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Update July 2011

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me. Jonah 1:1 (NIV)

Nineveh or Bust

On 10th June Cheshire CPA celebrated its launch with a service to mark the occasion, and Branch Leader Simon Treeton gave this excellent message:

'To put what I'm talking about in context please see this amusing YouTube clip [In the belly of a Whale](#) OK, really the clip has very little to do with the service except give me the title, but I bet you enjoyed watching it anyway? In the CPA and in the Cheshire Constabulary there are barriers to the things we want, need – for our heart's desire, for the calling we are to serve. Some of these barriers we have put upon us but – more often than not it's barriers we put on ourselves.

Two weeks ago I went to Cliff College for their annual festival. At one session Stephen Skuce was talking about Jonah and the whale, and it got me thinking.

Now Jonah was called to go to Nineveh, the road would have been long, the travel treacherous, he would have been beset by danger... but God had called him to Nineveh. Jonah didn't want to go; he's being called a False Prophet – a liar, and he's being ridiculed. He doesn't want to help his enemies, these strangers, he wants to stay with his people, where he's safe... but God had called him to Nineveh.

It's sometimes like that in our lives, is it not? We like to stay where we're safe, deal with people like us, we're afraid of being ridiculed or shamed. So instead of heeding this calling, of following his heart, he flees, he makes excuses and runs for the sea... But God had called him to Nineveh.

Can you imagine what he felt? Maybe you can think of your Nineveh, the calling you are denying, the excuses you make, maybe what you might be running away from – the fear Jonah was feeling is something we may all know. Jonah flees to the sea, bound for Spain no less... but God had called him to Nineveh. God forces the issue; he sends a storm to Jonah and his journey from God's calling is now far rougher than following his will. He's turned on and thrown overboard, gobbled up by a giant fish no less. Jonah is still refusing to follow God's will. He will go his own way and do things his way... but God had called him to Nineveh.

As I have done, as I'm sure we all have done, Jonah surrendered his will to God, he prayed and gave up all his worries. Of course he's still in the belly of a big fish on loan from Loch Ness so his options are limited – die, or admit he was wrong; it is a tough choice to make. Well, with God willing when we come to make these decisions it will be in less dire circumstances. The great fish regurgitates him on the shores of Nineveh because God had called him to Nineveh and Jonah did God's will.

Now in the book of Jonah it makes no grand promises. You know from the outset that following God's will is difficult. You are called to Nineveh. We all know how difficult things are today and that it would be easier not to do it but – you are called to Nineveh. Whatever excuses we have, money worries, security, self doubt, fears, even family commitments and your job – you are called to Nineveh.



I want you to remember, we must all surrender our wills to God, we must answer his call no matter where it takes us, to places we don't want to go – you are called to Nineveh. We know that the path we follow will not be comfortable, but of course we hope it doesn't smell as much as the great fish. You are called to Nineveh.

We all have our Nineveh, a place or an idea we fear but which we know is right, a calling we'd rather ignore or give good reasons not to go and sometimes there's only one thing you can say... Nineveh or Bust.

(Photo Simon Treeton, cartoon courtesy www.ChristArt.com)

CPA Update is a monthly digest of news and testimony, with prayer diary, that is intended to inform, encourage members/other contacts and keep the communication flow going NB. Views expressed are not necessarily that of CPA Council. Please submit items for Update, including key prayer items. Deadline is the 25th of the month; it will be as good as the material that comes in. Thank you. Editor: Assistant Director Paul Bright paul.bright@CPAuk.net



**Reaching Out, Building Bridges...
Pocket Testament for the Police Service**

CPA have launched a nationwide appeal to raise £20k to purchase and distribute 10,000 New Testaments including Psalms and Proverbs, with additional material especially for the police. They will be distributed locally and at special events such as *The Olympics 2012*, *World Police & Fire Games in Belfast 2013* and *Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014*. Thank you for any support you can give either as an individual, Branch of CPA, church or other organisation. Current total **£8,600** with further **£3,500** promised. Please visit www.CPAuk.net to give online. (photo :police testaments from Switzerland, Germany, Sweden and USA)

Walking for the Word

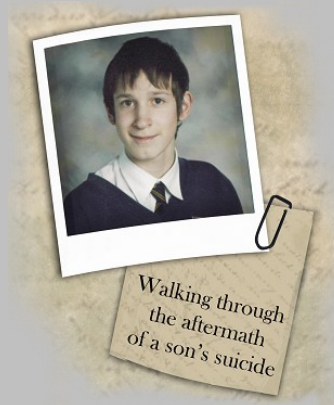
Peter Littleton, Branch Leader Northants CPA, has completed the 26 Mile International Waendel Walk in the Wellingborough area, coming in 7th place in 7 hours, and raising a fantastic £1,008 towards the CPA Police Pocket Testament Appeal. Well done, Pete!



