


MAY-JUNE 2017

THE MAGAZINE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich



Our story; our church

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and a new generation
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From the Editor

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

This is a special edition of *The Magazine* written (almost!) completely by young people. We brainstormed ideas on a January evening, while we met to eat pizza and contribute our suggestions. We decided to write this issue from a young person's perspective of what church and the Christian faith is like, or could be like, to help adults understand better how to relate to the youth in their church and lives.

I go out with my parents and a small team each Saturday in Dereham, praying for the town and the people and sharing the gospel. We meet a lot of young people who have barely heard about Jesus before. Some ask us questions: "What happens after you die? Where do you go?" One girl told us: "No one has ever told me about Jesus before."

Many teenagers and young adults are hungry for purpose, happiness and fulfilment, but who is there to tell them that everything they seek is found in Jesus? One common view is that Christianity is boring and full of rules; but the truth is that following Jesus is the most exciting journey ever!

Bishop Graham says: "God calls the young to be witnesses to him as the story of our salvation unfolds" (pg 5). Young people and children are very important in the Kingdom of God. The Church has a huge responsibility in raising and discipling the next generation of Christ-followers.

In our main feature, Jamie takes a look at the big questions young people are asking today, contrasting their questions and struggles with those their parents or grandparents had (pg 6). Anna shares a part of her story of faith and the struggles she has had with being a Christian in school (pg 4). Florence writes of her journey to confirmation (pg 10), Jack of his vocation (pg 14) and Cole has penned a story about a friendship with God (pg 40).

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and that it inspires you to befriend, support and disciple the youth in your church and witness to the young people you see regularly, maybe your children, grandchildren, pupils or neighbours, so that they can share the Good News with their friends and in turn disciple them.

God bless you!

Lizzy

Elizabeth Milne (aged 15)



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Cover photo: Some of the young people who have contributed to this issue. Photos supplied + © Paul Hurst

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A pilgrim's progress in high school

The world is becoming a scary place for young people. With everything going on – Brexit, a new Prime Minister, tuition fees rising – it is even more difficult for those with a Christian faith (I have learnt from experience!). Within the halls of high school, Christian teenagers seriously struggle to find somewhere to hide from the pressures of it all. Since the UK population has slowly been turning away from the truth, it has become much harder for the Christian youth to actually maintain their faith. I have experienced this in ways I never thought I would.

I was a little year seven student – excited about starting the big school – and the school looked so massive. The halls were massive, the grounds were massive, even the teachers looked terrifyingly tall. All I had was a map of the school. As I settled in the first few days, lots of class mates began to find their voice. They would shout and swear in class and being me (an innocent Christian girl who had never heard a swear word in her life before), I was totally shocked by it. How could someone possibly say such atrocities in class?!

I did get used to it unfortunately and swearing seemed to pass off as a 'cool' thing to do. Everyone did it because they didn't care about what others thought and they didn't care about their parents finding out so what was the problem? I thought long and hard about that and came to the conclusion that it really doesn't matter if I swear, my parents won't know... I started swearing after that, because individuality isn't a bad thing, is it? Well, apparently it was. As soon as I started, I lost my individuality. I was just following the crowd. Only then did I realise how much I was drifting from God and what I'd always believed.

I wish I could find a time on the bus when I wasn't being questioned about what I believe. They would ask unrealistic questions like: "If God was tied down and so were your parents and you could only save one...", they refused to believe me if I was even close to saying God. They would make jokes and share atheist quotes on Facebook for me to see. They'd ridicule the other Christians about believing in some 'Big guy in the sky'.

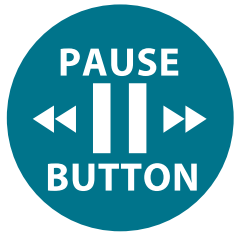
It was impossible. I didn't know how to handle it and I honestly couldn't have done it without my mum and dad. They really helped me to focus even when the going got tough. They were always there to comfort me in times of trouble and always showed the same compassion that God shows me.

Not many people know how hard not going with the flow is. It has been hard but by the end of this term, I will have finished my five years. The most important thing that has kept me going is faith. Faith that he has given me and faith that he gives to everyone who seeks for him.



Anna is 15, has a passion for film and drama, loves surfing and is currently doing her GCSEs at Diss High School. She attends Burston Chapel.

