

## FLORA LONDON MARATHON - APRIL 2002

Eighteen months before his untimely death from a heart attack, I promised my father-in-law, Peter Talbot Willcox that I would run in the London Marathon to raise funds for REEP (The Religious Education and Environment Programme), the charity he founded in 1994 (Reg No 1000998). After a failed application for 2001, and having experienced the difficulties that smaller charities face in getting recognition by the marathon's organisers -but that is another story - I am "in" for April 2002, already pounding the tarmac and hoping you will sponsor me.

Why REEP? Peter's vision combines idealism with practicality. The idealism is that we should live in harmony with and not exploit destructively our environment, God's creation. The practicality is that, in democratic societies, the only way to persuade leaders and politicians to pursue policies to protect the environment is by influencing voters and public opinion. REEP provides free and easily available courses for pupils and their teachers, mainly in primary schools but increasingly in secondary education to give children an early grounding in the vital questions regarding how we manage our environment to provide our essential needs without destroying irreplaceable and vital elements. This is a "green" message in a religious context.

Those cynical about the green message's impact on governments and multinationals, should compare the attention given to environmental issues now with 30 years ago. If some of that attention is only "lip service", then the best way to bring pressure to bear to have greater impact, is to educate the voters of the future to the dangers of exploitation. This is REEP's purpose, and whether religion (REEP's message -the promotion of sustainable living based on the foundation of universal religious principles of moderation -is present in all faiths, not just Christianity) is part of your life or not, I hope that you will help me raise some money to extend REEP's teaching programme to increase understanding about the environment.

You can learn more about REEP by visiting [www.reep.org](http://www.reep.org). Over recent years, resources have been switched from school visits, which because of limited resources meant that the spreading of the message is slow, to the development of this website. In 2000 the site was admitted to the National Grid for learning (a kitemark for good education resources). In December 2001, site visitors numbered, on average, 290 PER DAY, up from 136 in 2000. An increasing number of schools are using the material in their teaching programmes.

Please fill in the "cut off" section below, having made your selection from the menu" and return it to the address below. If you want to make a payment now, this would greatly simplify the collection of funds so please let me have a cheque made payable to REEP and remember to sign the form so we can recover income tax, if paid.

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours sincerely,

MEH

### Flora London Marathon, April 14th 2002 - Michael Hodgson for REEP (The Religious Education and Environment Programme)

I would like to sponsor you at the **flat rate of £**

I would like to sponsor you at the **rate of £            per mile**

I would like to sponsor you at the **rate of £            per minute** for every complete minute under your target time of 4 hours 30 minutes that it takes you to complete the run

I enclose my **cheque for £**

I am a UK taxpayer intending tax to be reclaimed on the attached donation made under the Gift Aid scheme

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Name

Address

Please return sponsorship forms to: Diana Lazenby, REEP, c/o 14 Rupert House, 54-55 Nevern Square, London, SW5 9PL or Fax 020 7373 6116.