 58:12, The Message*

Also see:

- The good Samaritan: *Luke 10:25-37*
- Intercessory prayer: *Ezekiel 22:30-31*
- True fasting: *Isaiah 58*
- The great commandment: *Matthew 22:34-40*

The inspiring stories you find in *Hope for London* happened because Christian people took steps of prayer, faith and action. How could you and your church get more involved in bringing hope to London?

Making a PACT

Churches in Newark, Nottinghamshire, got together in 2001 to form a PACT (Police And Churches Together), after a nearby PACT group saw a 40 per cent drop in juvenile crime over two years. Newark Christians 'had concerns for their community and wanted to be part of a caring community', says Inspector Jerry Butler, head of Newark police command.

Regular, informed prayer and community outreach has had an impact: over the course of a year, house burglary dropped by 31 per cent, and robbery by 26 per cent. The 17 local churches keep up to date with prayer issues via a newsletter from Butler, and meet together regularly for prayer, with the police chief. Butler stresses that PACT is not a cure-all and 'the battle against crime goes on', but 'I put prayer at the top of the reasons for change, along with very hard work by the local police, combined with the local community.'

Following the success of a PACT community day in summer 2002, there will be a week of community events in August 2003, where the churches, police and local services publicise what is available to the community, along with family entertainment including art workshops, sports and a disco.

The PACT initiative was launched in 1997, when another Nottinghamshire policeman, Inspector Alan Stewart in Arnold, noticed that youth-related crime dropped dramatically in his area on a Wednesday night. He discovered that a local church was offering free pizza to young people who were hanging around the church. Stuart invited other churches to get involved, through united prayer and action, and together they have seen remarkable results particularly with juvenile crime, and a 10 per cent drop in crime overall.

▶ How to start a PACT: see p10.



Soul Survivor

- ▶ Praying for change
- ▶ Working with young people
- ▶ Working in the wider community

Adopt a Cop

Get to know your local police through the Adopt a Cop scheme, which links churches with coppers in their area, by praying for their personal and policing needs.

Participating churches are linked with a liaison officer at the local station. Together, they agree on the type and frequency of information to be supplied, and whether that will be by phone or personal meeting. If a group of churches are linked to the same police division or station, one church group co-ordinator liaises with the police, and reports back to the churches.

Policeman Andy Coles piloted the scheme in Brixton, south London, in 2000. At least 30 Brixton churches now pray regularly for their local police, and Adopt a Cop has been taken up around the country. 'Police officers are by nature cynical but "Adopt a Cop" has cut through the cynicism as police have seen the honest offer of support by the churches,' says Coles.

Superintendent Ted Peel of the Metropolitan Police, now retired, supports the scheme: 'I am in favour of anything that will build a rapport with the community. Adopt a Cop has helped to break down the barriers between police and community with local Christians giving support to their local police officers by praying for them.'

▶ Starting Adopt a Cop: clear guidelines are set out in a free booklet *Adopt a Cop: praying for the police service* (see p10). The Christian Police Association (CPA) will, where possible, set up a link between a local CPA member, acting as the co-ordinator, and the church.



Martin Butcher

Praying for change

from *Evangelical Alliance prayer and evangelism co-ordinator Jane Holloway*

Prayer is the vital first step in seeing our communities transformed. It is one of the most important gifts God has given to his Church, and the wellspring of effective action.

Where do we start?

Whether we pray on our own, as part of a small group, as a member of a church or across churches, we need to know:

- What are the issues?
- How can we pray?
- How can we get involved in the answers to our prayers?

What are the issues?

- Draw together those who are concerned about the local community within your church.
- Identify some of the main issues that need to be tackled (see story below).
- Plan to focus on two or three key issues in the first six-month period.

- Build relationships with leaders in the police, education and social services. The police station is a good place to start; contact the Christian Police Association for advice on getting in contact with your local station (see p10). See also *How to Start a PACT and Adopt a Cop* (p10).
- Learn from what others are doing and how their prayer journey has progressed (see contact details for the projects featured here, p10).
- Research best resources for your situation (see p10-11).
- Prayerfully work out how to involve the whole church.
- Entrust a small group - two or three people - to oversee the prayer process. By matching up prayer needs with people, feeding back prayer requests and answers, they will keep the prayer issue alive.

you are praying for.