“If God was tied down and so were your parents and you could only save one...” ”



God calls the young

On our recent Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, our Palestinian guide reminded us that 2,000 years ago the usual age for betrothal was fourteen. So Mary would probably have been a young teenager when she gave birth to Jesus. Paintings of the nativity and even crib figures often depict Joseph as an older man though it is not at all unlikely that he was a teenager too. We have very little idea how old the disciples were but James and John still had parents alive (and in their father Zebedee's case still working as a fisherman) so they may well have been teenagers also. In any case, average life expectancy was no more than 40 at the time.

In the gospels we read a story featuring many young people. We tend to imagine the main participants are of mature years, wise and venerable. Yet God calls the young to be witnesses to him as the story of our salvation unfolds.

Jesus Christ still needs young witnesses to him. The passage of years does not in itself bring spiritual wisdom and maturity. This edition of *The Magazine* illustrates beautifully the depth, courage, imagination and curiosity within the faith of young Christians in this Diocese. They are a huge blessing to us.

Sometimes the image of the Church is of a venerable institution. In our Diocese, with a Cathedral more than 900 years old and many church buildings inherited from centuries past, that's inevitable. But the good news of God's saving love in Jesus Christ is ageless. Read the Sermon on the Mount and you do not think it is an antique address. *'Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth'* challenges a

culture of power politics. *'Blessed are the poor for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs'* reminds us that those with the least in this life are specially favoured by God.

Those of us mature in years and faith sometimes forget the radical edge of the gospel and the way it should provoke us to rethink our priorities. That's why I always find encounters with teenagers in school refreshing because I am often asked questions people of my own age rarely think to ask their bishop. For example, in one sixth-form group I was asked what I thought I was doing when I prayed, and what image of God I carried in my mind. These are often the sort of questions which fascinate the young. It is that sort of curiosity which leads to faith in Christ.

There are many images of God. In the Bible he is called *'the ancient of days'*. However, at a festival in a northern cathedral I once saw a banner produced by some young people which proclaimed *'God is forever young'*. So he is.



The Rt Revd Graham James,
Bishop of Norwich





A changing world, a changing church and a new generation

Each generation has to cope with changes in technology and culture but how is life really experienced by young people today? How has the church changed to help young people through these current challenging times and will it be enough to keep faith part of English culture? Jamie Dawes has discussed these issues with leaders and fellow young people to discover their thoughts.

Young people today have more availability to information and a confidence to communicate, compared to an apparent lack of openness fifty years ago. Adults were more removed from the younger generation who rarely shared feelings, because that was the expected way of life then.

Kathy, a helper at our local church youth group says that changes in hymns and the move from the *Book of Common Prayer* to *Common Worship* have had a big effect on church services and the way Christianity is experienced by young people. Young people may now feel Christianity is practised in a more 'up to date' way which they feel is easier to understand, but although faith may be expressed in a more modern way, does it help answer the questions facing young people today?

Questions about science and faith

With the advancement of science and technology, do faith and science still go together?

For example, our ability to clone animals has increased rapidly, but would these new life forms, maybe even humans cloned in the future, be spiritual beings? Would they have a soul? Extensive research into particle physics has shown the universe to be formed entirely of atoms, with evidence that suggests that everything can be explained by the particles that make it up. Where does belief in The Holy Spirit or in the soul exist with science?

Many world religions believe in the existence of the soul. I heard that His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivendanta Swami Prabhupāda, a leading Hindu teacher, says that "the only difference between a living and a dead body is the absence of the soul." So the advancement of science seems to present more opportunities and challenges for Christianity, now more than ever before. Also, belief in Christian teaching is not taught so widely as it was 50 years ago, leaving young people to find their own spirituality in a seemingly non-religious environment such as school.

In my opinion Religious Education or Philosophy and Ethics in school are taught in such a way that the beliefs are left unjustified and detached from science and reason. But science and religion might not be such polarized concepts. Jacob, a young person who attends the youth group, says that "They [science and religion] don't conflict very much, you can view Genesis as literal or figurative, you could view the seven days of creation as just seven amounts of time spanning millions of years, so there isn't a barrier between science and faith." Chloe, another member, agrees that the two can merge, saying: "For example, my Mum believes that God made the big bang."

“There is a lot less understanding now, and jokes and misinterpretations about Christianity are a difficulty for young people.”

Social media

Although young people have the advantage today of acquiring and sharing information, the means of doing so creates risks which have never been seen before. Lucy, a young person who attends regular Christian youth groups at Aylsham Church, says: "A good thing about technology is that it can let us research more into Christianity. Rapid advancement of social media has let ideas and explanations be shared faster than ever before. Websites and online Bibles help you explore the Christian message from your laptop."

