



# Flame Trust

- education
- supporting disadvantaged people and the voiceless
- local and worldwide community involvement
- mentoring and social development in a variety of cultures and situations
- tours and events bringing insight and challenge to audiences in the UK and overseas

## NEWS & PRAYER UPDATE Spring 2024

*Dear Prayer Partner*

**I recently found myself quite absorbed with the eclipse of the sun which dominated the news media for 24 hours.**



Alongside the actual phenomena, I was equally transfixed by the reaction of so many people who became quite emotional and overawed by what happened as the earth went dark. The various expressions and testimonies of people who witnessed the event were quite fascinating ... and as a point of information, the next similar event will be in August 2026!

BUT the phenomena went a little deeper in my own considerations. Life often takes unexpected twists

and turns and without wanting to push the analogy too far, spiritual strength, confidence and assurance, can be eclipsed by challenge that comes our way.

As we find ourselves immersed in the everyday concerns, cares and considerations, an atmosphere of gloominess can pervade. As my one time close friend and singer from way back in the seventies, Evie Tornquist, once sang in one of her songs...'*the light of your life seems removed*'.

As I pen what will be a shortened interim newsletter, I am very conscious that many of you have experienced unprecedented pressures in these troubled times. Conversations with many of you in Madeira, together with expressions in your written communications and phone calls, remind me that disappointment and heartache can easily destroy the joy and

light of assurance that even in a darkened world, God knows what He is doing.

Dear Evie, in her song continues:

*'But what kind of friend offers help on a clear day and then leaves at the first sign of rain?*

*'Not this kind of friend, He is someone far greater, you can turn to Him again and again'.*

There were worldwide shrieks of delight as the sun re-appeared from behind the moon's shadow... even applause in some quarters.

But I was equally impressed with those who were quiet and reflective as they witnessed one of the amazing features of our Creator's design.

***Perhaps God is teaching us something here?***

## UPDATES AND NEWS

### ROMANIAN PLAYGROUNDS

We continue to be blessed and encouraged with all of the feedback and news from the playgrounds that have been constructed in the past few years, and we are now making plans for the next provision in early Autumn.

Meetings with Habitat for Humanity in January confirmed their enthusiastic involvement, so Calin is

now researching and scrutinising need and locations. Funding will be needed, even though we have raised some support in advance, so if there is any latitude in your budget for support, then this will be appreciated.



We shall publish precise detail over these next few months, **but do pray for wisdom as we choose the construction site.** We are particularly wanting to develop local church responsibility alongside these projects, and have now established a link with a network of Christian fellowships in Romania, who would develop some pastoral linkage with the school/kindergarten where we choose to be involved.

***Again, please pray that this might develop into a strong partnership.***

### PORTUGUESE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We were blessed to meet up with Ismael when we were in Madeira and to get an update on his 'Isma

Pinta' project – the production of animated Bible stories that is being used by National Media in Portugal.



He will shortly be moving to the mainland where his network is much stronger and more easily accessible, and he is still keen to find the right opportunity to develop this resource for English speaking communities.

**Pray for Ismael and his family as they re-locate and as they look for further developments in reaching children with Bible stories.**

## CHAPLAINCY

Flame is still strongly connected with academies and schools and is involved at a number of levels in the support of Christian witness and pastoral support – particularly with students. The recent high profile case of the London school where a Muslim initiative to allow prayers in the playground was deemed 'inappropriate', does not weaken the rightful place and expression of Christian ethos when appropriately applied. The clue is in those last three words!

Saltmine Theatre Company recently visited Q3 Academy in Langley where I continue to be linked, and they were used to great effect with appropriate presentations,

workshops, and discussions that followed.

Gerry Denston and his team continue to be supportive of the Chaplains working in the Invictus Trust. **Keep your knees bent on their behalf.**

## PERSONAL NEWS

I began this letter with a reference to the solar eclipse. Since the middle of January, I have been looking after my brother's health challenge as he was diagnosed with non-alcoholic, non-malignant, acute liver failure. He was admitted into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and later transferred to a Nursing Care Home for palliative care where he is now based. He is 64 years old.

This experience has created a shadow over so many areas of life for Maurice and indeed for us all, but I do have to say that even in the darkest moments, I had an assurance that God would provide all of the resources needed for such a time as this.

God's light does dispel darkness and although there are certain plans and involvement that have had to be shelved for the time being, I am very much aware of so much prayer for Maurice and

## Highgate House



**Pastor  
John Price**

**Graham  
Kendrick**



## TIME OUT 2024

### **Yes ... you did read that right.**

Some weeks ago, I was alerted to a brand new conference centre that is due to open in June this year, and decided to do some research, which culminated in a visit ten days ago.