- Provide prayer pointers for small groups and individuals. Produce a simple prayer card with some of the pointers below, or run regular updates in your Sunday news sheet.
- Run a special prayer event, perhaps focusing on one key issue. You could invite those working locally in this field to come and share from their perspective.
- Keep an up-to-date 'prayer wall' on church premises and website for all to see prayer topics and updates.
- Go on a prayer walk/journey - sometimes explained as 'praying on site with insight'. Pray as you travel round an area on foot, bike, bus or car. For those unable to go out, pray 'in the mind' with a map, or by imagining a street or shopping centre. Ask God to show you where and how to pray; the Lord's Prayer is a good model. Keep your eyes open and ideally go in pairs.
- Use the enclosed prayer card.

Keep focused

- Communicate the vision to all in church: take a Sunday service, or a part of it. Be clear and specific about what

▶ A Battersea church has found that local people are longing for prayer...

Hope for ... Battersea SW11

When a small Battersea church posted prayer cards through the doors of the local estate, the first prayer request came back within an hour. 'We were asked to pray for a lady with emphysema,' says minister Brian Watts. 'We happen to have a nurse in our church who's a lung specialist, so she and another member visited, to pray and show the love of Christ to her. Through that prayer card, we

made contact with her husband and children too.'

The Shaftesbury Christian Centre, on the Doddington Estate, distributed 700 cards offering to pray for any needs, and to visit if wished. Requests could be made anonymously. Watts says this simple idea has brought a wave of requests to the church, who now pray an additional two nights a month. 'There's a great deal of need on this

estate, and I think a lot of people out there are praying in desperation - the kind of "God, help me" prayer.'

Other requests have come in from a woman suffering domestic violence, isolated refugees, and a man physically threatened because of his brother's involvement with drugs. The church has backed up its prayers where appropriate with invitations to other church events, including a regular Sunday lunch.



Working with young people

When asked to identify an area of key concern for London that Christians might tackle, Trevor Phillips (then chair of the London Assembly) simply stated: 'Give me options for teenagers.' As the statistics on p2 show, bored, disaffected young people can easily turn to crime and disorder.

Churches are a major provider of youth work, and it is with young people that perhaps the biggest potential for positive change is found. Ways for the Church to engage include mentoring, after-school clubs and homework clubs, youth clubs, training opportunities, or involvement with your local school.

Please use the resources on p10-11 to develop these ideas and to find out what Christians are already doing in your borough.

Hope for ... Clapham SW4

Clapham Methodist Church launched an after-school club in September 2002, and a few months on, already has a waiting list. 'The demand for good childcare in this area was apparent, and we felt it would fulfil part of the ethos of the church, to make a contribution to our community,' says minister Rob Hufton. 'The issue of criminality was also in our minds - if there's nothing for kids to do, they get up to mischief, which can lead to other things.'

The Nelson Row After-School Club runs for three hours each school day, for 30 kids up to 11 years. It's a racially mixed group, mostly from local high-rise housing. Four workers provide a snack, play with the children and organise crafts, homework and other activities.

The club is a central part of the church's mission; members raised £200,000 to refurbish the hall used for the club. Despite the day-to-day hassles of finding funds and recruiting staff, the church is committed to the

project, and would like to expand with a breakfast club. Hufton knows they are doing a good job: 'Kids round here without something like an after-school club are vulnerable to all sorts of pressures.'

► Starting after-school clubs: see CANS p10.

Also in Clapham...

Local churches on the Larkhall Estate are transforming a derelict adventure playground into a brand new youth centre, to be designed and built by local youngsters. Providing a positive alternative to crime for local kids is a key factor in the project, says Rev Sue Peake, community development worker and a representative of Churches Together in Clapham. Local police and drugs prevention workers have warmly welcomed the plans. Work is expected to go ahead on the site in 2003.

► For advice on joint church projects and funding, contact CANS (Christian Action Networks) at Evangelical Alliance (see p10).

Hope for ... Shepherds Bush W12

Christians are helping to open doors to jobs in the media and entertainment industries for young people without prospects in Shepherds Bush, at Youth Entertainment Studios (YES).