Yet social media presents new challenges for young people. Communication is becoming increasingly informal and the threat of cyber-bullying and anti-social messaging is growing. It would help if young people received more guidance about safety and appropriate use of social media, not just from school but from churches as well. It's important to try to be a Christian on social media as well as in our offline lives.

The environment

As awareness about our impact on the environment is revealed, the message is held seriously by young people, as it affects their generation and future generations the most. For many the environment links strongly to Christian faith and teaching. Lucy says: "There is a link, because Christians care for people and God and the environment."

I am personally a strong believer in environmental morals, especially because of how today's companies dangerously exploit the environment without the knowledge of consumers.



Photo: © Naomi Toplis



Palm oil, an ingredient widely used in food products, is one of the main causes of deforestation and destruction of the environment.

In everything we buy, eat and throw away there is a cost or gain for God's earth, and the lack of awareness of how our consumerism affects our earth for us and for our children worries me. Our consumerism will have to be paid for by future generations. A belief shared by Christians and other religions is that we are responsible for the earth, that we should be stewards of God's creation, and try and leave it a better place than when we found it. So the environment is important for young people perhaps more than ever.

Sexuality

Today transgender and a variety of sexualities are more accepted. Does this contradict teachings in the Bible, for example in Lev 18:20 where it says "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable"? Chloe says: "I haven't heard much open discussion about this topic in the local church, but I know people have very different opinions." With these new issues and questions being asked I think we will have to look at the Bible differently and discuss how sexuality fits into Christianity. Naomi believes that we shouldn't take the entire Bible literally: "The Bible was written thousands of years ago and everything is open to interpretation." Others shared the view that the Bible should be read in context. Jacob also says: "In Matthew 7:12 it

states to love your neighbour as you love yourself which is the overriding command of everything from Jesus".

What about the future?

Naomi feels that Christianity is under more criticism nowadays. She thinks this is because of the diversity of beliefs in England and the lack of spiritual teaching for young people. Atheist families bring up non-religious children who have little reason to believe in God because these reasons are never shared with them, and the knowledge of Christianity they might have is limited. She goes on to say: "There is a lot less understanding now, and jokes and misinterpretations about Christianity are a difficulty for young people."

The youth group expressed interest in the Tech café being held in Aylsham Church which aims to give support and guidance to older people about how to use and solve problems with technology.

I went along to the event and was pleased to experience the intergenerational culture expressed there; the older generation teaching the younger and the young people giving knowledge to the old.

The church also increases its focus on teenagers and young people by holding youth groups and more informal services. "Being a Christian in the 21st century is more communal and social," says Naomi. The youth groups are definitely an inspiration for me in my spiritual journey, and other peoples' questions and ideas show me that I am not alone.

There are more opportunities for young people in church and this may be where the future lies for tackling challenges and supporting the younger generation. Having a place to meet friends and talk about issues is a valuable resource because young people might feel isolated and unable to share their struggles with their church or peers. Holding intergenerational community events could help the younger generation feel more involved in the church and their community.

I hope that this generation of young people can continue to discover and spread the message of love Christianity holds and that with these changing times, we can trust in God, as many people have done before us. We might find that our struggles now can be dissolved by looking into the past and uncovering guidance and wisdom which have helped countless people on their spiritual journeys. I think that if we see the opportunities in the new world and its people, we will be able to share the love of God and it will help us to understand the great gifts and experiences the younger generation, and all generations, have to offer.



Jamie is 13 years old and attends Aylsham High School. He goes to his local parish church. He is a scout who enjoys playing music on the piano and cornet.

Further ideas...

There are a range of excellent resources for young people, youth leaders and parents to help navigate our modern, changing world.



The Road

The Road have put Christianity under the microscope and begun to explore the facts about Jesus and the evidence surrounding all that he said and did. Pick a topic and dive in to make up your own mind about this man Jesus through a series of videos.

www.theroad-uk.com

KnowMyStory

A free online resource that looks at the real-life stories of UK young people who have wrestled with hurt, abuse, being wronged and finding the meaning of life. Telling personal stories through online videos, with Bible reflections and study tools.

www.knowmystory.co.uk



Seriously Awkward

Six youth group sessions on some of the most challenging issues that face young people today including identity, mental health, relationships, social media, vulnerability and making a difference.

www.childrenssociety.org.uk/seriously-awkward-youth-group-resources



Blue Fish TV

A range of video and supplementary resources answering the types of questions young people ask such as 'Why is there suffering?' and 'Does prayer really work?'

www.bluefishtv.com/Youth_Ministry



Ethos

A series of films for an emerging generation of young adults covering a wide range of topics looking at how God and the church can be relevant to young people today.

www.youtube.com/user/YFCYoungAdults



Raising Children in a Digital Age, by Bex Lewis (Lion Books)

Sound research, practical tips, and realistic advice on how to keep children safe online. Bex Lewis puts the Internet scare stories and distorted statistics into context and offers clear and sensible guidelines to help children thrive in the digital jungle.



