



MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY NE

Great words from a great man!

“Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom. Of course the task will not be easy. But not to do this would be crime against humanity, against which I ask all humanity to rise up. Make Poverty History in 2005. Make History in 2005. Then we can all stand with our heads held high.” Nelson Mandela

Great (well, great-ish!) news on debt relief:

On Sunday morning, 12th June, on the Today Programme, Bob Geldof said, *“280 million people woke up this morning without the millstone of inherited debt round their necks”*. On 11th, the G8 finance ministers had agreed to write off 100% of the debts that 18 heavily indebted poor countries owe to the World Bank and IMF. Another 9 should benefit within a year or two. This is very good news indeed and represents a major step forward. But many more, bigger steps must follow: Jubilee Debt Campaign reckons that over 60 countries need radical relief.

Now from the sublime to the (sometimes) ridiculous!

Coaches booked solid: all 20 coaches arranged by Make Poverty History NE through Classic Coaches are fully booked; plus an extra 8! In all, nearly 50 coaches will be going from the North East.

Message for the G8: Use a piece of white cloth, 50cm x 7cm, and secure its ends to make a white band. Write your own message to the G8 on it and add it to the giant display in Edinburgh. Encourage friends and relatives to do the same and take them to Edinburgh with you.

Clothes: Wear a white top, etc., if possible. Wear comfortable shoes and pack hat (funny hats permissible!), sun cream, waterproof and umbrella. Rainbow scarf if you have one.

Preparations: Bring mobile ‘phone; flags, placards and banners; a whistle, tambourine, bell, etc; food and fluid for the day (water, juice, and high energy snacks ideal, but not chocolate).

Catching your coach: Be in good time for your coach (and make sure it is the right one!). Even if you booked it thru’ Classic Coaches, your coach may well be one hired in from another company. Make a note of its name and registration number so that you can identify it for the return journey. Share mobile phone numbers with other members of your coach and, if possible, get your driver’s number.

In Edinburgh: One group of marchers will set off from the Meadows at 12 noon; the second at 12.45pm will be led by the NE’s very own, 22-strong samba band, DrumDin! Let’s all unite behind them if possible – look out for our large red, white and black banner (“**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY NORTH EAST**”). **But don’t worry** if that isn’t possible – just relax and have a great time! At 3.00pm there will be one minute’s silence, followed by as much racket as we can kick up! Please return to your coach by 5.00 or 6.00pm, whichever the coach decides, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Run up to the Great Day

**Tuesday 28th June,
Grand welcome for the rickshaw party**

A rickshaw and cycle party which has pedalled to previous G8 venues will be passing through Newcastle on their way to Edinburgh. If you can spare an hour, please turn out and give them a great welcome! Estimated time of arrival at the Millennium Bridge, Gateshead-Newcastle, 10.30am; bottom of Northumberland Street, 11.00am; Newcastle Civic Centre 11.15am.

For the cyclists, there will be a civic reception by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Cllr David Slessinger; for us there will be stalls and a picnic area on the lawns (drinks will be provided). In the event of rain, we are invited to use St Thomas' Church.

Friday 1st July, International White Band Day

**Make sure everybody knows about it! Wear your band –
manufactured or home made - with pride! Penshaw Monument,
12 noon-1.00pm: human white band for aerial photograph.**

Friday 1st July, 7.00pm

Ecumenical service at St Mary's Cathedral

(opposite Newcastle Central Station)

Everybody welcome: videos, prayer, readings, music, dance, drama
Main speaker, Fr Jim O'Keefe; organised by CAFOD and Justice & Peace