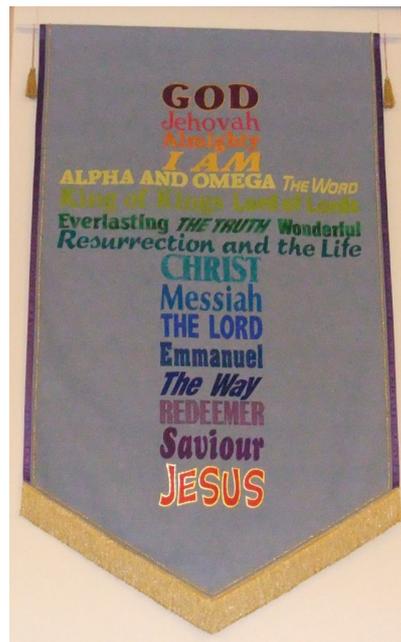


# The Lebone Light

## Avrils' prayer.....

A Prayer of Thanksgiving..... for a journey so blessed by the way God went before and how He was with us every step of the way



**Thank You, Lord, for friendship and love so warm and sweet.**

WOW and did we experience this in abundance – from start to finish blessed over and over again with friendship, love and care. We were spoilt and pampered, treated and lovingly cared for. Without exception, each and every home, Church, gathering was "coming home to dear family" – there is so much to write about, SO much to share and report on, and far too little space..... so to cover it all in the best way is possibly to do it chronologically and trust that you will experience in a small way the journey with us. To mention & thank everyone who hosted us, welcomed us so lovingly, gave us "5 STAR" treatment and blessed us with having us would be repetition over and over, SO.....

**to each one thank you for all the special moments with you, thank you for so many memories, thank you for what you did for us, thank you for EVERYTHING from the bottom of our hearts, we thank God for every single one of YOU**



**Day 1:** Left home for England via Cape Town

**Day 2 + 3: Exmouth** - Hosted by Bill and Margaret Townsend – what a joyous beginning! Here we were blessed too by being able to share Lebone and have fellowship with the congregation of their Church – just new family

**Day 4 + 5: Truro, Cornwall** Hosted by Tom & Jan Luke, blessed to renew our friendship as well as being privileged to meet Jan's parents – long time supporters of Lebone - thus expanding our family and visiting the Church where Tom is now serving

**Day 6, 7 + 8: Stockport** Hosted by Janice and Andrew Barber, meeting Andrew for the first time in person (having met on Skype!) and their children just enlarged our family. On Sunday we shared in Heaton Moor United's church service where we were able to update as well as introduce Lebone to the new folk; after this Jean & George James graciously hosted us, the ministers, elders and friends we met previously, to a slap up dinner. We had an amazing time meeting with old and new friends, NO sorry, family

**Day 9 + 10: Barrow-in-Furness**, hosted by Sarah (Bayliss) & Ian Leeming, a new son! Special thanks too to Jo & Mel for their incredible hospitality & joining our family! The next evening we were privileged to share in a faith supper with all our friends in south west Cumbria at the church in Dalton-in-Furness. What a lovely evening we had with so many of our family here. Thanks to Alan McBirnie for getting us to Oxenholme for our train connection

**Day 11 + 12: Brussels.** It was wonderful to meet up with our Belgian daughter, Petra van Looy here.

**Day 13, 14 + 15: Rossum**, The Netherlands, hosted by Reijer and Riet Berendse where once again the family circle was extended with a big bonus of meeting Reijer's mother – Vicky's Grandmother!! whom we spent a "super leuk" evening being privileged to experience her hospitality and Dutch cuisine Little did we know it but before leaving Rossum our "family" was going to grow in massive numbers with our new friends in **Heerwaarden**, where we were so blessed and privileged to share in their Sunday Service – the sermon message "**Your land is my Land**" concreted it all and our "new Family" set in cement!

**Day 16, 17, 18 + 19: Barneveld**, hosted by the Baan family – thanks to Paul & Mineke who 'delivered' us personally to their holiday home in **Holten** where we spent an awesome three days – hectic and busy but also relaxed and blessed; here the highlight very definitely was the reunion with 6 of our Dutch daughters, sadly Vicky and our two Dutch sons, Jan-Leendert & Christiaan were missing as they were unable to be there. Thanks to Willemiena & Gysbert who hosted us in their quaint & lovely little home and all the girls for the 'BRAAI'!!! Thanks once again to our very professional (&special) chauffeur, tour guide & carer, Heleen and her mother, Mineke, with whom we were privileged to spend a day with in **Markelo**

**Day 20: Brussels** en route back to England where we were delighted to meet Sandy Paquay, student from Mechelin University coming to Lebone Village in 2012 as well as Petra's mother, Debbie, who came especially to meet us – AND of course blessed to have ANOTHER evening with Petra despite all the good-bye tears once again.

**Day 21: Reading**, yet another home-coming!! We spent a wonderful, yet poignant evening with our friend Phyllis Harris which was saddened by the absence of her husband, Peter who had passed on since our last visit; we really missed him!

**Day 22: A day to remember!!!** Our last lap!! Sunday morning we started off early for Whitley Methodist Church with Phyllis where we could once again share the Service and fellowship afterwards with all our friends there and then again being bowled over by their support, love and care. Was a very special Service where we were delighted to meet (Rev) David & Penny Shaw Then..... on to Paddington, en route for **Chiswick**, where we were met by Tracy & Marais Buys with whom we were staying. Little did we know but we were actually gaining another son & daughter, NOT Dutch this time but ENGLISH!! Well as it started so it ended, again so very humbled by the way we were treated and spoilt in every way imaginable.