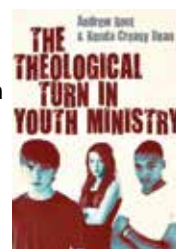
Books & DVDs available to borrow from the Diocesan Resource Centres in Easton & Loddon

Soul

Seven interactive sessions for young people to explore what Christians believe and uncover what the Bible says about the big issues in life. Nate Morgan Locke, youth evangelist at Christianity Explored, explains the gospel in a clear, compelling way and helps people to understand the identity, mission and call of Jesus.

The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry

The questions our youth have are often the same ones that perplexed the great theologians, driving them to search for God in the places God didn't appear to be – places of brokenness, suffering and confusion. Andrew Root and Kenda Creasy Dean address the deep questions of life with an adolescent mix of idealism, cynicism and prophetic intolerance for hypocrisy.



A Parent's Guide to Young People And Porn

A practical, realistic guide for parents wanting to talk to their young people about explicit material.



A Parent's Guide to Talking With Your Teenager About Sex

Straightforward advice to help parents talk about relationships and sex.

A Parent's Guide to Eating Disorders

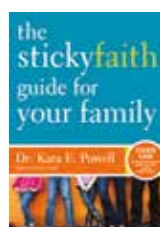
Short, practical guide to eating disorders, for parents and carers.

A Parent's Guide to Self-harm

Short practical guide for parents and carers.

The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family

Over 100 practical and tested ideas to build lasting faith in young people.





Florence Toplis

Hello, I am Florence, member of Aylsham Parish Church and I'm ten years old. I am a server for my church and I am a part of the youth group there. I am also very proud to be confirmed and write this article for The Magazine.



Why did you choose to get confirmed?

To further my part of such a lovely community. The work they do is amazing and I felt honoured to just be offered a small part of that. In Christianity, everyone plays a part. Not just the adults, or the teenagers, or the children, or the babies. Everyone has an important part to play and I liked that feeling. That strongly altered my decision in faith.

What was the process for confirmation like?

Exciting and intriguing. I have done lots of things to help me along. I have gone to various meetings held at my church and have been challenged to do 40 things during my prep! Things like reading (a bit of) the Bible every day for a week, learning the Lord's Prayer, saying grace, writing prayers, knowing the names of the four Gospels. All these things helped me in my journey to faith.

What were your feelings while taking the next step in your Christian journey?

I guess I was quite nervous about the responsibility I was taking on and I was worried about the commitment I was applying myself to. I knew, though, that I had friends and family who were always willing to help and were there for me.

How do you feel now you are actually confirmed?

I am excited about the things I can learn and do during my life through Christianity. I can connect more than ever now with Jesus and God. I can also bond more with not only my generation but other generations as well.

Was your journey hard, or did you pass it with flying colours?

I'd say in the middle of that range: it wasn't difficult but it wasn't like walking through water vapour either! I'd say it was more like walking through slime. A bit sticky on the way in some bits but I got there in the end. It was scary, a bit scary, too. I was meeting new people who I'd never seen before.

How did you come to faith?

My mum and dad first introduced me to Christ and I was baptised at just three months old. I have then carried on throughout my journey and have come on to confirmation and I hope that I will go far from there!

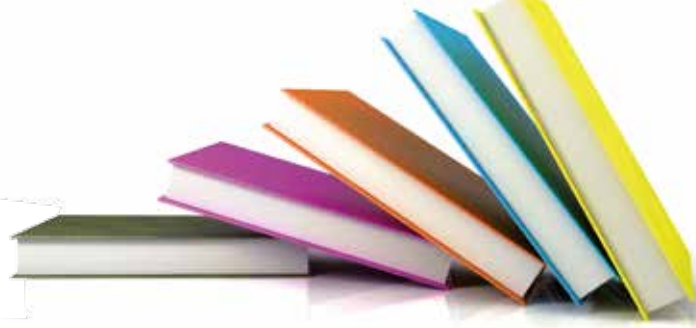
Why do you think the church is an important place for young people?

