

# SHROPSHIRE

Shropshire Hope 2014

**SHROPSHIRE**  
Shropshire Hope 2014

**EXPLOSION**

05 07 14  
**TELFORD**  
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
IRONBRIDGE SUITE  
ABSOLUTELY FREE!  
INCLUDING CAR PARKING

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION • SALTINE THEATRE PRODUCTION • FOOTBALL CAGE

From Eden  
To Eternity

HUMAN THEATRE ARTIST • PUPPETS • MAGICIANS • FACEPAINTING • STREET DANCE PRESENTATION

Evening Celebration  
with Eric Delve ... bringing HOPE to  
the people  
of Shropshire

COMMUNITY AWARD LAUNCH

There's not the money for the house  
on the market out there...

**SHROPSHIRE**  
www.shropshirehope.co.uk

Delve  
Shropshire  
Shropshire  
Shropshire

One  
**Bright**  
Day

Telford Town Park  
Saturday 7 June 2014

"Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.  
Then you will be known as a rebuilder of walls  
and a restorer of homes"  
Isaiah 58:12 (NLT)

[www.shropshirehope.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehope.co.uk)

## BACKGROUND



The vision for Shropshire Hope 2014 was initiated some 3 years ago by the Shropshire Prayer Breakfast Organising Team<sup>1</sup>.

Since the mid-1990's an annual county-wide prayer event drawing Christians from across all denominations, has been arranged to pray for **secular | social | spiritual** leadership throughout Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. However the Team felt that in addition to praying for community transformation and revival we should also initiate a year-long programme of events and activities to share the Gospel.

Inspiration for the vision came from Isaiah 58:12 (NLT):

**“Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.**

**Then you will be known as a rebuilder of walls and a restorer of homes.”**

Whilst conscious that the fabric of society is increasingly under attack from a wide variety of sources we are convinced that the Church is still God's tool to bring transformation and usher in His Kingdom. We believe family life and marriages need to be restored; broken homes rebuilt; Godly protection established in and around our communities. And we want to see Christian values not side-lined or sacrificed on the altar of “political correctness” or expediency.

So our 4 primary goals were to:

1. **Inspire and initiate prayer** and seek God's blessing on Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.
2. **Facilitate and support mission initiatives** across the county in conjunction with local churches.
3. **Co-ordinate and plan** a county-wide event – Shropshire Hope Explosion.
4. **Establish an on-going legacy** of hope for the future.



**Leaders launch lunch**

Amazingly our plans coincided with the launch of the Hope14 national initiative and with their kind permission we were able to incorporate their logo within ours.

We have been extremely grateful for the prayerful, practical and financial support of Shropshire's denominational leaders<sup>2</sup> and by churches and fellowships of all “streams” who have worked with us throughout the year.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix 1

<sup>2</sup> Appendix 2: Council of Reference

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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

There have been so many encouraging aspects:

- **“Launch events” in March with Eric Delve** included:
  - A Leaders Lunch at Shrewsbury attended by almost 100 church and ministry leaders.
  - An Outreach Event at Ludlow.
  - Training & Equipping Workshops at Bayston Hill.
  - Sunday Service at Wellington.
- **Prayer activities**
  - During the first 6 months of 2014 we invited churches and individual Christians to pray for “Six Spiritual Strongholds” we identified as key to seeing breakthrough. Using Prayer Bulletins produced by members of the Team we prayed blessing on Family Life & Relationships; Schools & Education; National & Local Government; Economy & Employment; Law & Order and for Spiritual Renewal.
  - A Prayer Breakfast: The Father’s Banquet – was held in Shrewsbury with guest speakers Phil Hulks (Urban Saints Mission Academy) and Wendy Thomas (National Prayer Co-ordinator – Street Pastors).
- **Shropshire Hope Explosion:** a major mission event held at Telford International Centre in early July brought people together from across the county and included:
  - A Primary School Celebration of Choral Talent attended by over 600 children and adults featuring a mass choral finale – “The Big Sing”.



**Eric Delve at Ludlow**



**“The Big Sing”**



- Saltmine Theatre Company's superb production of "From Eden to Eternity" was watched by over 300. This brilliant whistle-stop tour from Genesis to Revelation was performed in an hour. With a mixture of laughs and tears and hard-hitting storytelling it was one of the highlights of the day.



**Saltmine Theatre Company**

- Youth For Christ with their Nomad Football Cage and Stance street-dance team.



**Youth For Christ – Stance**

- During the Prayer Event a Prophetic Declaration was made over the county – the text of which can be found on the Shropshire Hope website – and Eric Delve prophetically declared that in the same way Ironbridge was the centre of the Industrial Revolution, so Shropshire would be instrumental in seeing spiritual transformation in the nation.



**Steve Murray**



**You're not rubbish!**



**Free facepainting**

- Amazing human theatre artist Steve Murray with his heart-tugging mime entertained the crowds.
- And a final gospel presentation from evangelist Eric Delve saw at least 18 people make first time commitments or renew their faith.
- Worship was led by our "in-house band" led by Mark Savill.
- Throughout the day a number Christian ministries including Christian Aid; UCB; Neighbourhood Prayer Network; Pray for Schools; Yellow Ribbon had display stands and free facepainting was provided.