Plug a Book

Losing Tom – Finding Grace
by Jackie Slough

Telling the story of the tragic suicide of her son, this book is for anyone going through the grief of loss. You will feel understood, not alone, helped and strengthened. Read it anyway because, even if you haven't experienced this level of suffering, you will begin to understand, and you will find yourself strangely warmed and enriched as you realise afresh that God's help and comfort and, indeed, his grace are not a figment of the imagination, but a rock-solid reality. Based in Gloucestershire, Jackie and her husband are available to speak, and currently work on a individual basis with bereaved families and also to many mixed groups – might be a useful angle given police involvement in dealing with suicides.



www.losingtomfindinggrace.co.uk

- Dudley Martin (Deputy Chair of CPA Council) safely completed his motor bike mission to Russia and back – 4,373 miles in 16 days door-to-door, over £2k raised and a sore botty for good measure! Catch him on YouTube in [Red Square](#)
- From Leslie Badger, NI Branch Leader – In previous editions of the CPA *Update* there was a prayer request for little Katie McKnight. Unfortunately Katie died on 8 June after a long fight with cancer. She passed away peacefully and was buried on Friday 10 June from Ardarragh Free Presbyterian Church. Our thoughts are very much with the family at this time who have connections to the NI branch of the CPA.
- From Andy Varney CPA Council member and SW Field Worker recovering from cancer – 'The doctor said my blood count had returned almost to normal ... that I was doing well and that I need not return for another three months unless any problems arise. I am feeling better by the week and I thank God for his goodness and his healing. We also thank those who have frequently brought Elizabeth (my wife) and I before the throne of Grace'.

National CPA Key Dates:

2 July 2011: Council Meeting, Sedgley Park, Manchester **14–16 Nov 2011:** Leaders' Conference High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts (for current/potential leaders and leadership teams) **27–29 April 2012:** National Conference at Novotel, Birmingham

Prayer Diary July — *From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God* Jonah 2:1

Part of our vision is to see 'an active and growing branch of CPA in every Police Service in the UK'. Let us pray particularly where forces have no active branch, indicated in **red**, and especially where there is no single point of contact. **Print, and pray every day!**

Fri 1 Treasurer – Jackie Price TVP (Chris Geen) South Wales (Jim Hillier)	Sat 2/Sun 3 Members of Council Council Meeting (2nd) Matt Baggott – (CC. PSNI/President CPA) PSNI (Leslie Badger)	Mon 4 Leicester and Chair of Council (Tony Gale) Avon & Somerset (Gavin Jennings) South Yorks (Graham Leckey)	Tues 5 Jackie Gillen (HQ office) Gtr Manchester (Mike Russell) Stan Wright (Vice-P)	Wed 6 Exec Dir. Don Axcell, Chaplain, Flint House. Norfolk (Rachel Foster)	Thurs 7 Surrey (Nick Sharpe) Essex (Rob Hance) Andy Varney (Field W)
Fri 8 Northants (Peter Littleton) City of London (Mark Price) Bedfordshire (Steve Lloyd)	Sat 9/Sun10 Cheshire (Simon Treeton) West Yorks (Wendy Hall) Robin Oake (Vice-P)	Mon 11 BTP (Craig Virco) Merseyside (Peter Owens) Gwent (Grant Wilson)	Tues 12 Staffs (Peter Bate) Northern (David Garbett) Gordon A'Court (Vice-P)	Wed 13 Exec Dir. Don Axcell, Chaplain, Flint House Lothian and Borders (Neil Bain)	Thurs 14 West Mercia (Mark Turner) Tayside Fife (Donald Jenks)
Fri 15 Cleveland (Brian McCarthy) Central Scotland (Catriona Paton) Kent (Barry Knott)	Sat 16/Sun 17 West Mids (Pete Blackburn) Adrian Whiting (ACC Dorset/Deputy President CPA) North Wales	Mon 18 Cambs (Jane Weir) Jim Green (Vice-P) Northumbria	Tues 19 Metropolitan (Nigel Adams/ Nick Cornish/ Mark Watts) Sussex	Wed 20 Exec Dir. Don Axcell, Chaplain, Flint House. Warwickshire (Dave Valente) Dumfries and Galloway	Thurs 21 Dorset (Neil Leat) Devon & Cornwall (Phil Skedgell) Tom Davidson (Vice-P)
Fri 22 Notts (Tony Dennis) Derbyshire (Mary Murray) Durham	Sat 23/Sun 24 Hertfordshire (Chris Upton) Grampian (Christa Reid) Lancs (Kirstie Banks-Lyon)	Mon 25 Hampshire (Matt Reeves) Lincs (Paul Timmins)	Tues 26 Strathclyde (Harry Pearson) Cumbria (Tim Ward) North Yorks	Wed 27 Exec Dir. Don Axcell, Chaplain, Flint House. Bert Sharp (Webservant) Wiltshire (Paul Fisher)	Thurs 28 Gloucestershire (Jerry Foster-Turner) Humberside (Adrian Wallace) John Manson (Vice-P)
Fri 29 Dyfed Powys (Martin Walters) Suffolk	Sat 30/Sun31 Cliff Harries (Field W) Asst. Dir. Paul Bright	Special Requests: >The Police Service: that wise decisions will be made around reduced budgets, delivery of policing and for staff with uncertain futures. Redundancy A Christian Response >PSNI re ongoing dissident threat, violence. >Appointment of Regional Co-ordinators in CPA across the UK.			