I think it is important because it can help young people to branch out, make new friends, have fun and open their hearts and mind to Christ. I think all this is important because it can help you to open up, not hide in a corner and be like a cobweb whom no-one likes.

“I can connect more than ever now with Jesus and God.”



Review



A selection of reviews of a variety of media by young people.

You're Made for a God-Sized Dream

Tammy Olley (18 yrs)



Holley Gerth reassures you that your dreams are not based on size, but based on the God-given desires in your heart. She wants you to discover the dreams God has given you then encourages you to overcome your fear and pursue them. Along the journey she gives you action plans and questions which will help you take the steps needed in order to make the desires in your heart a reality. This book is for people of any age. Forget fairy tales, if you have a dream and want to work out how to make it come true, give this book a read and follow God!

Got Questions?

Elizabeth Milne (15 yrs)



This is an online ministry: ask any question you like about Jesus, faith, the Bible etc. and they will email back the answer. They also have a wealth of answers in their archives to many other tricky questions. 412 teens is their outreach, aimed at young people. It works in a similar way to Got Questions? and also has articles that are relevant to the issues teens face today. They are both fantastic websites that help to share biblical truth in an encouraging, helpful and loving way.

www.gotquestions.org
www.412teens.org

Word for You

Molly Carroll (14 yrs)



I really enjoy using UCB's daily devotional aimed at young adults. Each passage is short but worthwhile, every one based on a Bible verse; they delve into spiritual truths that can relate to all of us. A "what now?" section challenges you to apply these truths throughout the day and week. Dotted throughout each issue are feature articles that follow a theme relevant to today's society. I also really like the prayer topic recommended for each week. The design is great and the topics really hit home, I find it a great way to dive into God's word every day.

www.ucb.co.uk

Identity

Hannah Payne (12 yrs)



Identity is a Youth Discipleship Course for school years 6,7 and 8 aimed to help young people transition to youth groups. The course has eight weekly sessions looking at different aspects of working out our place in God's kingdom and how we respond. The sessions offer a great place where we can meet together with God, make new and lasting friendships and express our LOVE for our Father. Every week there is great worship and interactive teaching; yummy treats; making a beautiful craft; a game; and a memory verse to take home to explore and remember.

Identity Resource Packs cost £20.
www.midnorfolkkidzklub.co.uk/identity

YouTube channels – Naomi Veira (17 yrs)

The Anima Series is a really helpful YouTube channel by an American speaker: Jon Jorgenson. He posts a range of videos, including Christian spoken word poems, seven-minute sermons, and a short Bible study called "A day in the word". He also has a side channel called *Jorgenfam* where he vlogs about his life with his wife, Erin, and their dog, Buckets. His videos are very uplifting, and cover a wide range of topics, as well as being quite short, so are great if you are very busy!