**Day 23:** Pub Evening in **London**, organised by Tracy & Marais who initiated and run the Lebone London/ex SA Support Group, where we were delighted to meet and spend time with some members of the group. It was great to be able to meet the people who support us so generously. An added blessing was meeting up with our very first English daughter", Rosie Venner and her friend Matt. Rosie was the first overseas volunteer we had at Lebone House in 2001/2002 and we are so grateful to her for always taking the time & effort to meet up with us, no matter where we are!! Thanks Rosie!

**Day 24:** London to **South Africa**, this was just as awesome as each one of the other 23 days, AND where Marais crammed a weeks sightseeing into a few hours when he, at great cost we know, left in the early hours for work to return to pick us up at 10h00 before delivering us right to check in at Heathrow. Such conflicting emotions – sad to bid farewell, yet SO happy to be going.....

**Day 25:** ... HOME.

## Thank You Lord for the little things that make life complete.

To say thank you is possibly the hardest part of everything, one just does not have the words that can express the overwhelming gratitude, thankfulness and feelings of awe for the welcome, loving hospitality and caring from EACH and EVERYONE who just gave, gave and gave us so much – SO MANY PRECIOUS MEMORIES – we love you ALL. Thank you thank you thank you thank you, we are so incredibly humbled, so awesomely blessed and so very privileged to have shared with ALL you amazing, wonderful people – to say there was a highlight is impossible, every moment was a HIGH-light .

**Father God, thank You for the precious gifts You blessed us with, thank You for always listening when we seek You in prayer  
...and most of all, thank You for loving us and always being there.**

## Willem shares his experience.....



What did Avril and I experience? Firstly that GOD is always 3 steps ahead, paving the way with loyal friends. Secondly that we are all part of GOD's family, no matter where you are on this planet. Words cannot describe the hospitality, love and dearness we received on this trip from everybody we met, old and new friends we made, as well as total strangers we started talking to in a street cafe.

**Sunday Day 1:** Left home via Cape Town to Heathrow

**Monday Day 2:** Heathrow to Exmouth by train where we were treated like royalties on roast beef and Yorkshire pudding by Bill and Margaret Townsend. The following day we had our presentation at their church. This is a "new church" as the Townsends moved from Felixstowe to Exmouth and we are positive that more support would come from this area.

**Wednesday Day 4:** and we are off to Truro where our old friends from Barrow have moved to. Avril did not feel well but we still moved around quite a bit and met Jan's mom at her holiday caravan.

**Friday Day 6:** All the way to Stockport where we stayed with Janice and Andrew Barber. We were really homesick when we saw photos of our dogs nicely printed and with a welcoming card on our bed. Janice, Linda, Jean and George of Heaton Moore Church visited Lebone in 2009 and they took a lot of photos of their visit to us. Avril was now really not well and we decided not to go site seeing. Sunday we attended the church service where Avril told the 'new' amalgamated church more about Lebone. Jean invited the two ministers, elders and friends, we met on our previous visit, to lunch and it was marvellous to chat to all the friends and new friends informally. George planted the Clivias at Lebone while they were here and "forgot" seed in his pocket, so he says, which he planted in England and is quite proud of his clivia.

**Monday Day 9:** To Barrow-in-Furness. Sarah Bayliss now Mrs. Leeming and her husband Ian met us at Oxenholme about 45 min from Barrow. Sarah and Cheryl were some of the first volunteers at Lebone Land way back in 2004. Tuesday a faith supper was prepared for all the old and new friends of Lebone at the church in Dalton-in-Furness. What a lovely evening we had in spite of the fact the we had to take Avril to the hospital in Barrow to see a doctor.

**Wednesday Day 11:** and all the way to Brussels with the Euro star underneath the sea. Petra van Looy visited us at our hotel as we decided to give Avril a good rest.



**Friday Day 13:** Holland here we come. Reijer and Riet took us in their new house, which is a story on its own. The Berendse's are not friends anymore but after several visits -6 in total - we have become family and were so privileged to have met Reijer's mother we spoiled us on a typical Dutch dinner and concreted the family ties.

**Sunday Day 15:** Heerewaarden Church where I did the presentation in Afrikaans. We were blessed with a wonderful church service where the theme of the message from Ruth was - your land is my land.

**Monday Day 16:** Barneveld is chicken country for the Dutch, but for us it is Baan country. Dikke broer, that's me, meets here with his Jonge broer, Paul and his charming wife Mineke, who spoiled us till Friday. Paul arranged that most of our meetings were held in Holten at our house. Yes, correct, "our" house where we stayed with our first visit in 2008, complete with our bicycles, new furnisher and groceries.

**Friday Day 20:** Brussels again for an early start Saturday with the Euro star back to the UK and Reading. Petra, her mother, Debbie and Sandy Paquay visited us Friday evening. Sandy is our new student from Mechelin who will be with us from February to May 2012.

**Saturday Day 21:** Reading, where we were again spoiled by our old friend Phyllis Harris. Sunday Avril had a talk in the church and we met Rev David and Penny Shaw whom we hope to welcome soon at Lebone.

**Sunday Day 22:** New found adopted children in the form of Marais & Tracey Buys. Tracey is the youngest daughter of Nora Hoy who teaches at Lebone in 2008. They arranged a pub evening with a couple of their South African friends to meet us and we had a wonderful time with them all as supporters of Lebone.

**Tuesday Day 24:** Sad to leave new found family behind but also glad to go home to all the animals in South Africa. Already looking forward to my next working visit in 2012 in the Netherlands.



To find out more about us or how you can get involved please contact:

Tel: +2751 526 1442 or visit our website.

[www.lebonevillage.com](http://www.lebonevillage.com)

