



National Parliamentary
Prayer Breakfast
for the 2012 Games
'A World in Union'

26 June





Welcome

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon John Bercow MP

I am delighted to welcome you to the National Prayer Breakfast 2012.

This event always brings together an interesting programme of speakers and a diverse range of guests from across the UK. With the Olympics and Paralympics fast approaching, it's particularly apposite that this year's theme is the Olympic Truce, mobilising the youth of the world to the cause of peace. At a time when the world's focus will inevitably be on athletic achievements and 'Faster, Higher, Stronger', it's really important we do our utmost to 'Inspire a generation' of people to play an active part in promoting peace and understanding across the world.



The National Prayer Breakfast provides an ideal forum to consider these issues and I am very grateful to Lord Bates for organising the event, which I am sure will make for an exciting and stimulating morning.

The Lord Speaker, Rt Hon Baroness D'Souza, CMG

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the National Prayer Breakfast 2012 – my first as Lord Speaker.

The Breakfast rightly recognises the year's main event, the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and particularly the important ideals of the Olympic Truce of building a better and more peaceful world through sport.

I know the Chairman of this year's Breakfast, Lord Bates, has done much to raise awareness of the Truce and I am particularly grateful to him for organising this year's Breakfast, here, once again, in the historic setting of Westminster Hall.





THE PRIME MINISTER



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

I am very pleased, once again, to be able to support the National Prayer Breakfast. It is a great opportunity for Christians to come together in prayer and to share our thoughts, hopes and fears at a challenging time for the country and the wider world. I am very passionate about the right for people to choose to come together in prayer and it is something this Government will always defend - just as we did earlier this year when Bideford Town Council High Court tried to rule that prayers before meetings were unlawful.

Britain is a Christian country. We should be proud of that, and proud of the values that we share - and that so many people in this country share, whether they practice a faith or not. In this special Olympic year, when the world comes together in London, I think the theme of this year's breakfast - A World in Union - is particularly apt. Whether it is the risks to the global economy or the ongoing threat from terrorism and religious extremism, politics can only ever provide part of the answer. It will be our shared Christian values which will guide us through.

I am very sorry that I cannot join you today - but I send my best wishes to everyone taking part.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Cameron'.

26 June 2012



Welcome

Chairman of the 2012 National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast, Lord Bates of Langbaourgh

Welcome to the 2012 National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. On behalf of the organising committee, thank you for joining us. This Breakfast has been part of the life of Christians in Parliament for over thirty years and it is our opportunity to join with you in fellowship and worship and to share with you some of the work that Christians are doing across the community of Westminster, Whitehall and the diplomatic representatives to The Court of St James's.



I want to pay particular thanks to The Speaker and Lord Speaker for hosting us and for the House staff and volunteers who have in a few short hours transformed this great hall into a venue where over 600 of us can meet over breakfast. I would also like to thank the sponsors and contributors for being so willing and supportive of the event and giving of their time. We are especially grateful to Bible Society for administering the event.

This year is of course, Olympic & Paralympic year. London will become the first city to host the Games for a third time and because of that the organisers of the 2012 National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast wished to choose a theme that would reflect the way in which the world of sport can inspire us in public life and in our personal faith – Peace.

The theme that was selected was the Olympic Truce, a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly that calls upon all signatories to pursue initiatives for peace and reconciliation in the spirit of the Ancient Games. This year all 193 Member States of the United Nations have given that undertaking before the General Assembly, representing an historic opportunity for London to leave a legacy that is more than gold.

Thank you again for sharing this event with us, we hope that you use it to strengthen your faith, broaden your friendships and inspire you to action so that together we serve and glorify the Prince of Peace in whose name we meet.



Bringing resolution to reality

The Olympic Truce

The purpose of the ancient Olympic Games was to enable fighting men to lay down their weapons without looking weak and to compete with each other under the same rules all together as Olympians. The Olympics were surrounded by the Sacred Olympic Truce, which guaranteed the safety of competitors, officials and spectators as they travelled to and took part in the Games. It was an incredible vision.

In the modern Olympics, the Olympic Truce was regarded as largely symbolic. However, this began to change, first with the introduction of the Olympic torch relay and then, in 1994, with the enshrining of the Olympic Truce in a Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly proposed by the host nation.

The first UN Resolution for the Olympic Truce was for the Lillehammer Winter Games in Norway. On the day before the Opening Ceremony, there was a devastating mortar bomb attack on the former Winter Olympic City of Sarajevo that was under siege at the time. For the first time the UN Olympic Truce Resolution was invoked to allow in vital medical supplies and humanitarian aid.

Sadly, since 1994, whilst most member states of the United Nations continue to sign the Olympic Truce Resolution, no-one has implemented it. Over the past few years there has been a campaign led by Christians in Parliament to seek a widespread implementation of the Olympic Truce for the London 2012 Games.

WALK FOR TRUCE.