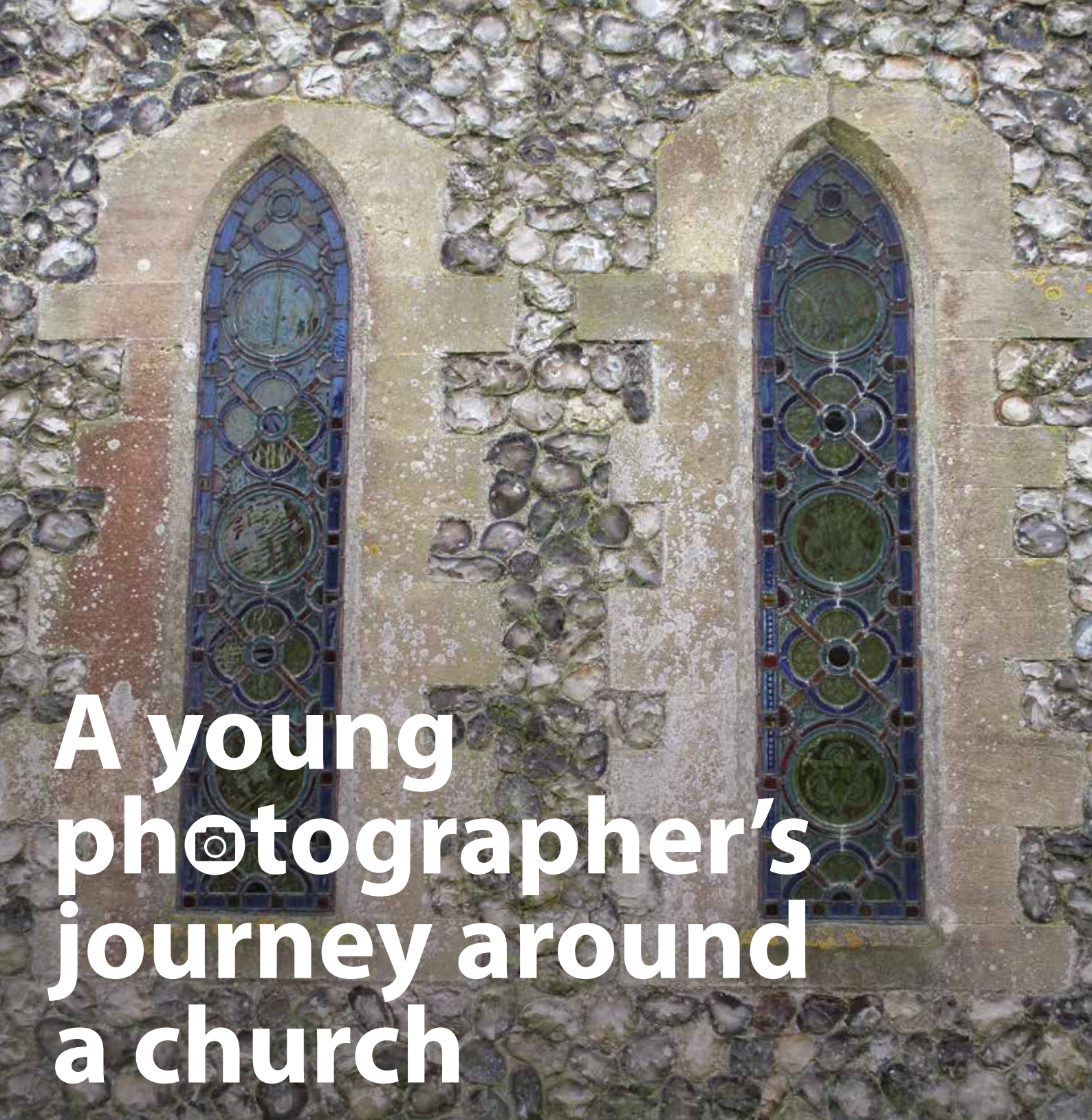
www.youtube.com/user/TheAnimaSeries – main channel
www.youtube.com/channel/UChh9zo3RT3Ey40P8Xa0HWvw – daily vlog

Another YouTube Channel which I think might help others consider a young person's faith and perspective is by Katie Gregoire, a Christian at university. She posts on a range of topics, including faith, university life, and relationships. It's very light hearted but also easy to relate to.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCf9v3ld1nebmePy0MYF_18g



YouTube



A young photographer's journey around a church

Lucy Thomas, aged 11, has two passions: drumming and photography. Here she shares her shots of a first-time visit to St Mary's, Burgh-next-Aylsham.

My Dad, who is an architect and also works with churches, took me on a trip one Sunday afternoon to see St Mary's because he likes it and now I like it too! The church is beautiful and I was taken by its grand theme of colours, cream and gold. All the photos remind me how grand Christianity is and how holy and special churches are.

I thought these two symmetrically patterned windows were beautiful and

centred them so they don't show from a strange angle like some of the other photos. They are sweet and simple. The chancel is the eastern part of the church and is home to the main altar.

Although it is not easy to see through these windows, they look pretty from the inside as the sun makes the colours glow. The flints around these windows fit perfectly together and create a brilliant and beautiful background for these windows.

This is one of the same chancel windows, but at an interesting angle. I love the reflection of the burning sun above on the glass and the strange, upward angle of this photo as if you are gazing up at it.

The flints look smoother and clustered together from this angle and the whole picture looks smooth and simple, but pretty. This is probably my favourite picture.

“The church is beautiful and I was taken by its grand theme of colours, cream and gold.”

This door leads into and from the nave which is the main body of the church. I loved this door for its beauty: as if from a fairy tale. The flints around the arch of stone are clustered together and are a perfect backdrop to the door.

The dark wooden planks of the door are laid vertically inside the arched stone frame. An elegant round knob is fixed to the handle.