**Highgate House** (pictured above) is situated in Northamptonshire in beautiful countryside, but accessible from major road infrastructure and Northampton Station, which is on a main line from all over the country. The accommodation is amazing ... easily on a par with top class

indeed myself as we manage this situation.

**Again, thank you for your prayers and expressions of kindness.**

I'm doing ok...a positive report from my cardiologist a few weeks ago confirmed that the ticker is still ticking and is expected to do so without too many interruptions!

And although there are inevitably a few more aches and pains that do come with the mature territory as many of you will know, I remain aware of God's blessing, and am thankful to Him for every day afforded to live a full and active life.



## Time Out

**A stunning new venue for 2024!  
Monday 16th - Friday 20th September**

hotel standards, and indeed far superior to that which we have previously used.

SO, in faith and on the basis of your response and interest, HIGHGATE HOUSE is booked for Flame's Time Out event: **Monday 16th – Friday 20th September 2024. Our Guest Speaker is confirmed - Pastor John Price will take our Bible Readings - and Graham Kendrick has also agreed to join us for a special evening of worship and music.**

The tariff is very competitive, given that prices have rocketed since COVID, and the facility caters very well for those with mobility issues.

Full detail and booking information will be released very soon, so respond as quickly as you can if you plan to come, as an enthusiastic response is anticipated. Already, we sense that this event will be very popular.

There will be a certain number of rooms available as single accommodation, but this number is limited as we need to maximise occupancy for reasons that are necessary to make this retreat viable at every level.

And Highgate is at the centre of the country ... so no more long treks to the South and South West for those of you who found Bournemouth and Paignton a little too far.

**Bookings will be on a first come, first served basis, and this detail will be available very soon on our website and sent out via email and post.**

**Visit [www.flametrust.org](http://www.flametrust.org)  
for the latest news, event  
information and details on how to  
make a donation online**

**I close; thank you for all your encouragement, prayers and financial support in these days.**

I really appreciate it when I can say that personally as and when I meet with you at Flame events, but nevertheless, my written appreciation is designed to communicate my gratitude for all that you do to maximise Flame's effectiveness. Thank you again.

And to conclude with the same analogy with which I commenced:

Remember this, emphasized in John 1 v 5: 'God's light can never be permanently eclipsed by the shadow of darkness'.

God bless,

*Dave*



**If you would like to support me and my work with Flame, or would like further information about Flame and its activities, please complete the form (right), detach, and return it to the Flame office address below.**

***You may wish to know that it is also now possible to make donations, via Stewardship, securely online from the Flame Trust website:***

**[www.flametrust.org](http://www.flametrust.org)**

**Flame Trust**, PO Box 15, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1YQ  
☎ 01384 232786 ✉ [office@flametrust.org](mailto:office@flametrust.org) [www.flametrust.org](http://www.flametrust.org)  
Registered charity no: 1134374 Company no: 06778011

# RESPONSE FORM

- I would like to financially support the work of Dave Pope on a regular basis. Please send details.
- I would like to adjust my existing giving to further support the work of Flame Trust. Please send me the appropriate forms to complete.
- I enclose a "one-off" gift of £..... to support the ministry of Flame Trust.
- I enclose a gift of £..... to support the **Romania Playground Projects**
- I am interested in **Time Out 2024 - please send details**
- Please send me extra **Time Out brochures** \*  for my friends/church

If you wish to transfer your gift direct to the Flame bank account, the details are as follows (please include your name as a reference):

FLAME TRUST LTD., BARCLAYS BANK  
SORT CODE: 20-85-13 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 73536483

- I would like Flame to treat my giving as a Gift Aid donation (*please see declaration, below*).

***If sending a cheque, please make payable to Flame Trust and indicate the purpose of your money on the reverse of the cheque.***

*(You may wish to know that it is also now possible to make donations securely online via the Flame Trust website: [www.flametrust.org](http://www.flametrust.org))*

Name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Aid:** I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and community amateur sports clubs that I donate to will reclaim from my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 that I have given. Please inform us if you have any changes in your address details, want to cancel this declaration or no longer pay sufficient tax.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Flame Trust, PO Box 15, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1YQ**

☎ 01384 232786 ✉ [office@flametrust.org](mailto:office@flametrust.org) [www.flametrust.org](http://www.flametrust.org)  
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