In April 2011, Lord Bates set out on a solo walk from Olympia in Greece to Westminster, to highlight the Olympic Truce. In June 2011, in response to a question by Gary Streeter MP, the Prime Minister declared that the Olympic Truce represented "an historic opportunity" and pledged full government and diplomatic support for its implementation.

On 17 October 2011, the Resolution for the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games was proposed to the United Nations General Assembly by the British Government and was not only signed by all 193 member states of the General Assembly of the United Nations, but also co-sponsored by them. This opens the way for a widespread meaningful implementation of the Olympic Truce during the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games for the first time and is the reason we have chosen it as the theme for our National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast as we gather together in the name of the Prince of Peace.

Prayer Breakfast Programme

- 6.30 **Doors Open**
- 7.25 **A World In Union** *Tabitha Webb*
- 7.30 **Grace, Breakfast commences** *Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin,
Speaker's Chaplain*
- 8.00 **Welcome** *The Speaker of the House of Commons,
Rt Hon John Bercow MP*
- 8.05 **Chairman's Welcome** *Lord Bates of Langbaurgh*
- 8.10 **Intercessory Prayer**
Prayer for the Olympics and
Paralympics *Nicky Morgan MP*
Prayer for Parliament *Simon Hughes MP*
Prayer for the Nation *Andy Reed*
- 8.20 **Introduction to
Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson** *Gary Streeeter MP*
- 8.25 **Message from the Olympics and
Paralympics** *Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson*
- 8.30 **Bible Reading** *Njoki Mahiaini*
- 8.35 **Keynote Message** *The Bishop of London,
Rt Hon and Rt Revd Richard Chartres*
- 8.50 **Make Me a Channel of Your Peace** *Tabitha Webb + All*
- 8.55 **A Word of Thanks** *The Lord Speaker,
Rt Hon Baroness D'Souza*
- 8.58 **The Blessing** *Canon Pat Browne*
- 9.00 **Conclusion & Depart to Seminars** *Lord Bates of Langbaurgh*



Tabitha Webb

Tabitha Webb is a musical theatre/classical singer and actress. She is from Kent and is of Anglo-Welsh descent. She gained a BA(Hons) from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, followed by a post-graduate diploma from the Royal Academy of Music, graduating with distinction.

Her solo work, both classical and musical theatre, have included concerts with the English Symphonia, Bournemouth Symphony and the London Philharmonic orchestras. She has performed as soloist at venues such as St Martin in the Fields, St David's Hall, Cardiff, Brangwyn Hall, Wembley Conference Centre, the Barbican Centre, The Royal Festival Hall, The Royal Albert Hall and also on the field singing the national anthems at England international football matches!



Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson

In Seoul in 1988, Tanni represented Great Britain and won her first Paralympic medal, the 400m bronze. At the 1992 Barcelona Paralympics, she won four gold medals in the 100, 200, 400 and 800 metres and a silver in the 4x100m relay. The same year, she won her first of six London Wheelchair Marathons. Tanni won the 800 metres gold in the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics along with three silver medals in the 100, 200 and 400 metres. At the 2000 Sydney Paralympics, she won gold four times in the 100, 200, 400 and 800 metres. In Athens 2004, aged 35, she won first place in the 100 and 400 metres, bringing her total Paralympic gold medal tally to eleven.

Since her retirement, Tanni has continued to be involved in sport. She is a director of UK Athletics and a member of the board of the London Marathon. In 2010, Tanni was appointed to the House of Lords, where she serves as a non-party political crossbench peer.





Seminars

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Seminar start time – 09:15

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Faith-based Peace and Reconciliation – in the CPA Room

A panel discussion hosted by Elizabeth Hunter, Theos

What is the vital contribution that faith makes to issues of peace and reconciliation? How can a political peacemaking process be informed and shaped by faith communities? In this panel, hosted by Elizabeth Hunter from Theos, contributors Canon David Porter (Coventry Cathedral), Shawn Kohl (IJM Kenya) and Ann Holt OBE (Bible Society) will be drawing on their diverse experiences of faith-based initiatives from around the world.

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The Olympic Truce and the Opportunity for Peace – in the Jubilee Room

Lord Bates of Langbaourgh

On Good Friday 2011 Michael Bates set off from Olympia, Greece, birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games, to walk back to Westminster, London, in order to highlight the United Nations Resolution declaring the Olympic Truce for the 2012 Games. In this seminar Michael will share some of the experiences from his ten month, 2,916 mile journey, which took him through fifteen countries and also draw some conclusions about the lessons he learned along the way about the Christian Walk of Faith and the Call for us to be 'Salt & Light' in our world.

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Prayer in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft – meet on the left-hand side of the main stairs

Led by Reud Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Speaker's Chaplain

Christians in Politics are delighted to welcome you to the historic Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, located deep within the Houses of Parliament. The National Prayer Breakfast prayer and worship service offers a unique opportunity to worship Christ and to pray for our nation and its leaders.