This is an attractive view across the nave. The flowers are beautiful and remind me of Spring. I love it because of the flowers particularly, but this church is especially pretty I think with its cream and gold colours.

The bright cluster of flowers set against the wall catches your attention. The sun spills through the high windows that are arched with cream coloured stone.



The dynamic shadows of the church and the cross make this a striking view. I loved the angle: as if looking up to this magnificent cross with the blinding sun above. Beautiful.

The setting of the church is the graveyard and this one was an ocean of snowdrops. This is where most people are buried. It is quiet and peaceful. I love it.

This is the jutting angle of the nave from the outside. This is an interesting upwards view of the two walls and windows up above. I love it because of its unusual composition.



The sky above is a brilliant background for the picture and is a deeper colour than the sky in the other pictures.

This is an intriguing angle for a photo and these walls are very interesting in the way they jut out.



This is a chancel window shown from inside the church. If you look closely you can see intricate designs on the arches of stone. I love this window and the view it was shown from.

This elegant window sends a beam of sunlight through the shadowed walls inside the church. It is against a plain wall and framed by arches of stone.



Young Vocations – called to ministry

By Jack Branford

It all started shortly after my nineteenth birthday. I was in the pub listening to a friend who was having a tough time when he said something very strange to me, 'Jack, you would make a great vicar!' At first I didn't think very much of it but a few days later another friend said the same thing. Over the next 12 months numerous friends, an uncle, my mother, grandmother and even a priest uttered the same thought. Slowly, I began to think that God was trying to tell me something.

Ordained ministry was not something that I had ever considered before. I had not grown up in a churchgoing family and I had only been attending church myself for about two years. I turned to God in prayer for guidance and I began to feel an increasing sense of being 'inwardly moved' (to quote the Deacon's Ordination Service). My heart just seemed to beat a little faster when I thought about the priesthood.

I went to see my vicar and to my surprise he too affirmed this growing sense of calling in my life. At the time, I was attending a large charismatic evangelical church in Sheffield and the vicar advised me to gain experience of churches from other Anglican traditions. So when I

returned home to Norfolk during the university holidays I started to attend a small, rural parish, with Book of Common Prayer services. It was about as different to my usual church as you could possibly imagine but I loved it. I remember vividly one Sunday sitting in that church watching the priest preside at the Eucharist and feeling at that moment that there was nothing I would rather do than be a priest.

After University, I became a Youth and Children's worker for a church in Hertfordshire and after settling in there I began to explore my sense of vocation formally with the relevant people in St Albans Diocese. This formal process of discernment took about a year. It involved a lot of reading, writing, self-reflection and interviews but it was an incredibly formative experience.

At the end of this process I was approved by a Bishops' Advisory Panel and I began training at Westcott House in Cambridge. I had a wonderful three years in Cambridge. I learnt a huge amount and made some very good friends who will hopefully help sustain my ministry for years to come.



In my final year at Westcott the time came to start thinking about curacy. After much prayerful consideration I felt that God was calling me back to Norfolk. Thanks, in no small part, to David Foster (Bishop's Officer for Ordinands in the Diocese) this was made possible and I was ordained Deacon at Norwich Cathedral in July 2016. I am currently serving my curacy in the Aylsham and District Team Ministry and after eight months in the job I can safely say that it is everything I hoped it would be. God is good.

Could God be calling you to be ordained?

Find out more at www.callwaiting.org.uk or contact Young Vocation Champion Helen Rengert helen.rengert@dioceseofnorwich.org 01603 763695.



Charlotte Snell

– Member of Youth Parliament

The alarm goes off at 8am. I sit up, open the curtains and thank God for the day ahead. Today I have a busy day with the Norfolk Youth Parliament as I will be meeting with my local MP, Chloe Smith, attending the Shelf Help Launch and a meeting about the Make Your Mark Ballot.

I was elected as an MYP (Member of Youth Parliament) in March 2016. I hadn't expected to get elected, however it has led to me thinking more about going into politics in the future – something I feel strongly called to do. I think it's extremely important to do the best for other people; for me that's representing the views of young people in Norwich North.

I meet Chloe in the Forum at 10am. It's the first time we've met and we discuss how she might be able to help me with my role, for example getting me in contact with other people, and she gives me some handy tips.

After lunch it is off to the library to attend the launch of a scheme called Shelf Help. It's a selection of non-fiction and fiction books for teenagers that have topics concerning mental health and wellbeing ranging from stress to mental health illnesses to bullying; all the sorts of problems teenagers face. The launch is a success as we have young people come as well as adults from schools and Norfolk County Council. Shelf Help ties in well with our Mental Health Campaign to promote positive mental health and inform young people.