- **Local mission events** and other activities have been taking place across the county including:
  - "at7": monthly worship and teaching events at Market Drayton.
  - "One Bright Day": a family-focused day out in Telford Town Park with "Make Jesus Known" sharing the Gospel and a host of activities organised by Telford

Area Mission – a collaboration of 31 churches and Christian ministries. Although hampered by the weather, it is estimated between 800-1,000 people attended throughout the day with many responding prayer ministry invitations.

Activities included: Storytelling; Craft and Circus Skills workshops; an inflatable “church”; Christian Motor-bikers’ Association show; Gideons International; Messy Church; bouncy castles; facepainting; football cage; a barbeque – and plenty of mud!

- Ludlow Churches Together put together a series of monthly activities including practical ways of expressing the Gospel, e.g. car washes, litter picking and a community pancake race, to events proclaiming the Christian faith, e.g. Christmas “living nativity”.
- Telford Area Mission organised an extended weekend of ministry by Eric Delve in September including a Harvest Supper evangelistic meeting and opportunities for prayer and healing.
- A concert supporting adoption and fostering in conjunction with “Home for Good” – a joint Evangelical Alliance and Care for the Family charity.

### One Bright Day

Below - “Breaker” on-stage

Right – Illusionist and escapologist Mark Harrington





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## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Appendix 3 provides a synopsis of income and expenditure. We are extremely grateful and give thanks to God for the generosity of churches and individual Christians who have supported us. As a result we have not just managed to breakeven over the year but made a small surplus.

We have asked ourselves the question, *“What price do we put on people becoming Christians or returning to faith?”*

Obviously this can be considered in terms of time and effort; allocation of resources and especially the personal cost to those involved in arranging events and activities.

But nothing is more important than seeing the Kingdom increase and the outcomes we’ve seen throughout the year have been worth the cost.

Those outcomes include:

- Growing unity as different denominations and ministries have joined together with one purpose – to share the Gospel.
- Concerted and consistent prayer.
- People coming to faith and renewing their faith.
- Others stretched in their faith as they have been willing (and brave) enough to invite friends, relatives, work colleagues, neighbours to the events.
- A developing belief that God is able to do “exceedingly more than we can ask or imagine” when we step out in faith.

There have been disappointments as some churches and communities have not engaged with the vision but we believe SH2014 has been a catalyst for change and that confidence and trust has been built between many Christians as a result. We expectantly pray, hope and trust this can and will be built upon in the future.



**Worship Team at Shropshire Hope Explosion**

## FUTURE PLANS

Just because 2014 is coming to end we do not believe the vision of Shropshire Hope has run its course and we are looking to continue to initiate, encourage and support further activities across the county.

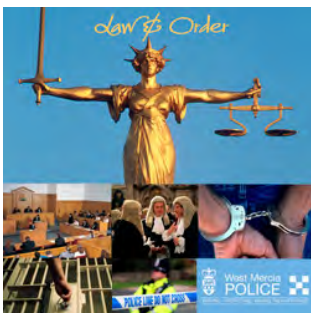
One of the key aims of Shropshire Hope 2014 was to build a legacy of hope for the future. We've made a start but there is still much to do.



We appreciate spiritual rebuilding takes time, effort and a dependency on prayer, so we see 2015 as a year of consolidation and renewed emphasis in developing relationships across the county as we seek to influence those who have a heart to seek, in prayer, and be involved practically in promoting spiritual transformation. We especially need to engage with appropriate leaders in the Shrewsbury area.

At the present time we are planning the following:

- Another Primary School Celebration of Talent – possibly in May/June 2015. Feedback from the schools that took part this year has been overwhelmingly positive and we see this event as a real opportunity to engage with parents and children who do not necessarily, or regularly, attend church.
- A renewed focus on prayer. The “Spiritual Strongholds” we identified still require concerted prayer and we envisage extending the scope of the areas in which we are believing for breakthroughs.





- Telford Area Mission “One Bright Week”. Following on from the success of the 2014 event, a whole week’s activities are being planned from 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June. This is an exciting development which we believe will not only cement the 2014 activities but will break new ground as churches and Christian ministries work together in unity for the sake of the Kingdom.
- A county-wide prayer event to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015 building on the legacy of the Shropshire Prayer Breakfast.
- Increasing involvement and support of ministries that promote local mission initiatives, e.g. Neighbourhood Prayer Network; Pray for Schools etc.

We also intend to integrate the Shropshire Prayer Breakfast within Shropshire Hope. This will enable a “one brand” approach and provide consistency of approach.



**Visit the Shropshire Hope website for more information**

We have now built a database of over 370 people across the county who have been receiving regular email updates. We plan to develop this further and use the SH website to become an invaluable facility for the sharing of resources and provide information on events and activities throughout the county.

Longer term we would hope to see further collaboration with Christian ministries such as Youth For Christ in order to help increase the availability of Christian-focused youth work in the county.