Young people aged 14 to 24 are referred to YES by the police, probation and youth services. Fifteen are selected for a 10-week course, which teaches teamwork, motivation and an introduction to a choice of creative disciplines. Teams work on a product - in music, fashion or advertising, for example - some of which have been showcased at a top London venue. Support is offered to delegates once the course is over, with further training and job placements.

Prayer is essential to the success of the project, says chief executive Alwyn Pereira: 'I can categorically say that without prayer we would not survive or persevere in this vision. There is no doubt that our prayer regime sustains us and empowers us to overcome every hurdle we face.'

YES's achievements have been widely acclaimed: 'I have been involved in many youth projects,' says Balram Gidoomal, the government's New Deal advisor. 'The YES initiative is outstanding in overcoming racial barriers, in bringing out the best in young people on the margins of our society, and in developing their character.'

Eighteen-year-old Eric has recently completed the YES course, arriving with a history of exclusion from school throughout his teens. As well as learning music production skills and business studies, Eric is pursuing funding from the Princes' Trust and other bodies, and his music has already attracted attention from major recording companies. 'Because of YES, I have grown in confidence and I have a determination to succeed,' says Eric. 'I can see myself going places.'

Pereira, who was inspired by a similar scheme run in the US by Christians with top jobs in the entertainment business, is eager for support from other Christians in the capital. 'You can give just an hour a year - what we want is lots of input from different people.'

Ways to help:

- Pray: for one person or a group on the YES course.
 - Coach: make a one-off visit to talk about your job and skills in media, entertainment or business. 'Sharing your passion' is what inspires the course delegates, says Pereira.
 - Sponsor: many on the course struggle for the most basic resources. Individuals or house groups could pray and support a course member: even providing bus fares can make a difference.
- See p10 for contact details.

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*YES chief executive
Alwyn Pereira*





Martin Butcher

Working in the wider community

The local community has a fundamental role to play in beating crime. When the Church is willing to join this process, adding the 'secret weapon' of prayer, crime and the misery it causes across our capital city can be beaten.

Please use the resources on p10-11 as a starting point to explore how your church can help to tackle crime in your neighbourhood.

Hope for ... prisons

The Alpha course ran in over 80 per cent of UK prisons in 2003, including eight out of 12 within the M25 area. 'It is our vision to link prisoners who have completed Alpha with a supportive church prior to their release,' says Helen Aristides of Alpha in Prisons. 'We hope and pray that every church will respond to Matthew 25:36 by seeing their local prison as a place of outreach, and by welcoming any ex-offender into their community.'

One such ex-offender, Neil, has spent at least 10 of his 30 years in prison, for drugs-related crime. He became a Christian on an Alpha prison course in the south of England, and was linked with the Church of the Good Shepherd in Waterlooville, near Portsmouth, in the summer 2002.

Vicar Andy Rimmer met Neil at the gates of the prison: 'He's a guy who's really on fire for God, and I think he has a

greater understanding of grace than any of us. Since he's been out, he's been reunited with his mum, brother and sister.'

Neil is part of a weekly cell group, which, says Rimmer, is 'very good relationally', and he shares a flat with two other church members. He helps on the Waterlooville church Alpha course, and recently gave his testimony at Alpha in his former prison. Rimmer meets with Neil monthly for support.

It's not all plain sailing: 'It's been quite intense, and it's very challenging for Neil when people pop up from his past. Sometimes he flips when he's struggling with something, and he's having to learn a whole new attitude to so many things. But Neil has been a real gift to us.'

Rimmer praises the support available from Alpha in Prisons. 'We've had very good support - they have been brilliant. I think they're really conscious that dealing with ex-offenders is quite tough.'



Sarah Prentice

Hope for ... Wimbledon SW19

Mother of three Julie Shew knows how helpful some practical advice on parenting can be, so she launched the Positive Parenting course at her Baptist church, Queens Road in Wimbledon. The five-session course is Bible-based but designed to be suitable for an unchurched audience too.

Julie, a nursery worker and trainer, advertised the evening course with leaflets to houses in the church's locality and through the toddlers' group. Response was warm; one course was filled entirely by unchurched parents. Comments from delegates included 'every session had its elements from which I was able to take away a new idea', and 'it has brought my wife and I closer together and evoked some good conversations about bringing up the children'. The course covers topics such as setting boundaries, self-esteem in children, and additional modules include stress management and single parenting.