Featuring a programme including traditional, contemporary, and participatory elements, we expect a powerful time of worship and prayer in this amazing venue located right at the heart of government.



The significance of the 2012 Games for the churches and our nations – in the IPU Room

Led by More Than Gold

Hear how thousands of churches are preparing to engage with their communities and welcome visitors in the context of the 2012 Games. Learn of the cavalcade of prayer and praise accompanying the Olympic Torch and how God is using sport around the world.

A tour of the Palace of Westminster – meet at the top of the main stairs

Everywhere you look in the Houses of Parliament you can see the influence of Christianity in shaping our democracy. It is evident in the history, the architecture, the artwork, the procedures and traditions, and the lives of the men and women who have served there. Your tour group will be led by an official parliamentary guide.

Seminar end time – 10.15

The Prayer Walk

The purpose of the walk between Westminster and the Olympic Park is to highlight the Olympic Truce proposed by the British Government as a United Nations resolution, which all 193 member nations have signed.

During the walk participants will be invited to pray for the safety of the Games, for a pause in conflicts around the world and for Christians to be peacemakers. We will gather at 10:30am around the Buxton Memorial Fountain in Victoria Tower Gardens.

At the end of the walk, we will reassemble near the Olympic Park at the Church of Our Lady and St Catherine of Siena for a short service of prayer and worship.

The distance of the walk is just over 7 miles and it is anticipated that it will take 2½-3 hours to complete.

Sponsors

Bible Society

Bible Society, the principal sponsor of the National Prayer Breakfast, was established in 1804 by William Wilberforce and others to promote the circulation and use of the Scriptures. The Society's Patron is HM The Queen and its President is The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London. We make Scriptures available where there are none. We work to help the church engage with the Bible more effectively. And we endeavour - through the arts, education, media and politics - to make the Bible available, accessible and credible in our culture.

biblesociety.org.uk



Christian Aid

Christian Aid was founded on a partnership of church communities who were compelled by love and justice. For over 65 years it has been working in partnership with churches and Christian organisations across five continents.

Christian Aid has worked with and learnt from the experience of hundreds of inspiring community organisations living at the frontline of the battle against poverty.

It recognises the human dignity and worth inherent in everyone, whatever their gender, race, creed or social position.

Alone, one organisation can achieve little, but as an active partner in a global movement for change, Christian Aid believes it is possible to end poverty in the 21st century.



CARE

CARE is a mainstream Christian charity providing resources and helping to bring Christian insight and experience to matters of public policy and practical caring initiatives. CARE is represented in the UK Parliaments and Assemblies, at the EU in Brussels and the UN in Geneva and New York.

Visit www.care.org.uk for more information.





Interserve

Interserve is an established missions charity which works cross culturally and relationally to bring help and hope, peace and justice to the peoples of 35 or so countries in Asia and the Arabised world, including here in the UK.

Interserve's 900 international workers are committed to sharing the love of Jesus to individuals and communities, in areas of work such as education, medical, engineering and community development.

Interserve's 30 years' experience of working with people of other faiths in urban Britain has helped it to become one of the leading charities in this field, and in recent years it has been responding – through its teaching and training programmes – to an emerging need for answers to the question, 'how can I, as a church leader or parliamentarian, reach out to my neighbour from another faith?'



Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is serving communities during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by giving away more than one million cups of water to visitors, hosting families as part of Athletes Family Homestay and our Emergency Response Vehicles are on call.

The Salvation Army's Hadleigh Farm is the host venue for the London 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike event on 11th and 12th August. Hadleigh Farm has helped thousands of marginalised people remove the barriers to employment for more than 120 years.



Christian Embassy

Christian Embassy is a non-political, non-governmental organisation that exists to serve the spiritual and social needs of London's leadership communities through dialogue, special events and networking with leaders in the public and private sectors. We believe that the worthy goals of international understanding, individual responsibility, and love for your neighbour are affirmed in the teachings of Jesus and anchored in a reverence for God.





Breakfast menu



Individual breakfast platter

Half mini bagel with salmon gravlax and cream cheese

Low fat natural yoghurt and mixed berry compote

Mini savoury tomato and onion lattice



Buffet platter

Puff pastry croissant with butter and fruit preserves

Assorted breakfast pastries

Orange juice and grapefruit juice

English breakfast tea or freshly brewed coffee

Christians in Parliament would like to thank
the following organisations for their help in enabling
this year's Breakfast to happen:

Elaine Young and colleagues at Bible Society

Westminster Catering

Westminster Sound

Vivid Audio Visual

YWAM (Prayer Walk co-ordination)

Eve Burt and the Stewarding Team

The Office of the Serjeant At Arms

Department of Facilities at Westminster

The Metropolitan Police

The Parliamentary Estate Directorate

John Conibear (CDA – Design and Creative)

We look forward to seeing you again next year. Look out for the date on
www.nationalprayerbreakfast.org