



MOVING MOUNTAINS

8 - 11 MARCH, 2018

Mission Preparation Guide Part One – The Launch





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More information about ***Moving Mountains*** is available on the God for All website www.godforall.org.uk under the ***Moving Mountains 2018*** tab.



Welcome

Dear friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, which is a new resource about our forthcoming ***Moving Mountains*** Mission 2018.

Over the coming months there will be much prayer, planning and preparation as together we look to welcome visiting teams of ecumenical leaders to our county for four days of mission and outreach, all rooted in our God for All vision.

Moving Mountains will take place from 8 to 11 March, 2018, with local churches being encouraged in local mission countywide.

As leaders of the Partner Churches in Cumbria, we commend this booklet – the first of three to help the planning process – and encourage you to read it as, together, we spread the Gospel before during and after ***Moving Mountains***.

+ James, Richard, Sarah and Drew

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Introduction

This resource is the first of three to be created to help us prepare for the Moving Mountains mission and to equip the local church, as we work towards fulfilling the God for All Vision 2020 that, by then, every person in Cumbria of all ages and backgrounds will have had an opportunity to discover more of God and God's purpose for their lives, so that they will discover more of Jesus and the Good News and become followers of Jesus within a Christian community.

Three separate booklets will be circulated to all those congregations involved in Moving Mountains to help make the overall planning process as easy to follow as possible.

Part One introduces information to help you:

- Pray - together as congregations, and as individuals.
- Plan – start to think about what events could be held.
- Prepare – how to get started.

Part Two will help churches with ideas to:

- Build a programme, plan events and invite people to attend, including ideas that you can use or adapt.
- Host your visiting team.

Part Three will form a guide on how to:

- Follow up people who respond, including suggestions for literature and running enquirers' courses.



What is Moving Mountains?

Moving Mountains is an opportunity for us as congregations working together across Cumbria to unite in locally organised mission, outreach and evangelism. From 8 - 11 March 2018 we will be joined by teams led by Methodist District Chairs, URC Moderators, Bishops (drawn together by Archbishop Sentamu from the Northern Province) and Salvation Army District Commanders. We anticipate having about 30-35 such teams visiting the county composed of a mix of lay people, youth workers, ordinands and clergy. The essence of Moving Mountains is local congregations planning and doing local mission. The events and style of the mission are decided at local church and area level, with the visiting mission team supporting what has been decided by congregations.

What are the aims of the mission?

- Congregations across Cumbria will be involved in the Mission.
- Many of those attending events will be people not currently connected to a Christian community.
- There will be a variety of different events in each group of churches, so that people who are at different stages on their journey of faith have a chance to move forward.
- Congregations will be running events in 2017 and 2019/20 as part of the Mission initiative through God for All.
- Every group of churches will aim to run some form of Enquirers' Course during the second half of 2018.
- There will be faith stories in all our churches arising from the Mission that can be told.



How will Moving Mountains be organised?

One (or more) visiting team(s) will be allocated to each church grouping. These are intended to be informal groupings who can share visiting teams, and may decide to work together for particular events. Where Mission Communities are under way they make a natural grouping. In other parts of the county it may be shaped by local factors. Invitations have been sent out and, once responses are received, teams will be shared amongst the groupings. Such groupings are therefore key to the planning of this mission, and each will need to appoint a ***Champion*** to help plan Moving Mountains in their local area.

What does a Champion do?

Champions will play an important role in helping Moving Mountains be effective at a local level. Working with the overall planning team, their local congregations and the visiting teams, they will draw together a programme, based on ideas for events received from local churches, which visiting teams can help resource. In addition, they will work with congregations to provide hospitality for the visiting teams. For more information on the role visit www.godforall.org.uk/moving-mountains-2018 or speak to a Planning Team member

Do we have to get involved?

As has been said before, the essence of Moving Mountains is local churches engaging in mission and outreach; so each congregation will decide what part it wants to play in the mission. However, the experience of Anglican churches involved in similar events in Sheffield (2015) and Blackburn (2016) was that such a Mission was a real blessing. Churches which were hesitant about the mission but chose to get involved were delighted to have participated.



Who do I contact for more information?

For more information about Moving Mountains, contact Mike Talbot or Colin Ashurst (contact information on page 2).

What about finance?

A budget for Moving Mountains covering areas such as publicity, training and outreach resources is being made available to the Planning Team. We anticipate that the visiting teams' travel costs are being paid from their own budgets. We hope that local costs would be met by congregations from their budget for mission for 2018. More details about planning events and finances will be available in the second guideline booklet of this series, which will be available in late spring.