'We had 10 on average on each course, usually one parent from each family coming each week,' says Julie. 'Parents don't feel preached at - the emphasis is on sharing experience. It's a fantastic outreach tool.'



Sarah Prentice

Hope for ... Lambeth SE19

Teams of trained 'street pastors' are walking London's streets late on Friday and Saturday nights, helping young people at risk, thanks to a Christian organisation in Lambeth.

Street pastoring is the vision of Pastor Les Isaac of the Ascension Trust: 'We won't be preaching heaven and hell at them, but listening, caring and helping.' Team training includes counselling, drugs awareness, race relations, youth issues and a thorough knowledge of local provision and services, particularly for young people.

Isaac is looking for recruits from London churches to sign up for one weekend in three: 'You could be a solicitor or a lorry driver - what matters is having a heart for people and an ability to engage with them.' The street pastors, identifiable by logo jackets and caps, will work in teams of two or four, with supervision from a senior member and security backup.

The police and local authorities have warmly welcomed the scheme, which launched in Lambeth and Hackney in May 2003. The Black Police Association and Christian Police Association have been closely involved with the project. Teams are planned for Southwark, Haringey and Brent, and Isaac would like to expand the service to after-school hours, when a high incidence of youth-related crime occurs. 'Social services can't pay people to walk the streets and find out why Johnny isn't in school,' says Isaac. 'And the police are seen as the enemy by a lot of these guys. But the street pastors are at the grassroots, working with people in their own boroughs.'

HOPEFORLONDONRESPONSE

We welcome your response to *Hope for London*, and would love to hear stories of how God is using your church to bring hope to your part of the city. For more help, please contact Gill Troup at *Hope for London*. Tel: 020 7207 2153 Email: gtroup@eauk.org

Resources

Prayer

- **Building Together London:** operates in each London borough. Tel: (020) 7428 0362 Email: admin@passion.org.uk Web: www.passion.org.uk
- **City Prayer Net:** links up prayer for the City and Westminster. Tel: 020 7353 4339 Email: citpraynet@aol.com
- **Schools Prayer Network:** a CARE initiative to encourage committed prayer for every school in the UK, and to provide a means of communication and support for those concerned. Email: info@schoolsprayernetwork.org.uk Web: www.schoolsprayernetwork.org.uk
- **M25 Prayer Net:** networks of church leaders and intercessors in 12 sectors around the M25. Tel: 01442 250776 Email: office@m25prayer.net Web: www.m25prayer.net

Featured projects

(by page order)

- **Haringey Peace Alliance.** Tel: (020) 8808 9439 Email: info@peacealliance.org.uk Web: www.peacealliance.org.uk
- **Pray Haringey.** Email: info@prayharingey.org.uk Web: www.prayharingey.org.uk
- **PACT (Police and Churches Together)** in Newark, Notts. Tel: 0115 967 0555 x 7660 Email: JeremyButler@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
- **PACT in Arnold, Notts:** contact Trevor Bryan. Tel: 0115 844 4910 x 4160 Email: pact.arnold@ntlworld.com Web: www.pact-arnold.org.uk
- **Adopt a Cop:** see Christian Police Association (CPA), next column.
- **Shaftesbury Christian Centre, Battersea.** Tel: 020 7622 4360 Email: karis@globalnet.co.uk
- **Nelson Row After-School Club, Clapham.** Tel: 020 7622 6018
- **Larkhall Estate** adventure playground, Clapham. Tel: 020 7720 2699
- **YES Studios.** Tel: 0870 770 2467 Email: info@yestudios.com Web: www.yestudios.com
- **Alpha in Prisons:** see Prisons, below.
- **Street Pastors.** Tel: 020 7771 9770 Email: ascensionswjp@yahoo.com

- **Positive Parenting course,** Wimbledon. Tel: 023 9252 8787 Email: info@parenting.org.uk Web: www.parenting.org.uk