We considering options to enable Shropshire Hope become a charity, incorporating Telford Area Mission, subject to Charity Commission approval. The Organising Team needs strengthening and we shall be looking for additional people who share the vision and are willing to engage with us.

### **Future Financial Requirements**

Obviously we will require funding in order to undertake the activities. God has provided for our needs wonderfully this year but we will be starting virtually from scratch again.

We plan to ask churches and denominations to “partner” with us and financially invest in the Kingdom.

We estimate that costs for the activities being considered will be:

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Celebration of Choral Talent | £3,500               |
| • Prayer event                 | £1,500               |
| • Support of other activities  | <u>£1,000</u>        |
|                                | <b><u>£6,000</u></b> |

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## CONCLUSIONS

Can we dare to believe for the Holy Spirit to continue to lead and guide us and see our county changed? Of course we can – that's why we're praying *"Lord, let Your will in heaven be done here in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin."*

Please stand and pray with us and for us as we seek to see the Kingdom of God expanded and extended in our county.

**For more information about Shropshire Hope, visit**



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## Appendix 1

### Shropshire Hope and Shropshire Prayer Breakfast Organising Team

- Revd Leslie Burke: Chair Shropshire Hope; Telford Elim Community Church
- Pastor Stephen Derges: Chair Shropshire Prayer Breakfast; Bridgnorth Baptist Church
- Revd. Tim Coles: Ludlow Elim Church
- Pauline Mack: Loving Telford
- Mark Savill: Market Drayton Methodist Church
- Mervyn Smith: local businessman; Highley Anglican Church

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## Appendix 2

### Council of Reference

- Rt. Revd. Alistair Magowan: Anglican Bishop & Archdeacon of Ludlow
- Rt. Revd. Mark Rylands: Anglican Bishop of Shrewsbury
- Rt. Revd. Mark Davies: Roman Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury
- Revd. John Howard: Chair Shropshire Churches Together and Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District
- Revd. Adrian Argile: Regional Team Leader, Heart of England Baptist Association
- Revd. Roy Lowes: Moderator, West Midlands United Reformed Church

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## Appendix 3

### Shropshire Hope Income & Expenditure

#### Income

Denominations	11,500	
Other Churches & Ministries	4,542	
Individuals	1,975	
Events	969	<b><u>£ 18,986</u></b>

#### Expenditure

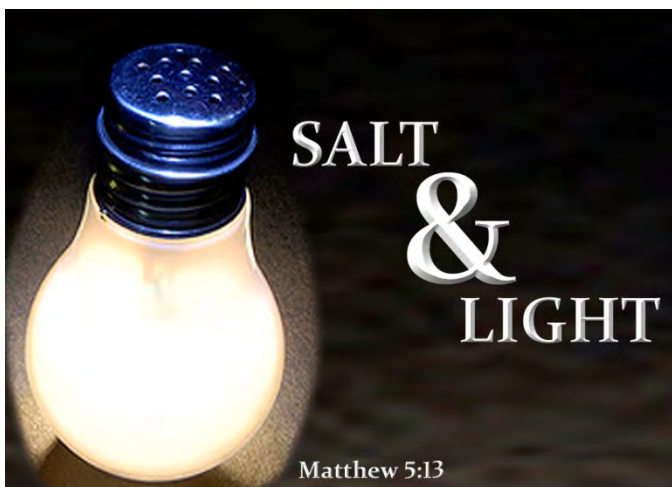
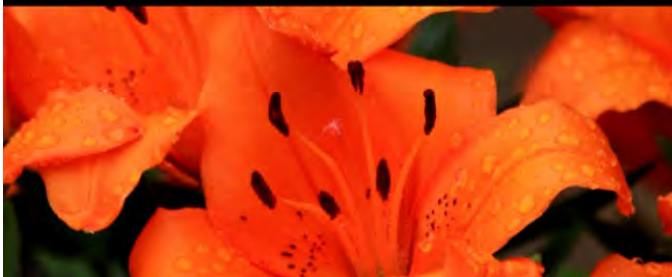
Telford International Centre hire	6,080	
Staging & Lighting	1,801	
Sound engineers/equipment	2,012	
Video & AV	876	
Catering/extras	496	
	<b>£ 11,265</b>	
Eric Delve events	1,542	
SH Explosion contributors	3,174	
	<b>£ 4,716</b>	
Postage	177	
Stationery <sup>3</sup>	192	
PR, posters, leaflets	1,404	
Insurance	537	
Certificates	71	
Publications/Literature	384	
	<b>£ 2,765</b>	<b><u>£ 18,746</u></b>
	<b>Surplus</b>	<b><u>£240</u></b>

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<sup>3</sup> Stationery costs –£110 for Shropshire Prayer Breakfast leaflets and £82 for SH2014 leaflets – written off by the church concerned and included in Income as a “benefit in kind”



With God's power working in us,  
God can do much, much more  
than anything we can ask or imagine  
– Ephesians 3:20 (NCV)



## Shropshire Hope

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