What about hosting the teams?

Information about accommodating and feeding the team will feature in the second guideline booklet to be distributed in the late spring.

Prayer

Prayer is essential in preparing for mission. In outreach, as in any other area of our lives, we are totally dependent on God. Though we need to put effort into preparing events, prayer is just as important and must remain central. Research has shown that evangelistic activities are more effective when Christians identify, pray for and draw alongside specific family, friends, neighbours and colleagues so that they come to follow Jesus in a Christian community.



Suggestions for prayer:

- Encourage people to identify four friends or family members who they hope would find faith in Christ, and then pray for opportunities to invite them to events.
- How about starting or ending any local church meeting with a time of prayer for Moving Mountains, perhaps including the God for All prayer on the back page of this booklet?
- Include prayer for Moving Mountains in the intercessions in your Sunday and midweek services.
- Between Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday (4 – 11 June 2017) we will be using the opportunity of the national **Thy Kingdom Come** initiative to pray for Moving Mountains.
- Each church grouping could consider organising a prayer event or regular prayer gathering.
- Don't forget to pray for the team who will be coming to work in your area.

Preparation - Getting Started:

Alongside communicating with God through prayer, good communication with people is also an essential part of preparing for Moving Mountains. Please make sure you keep members of the congregation regularly informed of plans and preparations. Communicate by a variety of means and never assume other people know something simply because you do!

Work with others to create a plan for your local involvement in the mission. Try to organise a handful of good quality events and don't try to do too much. Consider working in partnership with other churches to organise joint events.



Consider what will help get your congregation ready for Moving Mountains.

Things you may wish to consider are:

- Encouraging people to invest in relationships with people outside the life of the Church.
- Form a local planning team who will help organise events at a local level.
- Use training events to equip people to feel more confident in living out and speaking about their faith. Further details will follow in the second guideline booklet and on the God for All website.
- Encourage people to invite guests to social events at your church or chapel.
- Don't wait until March 2018 to organise outreach events! Other things you could do include:
 - Visit some of the outreach events organised by other congregations. For ideas of who you could visit contact the planning team.
- Developing a culture of invitation is very important to our mission preparation. The three 'mission' steps are pray, invite, bring. The simplest form of invitation is 'I'm going. It's going to be good. Would you like to come too?'

Planning a Programme - First Steps

We suggest that each congregation tries to organise two or three events, which could be shared with others in the local area. The great thing is that most congregations are experienced at putting on 'a bit of a do' and are able to organise great events. This is a good foundation in preparing for Moving Mountains.



When thinking about events to organise, you may find it helpful to consider the following questions:

- What are we already doing that could be used as an outreach event? For example men's meetings, women's groups, youth and children's work and existing groups and contacts.
- In our context, what type of event would people outside the Church be most likely to come to so they can hear the Good News in a clear and relevant way?
- What kind of events would congregation members find it easier to invite their friends and family to?
- How will we use the Moving Mountains team to present the Christian Faith in a positive, engaging, relaxed, natural and helpful way?
- What kind of venues would suit the events we are planning?

Outreach events work on a number of levels and it's important to clarify what type of event you are hoping to run.

Level One

These events are mainly social with a very small amount of Christian content. This type of event is ideal for first contact with people.

Level Two

These events provide more information about the Christian Faith and encourage people to explore further.

Level Three

This type of events explains clearly the central message of the Christian Faith, presents people with the benefits and costs of choosing to be a committed Christian and presents a clear invitation to respond to Jesus.



Past experience suggests that most congregations tend to run events at Level 1 or perhaps Level 2. It would be great if every church grouping aimed to run at least one event that was clearly Level 3 during the Mission.

Key things to remember about any events you run:

- Choose a location that is easy to find and makes people feel at ease.
- All guests need to be made to feel welcome.
- Make sure people can find their way into the building, or consider having someone greeting guests at the door as they arrive.
- Events don't need to be big – how about organising some informal discussion groups in people's homes?
- For events with a charge, can the person inviting a friend offer to pay for their ticket?
- Make sure you are clear on the purpose of the event. Is it a level 1, 2 or 3 event?

A simple planning template for organising Moving Mountains events is being created and will be circulated within the second guideline booklet. Churches will need to complete a sheet for each event they are proposing to run, keeping a version for their own records and also sending a copy to their local Champion, who will fit the proposed events into an overall plan for the church grouping. Sending your plans to the Champion will ensure that we don't try to arrange 15 events at the same time or leave the visiting team with nothing to do. The Champion will liaise with local congregations and will do their best to meet the requests they receive.