Police and community

- **Christian Police Association (CPA),** London. Headed by Inspector Bob Pull. Tel: 020 7230 6150 Email: cpa@met.police.uk Web: www.cpamet.org.uk
- **Adopt a Cop:** contact Bob Pull at CPA, above.
- **How to start a PACT:** PACT - Police and Churches Together - takes little time or resources but is having an impact on crime, its root causes and its destructive effects on our communities (see p4). To find out more about the simple process of setting up a PACT, contact Sgt Tony Dennis. Tel: 0115 967 2619 x 2619 Email: Tony.Dennis@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
- **Appropriate adult scheme:** support for young people and vulnerable adults detained at police stations. Volunteers are called on occasionally to be present during questioning. Contact your local police station for further details, or ask the CPA for help (see above).
- **Third-party reporting:** some members of London's communities remain hesitant about reporting crimes and incidents to the police. Third-party crime reporting enables another agency to act as an intermediary and to report crimes/incidents to the police on behalf of the victim. Contact Diversity Directorate. Tel: 020 7230 6150
- **Independent custody visitors** are members of the local community who visit police stations unannounced, to check on the welfare of people in police custody. They maintain their independence and impartiality, and simply report on what they find. Contact: Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA). Tel: 020 7837 0078 Email: info@icva.org.uk Web: www.icva.org.uk

General help

- **CANS (Christian Action Networks):** Christian Community Project Directory at the Evangelical Alliance has over 2,700 projects listed online for London, by area and by topic. UK-wide also listed. Gives 30 project categories, including citizens' advice, family issues, education and youthwork. Tel: 020 7207 2152 Email: cans@eauk.org Web: www.cans-online.org
- London projects from online directory above also available in free handbook -

The Premier Lifeline Christian Social Action Directory - available from Premier Radio. Tel: 020 7316 0808

- **faithworks:** empowers and inspires individuals and the local church to develop their role at the hub of the community. Tel: 020 7450 9000 Email: info@faithworks.info Web: www.faitworks.info
- **Adapt-Ability CD-ROM,** produced by the Evangelical Alliance, helps churches assess how involved they are in their local community, and suggests the next step to take. £7.99. Tel: 020 7207 2152 Email: cans@eauk.org
- **Shaftesbury Society:** free information on community engagement includes *Getting to know your neighbours* and *The Social Action Journey*. Also, *Why Social Action?:* 14-page Bible-based reflection on social action, £3.50. Tel: 0845 330 6033 Email: info@shaftesburysoc.org.uk Web: www.shaftesburysociety.org
- **Tearfund: Church, community and change** is a three-phased, open-ended programme on churches' community role. Donation (around £100) expected towards costs. Contact UK and Ireland regional team. Tel: 0845 355 8355 Email: enquiry@tearfund.org Web: www.tearfund.org
- **How-to leaflet available on community research** from Baptist Union of Great Britain. Tel: 01235 517700 Email: info@baptist.org.uk Web: www.baptist.org.uk

On the streets

- **Street Pastors, Ascension Trust:** see Featured projects.
- **National Neighbourhood Watch Association:** church members can launch a Neighbourhood Watch group for the area round the church, or a particular neighbourhood, which can also serve as local prayer focus. NW supplies free information on how to get started. Street Watch - walking local routes, perhaps at particular times such as end of the school day or pub closing - is also recommended by NW to bring down crime, and is an ideal basis for prayer walking (see p5). Street Watch is undertaken in partnership with the police. Tel: 020 7772 3348 Email: info@neighbourhoodwatch.net Web: www.neighbourhoodwatch.net

Prisons

- **Alpha in Prisons:** introductory booklet, training manual and other resources available for churches considering working with ex-offenders. Publication details from

Alpha Hotline: 0845 7581 278. General enquiries, tel: 020 7590 2330 Email: prisons@htb.org.uk Web: www.alphacourse.org or www.caringforexoffenders.org

- **Prison Fellowship England and Wales:** enables and equips volunteers in ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. Tel: 01621 843232 Email: Enquiries@PrisonFellowship.org.uk Web: www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

Education

- **Book: Someone to lean on,** by Paul Fenton. Equips ordinary Christians for mentoring young people and nurturing them in their faith. Scripture Union, £5.99. ISBN:1 85999 209 9
- **Crusaders** supply information and resources on mentoring. Tel: 01582 589850 Email: email@crusaders.org.uk Web: www.crusaders.org.uk and www.life2themax.net
- **Association of Christian Teachers:** advice and resources for getting involved in your local school. Tel: 01727 840298 Email: actoffice@christian-teachers.org Web: www.christian-teachers.org
- **Pray for your local schools:** visit www.schoolsprayernetwork.org.uk

Families

- **Parenting Courses for the Community:** on-line introduction to running classes with lots of practical guidelines from New Frontiers International. Other guides to a range of family and wider social action issues available at this site.