In putting together the mission programme it is important to leave space for the team to meet together and to pray. They may wish to do this first thing in the morning or perhaps to gather together for a shared lunch.

Do consider how you can use your Moving Mountains team to engage with local schools on Friday 9 March. The final day of the mission, Sunday 11 March 2018, is Mothering Sunday. You may wish to consider how you might shape your Sunday morning service to draw in families to an evangelistic event – further ideas and suggestions will be published in the second guideline booklet.

And finally

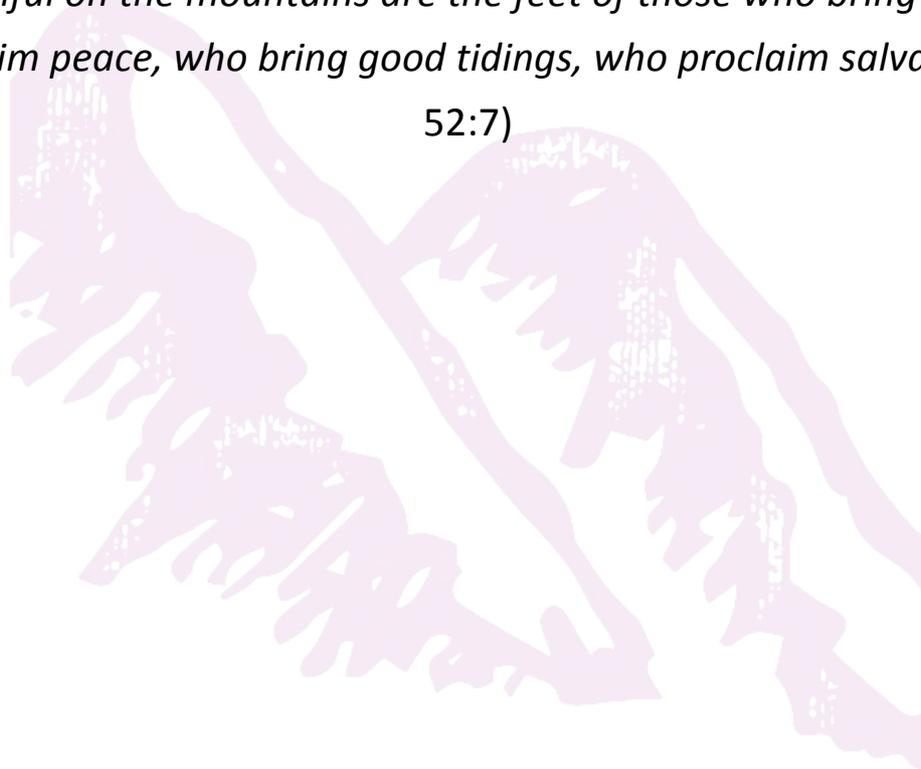
The Christian faith held by each person reading this guide is a wonderful testimony to an effective piece of evangelism. However we learnt the faith, our Christian commitment points towards people who cared enough about us to introduce us to Jesus.

Some people dismiss missions such as Moving Mountains as ‘old hat’ or ‘hit and run’. The experience of Sheffield and Blackburn Dioceses in 2015/16 was that such missions were anything but. Thousands of people attended outreach events and many came from outside the worshipping life of the church. Both Dioceses have some wonderful stories of people finding faith in Jesus and being encouraged to move on in their relationship with Him. Equally, Moving Mountains will not be a ‘hit and run’ event if it is carefully integrated into the ongoing outreach of our churches and if appropriate follow-up to the Moving Mountains mission is put in place.



The Moving Mountains mission in Cumbria presents us with an amazing opportunity to share Christ with the people in a multitude of creative and imaginative ways. In years to come, it will be wonderful to think of people who have come to faith through our Moving Mountains mission and who are thankful to God that we cared enough about them to share the Good News of Jesus with them. So over the next few months let's pray for Moving Mountains, plan to find our local Champions and prepare the ground for mission.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation. (Isaiah 52:7)



The God for All Prayer

God for all, you reached out to the world
in your Son Jesus Christ.

Help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all.

God for all, you send your Holy Spirit
to empower and gift your Church.

By your Spirit help us grow in unity,
grow as followers of Jesus Christ,
and grow your kingdom in Cumbria and in this world.

Amen.