Web: www.newfrontiers.xtn.org; click Social Action; click Action in the UK; click Act 2000 guides.

- **Positive Parenting: Time Out for Parents** course - developed from work in inner-city areas and based around five core sessions. All sessions include group discussion and feedback. Packs of photocopyable articles, leaflets, resources for children with special needs, training days and training video also available. Tel: 023 9252 8787 Email: info@parenting.org.uk Web: www.parenting.org.uk
- **CARE for the Family: Parentalk** is an eight-session course based around a video presentation featuring Rob Parsons, Steve Chalke and Dr Caroline Dickinson, which aims to stimulate discussion. Pack includes a group leader's guide and magazine-style guides for participants. Tel: 029 2081 0800 Email: Care.for.the.Family@dial.pipex.com Web: www.care-for-the-family.org.uk and www.familyfile.org.uk (includes a database of online resources).
- **Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS): Help! I'm a Parent** is a seven-part course to be run in seminar or discussion group style. Tel: 01926 458436 Email: info@cpas.org.uk Web: www.cpas.org.uk
- **Family Caring Trust:** five resource packs available, geared towards specific age groups and topics. This material has been widely used by churches, social services, schools and adult education bodies worldwide. An optional Christian dimension is available. Tel: 028 3026 4174 Email: office@familycaring.co.uk Web: www.familycaring.co.uk

- **Family Matters:** resources guide lists a range of relevant books and many other resources. Tel: 01767 641002 Email: family@familymatters.org.uk Web: www.familymatters.org.uk (includes a database of online resources).

Youth

- **Christians in Sport - Sports Plus:** helps churches reach sporty teenagers for Christ. Tel: 01869 255630 Email: info@christiansinsport.org.uk Web: www.christiansinsport.org.uk
- **Church Pastoral Aid Society** (youth and children division): resources and training for children, young people and their leaders. Tel: 01926 458458 Email: info@cpas.org.uk Web: www.cpas.org.uk
- **Frontier Youth Trust:** networks, services, resources and trains those engaged in mission and ministry with disadvantaged young people in deprived areas. Tel: 0121 687 3505 Email: frontier@fyt.org.uk Web: www.fyt.org.uk
- **Youth and Children's Network:** lists member organisations of the Evangelical Alliance. Web: www.eauk.org/youthandchildren
- **Youthwork magazine:** monthly publication providing ideas, resources and guidance for youth ministry. Tel: 020 7316 1450 Email: youthwork@easynet.co.uk Web: www.youthwork.co.uk (includes online archive of ready-to-use resources and discussion board).

CALLING ALL
LONDON CHURCHES

SOUL IN THE CITY 2004



Every London church is invited to join *Soul in the City* in their own borough for prayer, community action and evangelism, in summer 2004.

Soul in the City is a follow-on from *The Message in Manchester 2000*, which saw communities physically transformed - as 11,000 people cleared rubbish, gardens and graffiti - and spiritually revived, as 1,200 committed their lives to Christ during the event, and many more later. Eighteen months on, crime was still down by 48 per cent, prompting a visit by then Home Secretary Jack Straw.

London churches of any size and all ages can tap into the expertise and potential for change offered through *Soul in the City*. They will work

together with others in their area to decide on appropriate projects for their area. Teams will be sent to each of the seven areas, which cover Greater London, to join forces with local Christians, overseen and organised by *Soul in the City*. Churches are signing up now, to start praying and planning.

The police have pledged their support: 'We in the Met Police are going to work very closely with *Soul in the City* to make it happen,' says Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Trotter. 'This is a fantastic opportunity!'

Tel: 01923 333331
Email: info@soulinthecity.co.uk
Web: www.soulinthecity.co.uk



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HOPE

FOR LONDON

**a Christian response
to crime in the capital**