Then it's time for an afternoon-break and a chance to reflect on the day so far. I think about how great an experience this has been and what it means to me as a Christian. I particularly agree with the words of Isaiah 58:6,

"Free those who are wrongly imprisoned, lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people".



Photos: © UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor



While I am only 16, I cannot make a massive impact in government, however I can do my bit. I feel that by being in the Youth Parliament and representing the worries and concerns of my friends and peers, I am 'doing my bit' to the best of my ability.

After my break I go to a meeting with my fellow MYPs. There are nine of us in total and we represent the nine constituencies of Norfolk. We are meeting to share the results of the Make Your Mark Ballot. This is a vote by young people to decide what the UK Youth Parliament will campaign



on over the coming year. The top three topics for Norfolk are: 'Curriculum to Prepare Us for Life'; 'Mental Health' and 'Stop Cuts that affect the NHS'.

I end the day with a prayer of thanks that I can make a difference.

If you'd like to get in contact with me, my email is: charlottesnellmyp@gmail.com

For more about the UK Youth Parliament: www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk





A student in search of a church

By Ada Jones

I am a first year Occupational Therapy student at the University of East Anglia. My family is from London and I have been part of my home church, The Bear, for around 11 years. I was very sad to leave back in September.

As a slightly terrified fresher, I joined the UEA Christian Union in the first week. It felt like such a safe and welcoming place to go to as I tackled the rollercoaster that was starting university. I also have a Christian flat-mate who I went to the first few meetings with which really helped with the social side of joining a new community. Being a part of the Christian Union has majorly shaped my university experience as I have found some great friends and formed some really close bonds in the short time that I have been in Norwich.

One of the hardest things has been leaving my home church: my main body of support. As well as missing my friends I miss the older role models; their constant guidance and support as I try to settle into university. At university you are constantly surrounded by 18 to 21 year-olds and sometimes you want to chat to someone a little older to give you a bit of wisdom and encouragement. When I have visited churches in Norwich I have loved having conversations with people who reminded me of my youth leaders at The Bear.

I am still 'shopping around' for a church, which I know in March may seem a little late but I am determined to find one which I feel like I can fit into. Student life does have its challenges when deciding to get up early on Sunday sometimes feels

like the last thing I want to do! I have also found the thought of going to a church where I know absolutely nobody really daunting.

Having visited a few churches over the past few months I have noticed a few things that a church can do which can really help. The welcome on arrival is so important as you feel that you are stepping into the unknown; so if someone starts a genuine conversation with you it can really help the nerves. It's also really good to know a little about what the church believes in and what their main visions are so welcome desks for newcomers can be really helpful in terms of working out if the church is for you.

Student meals can be really great as well, as it allows us to get to know each

other a bit and can help with the social side of things, although I appreciate that these are costly and not always easy to facilitate. I guess the most important thing that everyone in a congregation can do is make someone feel welcome because students need all the support they can get.

So, university can be hard and I couldn't have got through this first year without my faith so I would encourage any new student to join their Christian Union, to keep them grounded in their faith, and take their time finding a church.

Find out more about how you or your church can support students:

www.uccf.org.uk or

www.fusion.uk.com/churches





What is the meaning of love?

In one of my favourite parts of the Bible, 1 John 4:7, it says, 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.'

It speaks to me deeply that we can know how God loves us and others, simply through 'loving' them, and that when we love people properly, whatever that looks like, it brings us closer to him.

This is not to say that the love of God is like the love we receive from other people. In what is probably one of the most quoted parts of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, we get a pretty good description of God's perfect love for us: patient, kind, trusting, unfailing, humble, forgiving.

“One of my favourite ways to 'love' other people is through cups of tea. There aren't many situations where a cup of tea goes unwanted.”

His love for us isn't fickle, it doesn't change with the seasons, or when we change after-school clubs. It doesn't falter when we mess up, again and again. It goes on and on and on, there for us always.

The unfortunate truth is that we, not being God, often fall short in loving others properly, and we can't ever truly love like our Father loves us – to think we could would be greatly underestimating his wonder.

Early on in my walk with God, I was prone to thinking that loving other people meant constantly showering them with affection, telling them near on every second how much I loved them, without doing anything for them. This isn't loving people as Christ calls me to love them (it's usually irritating them!) because Christ calls us to love like he does.

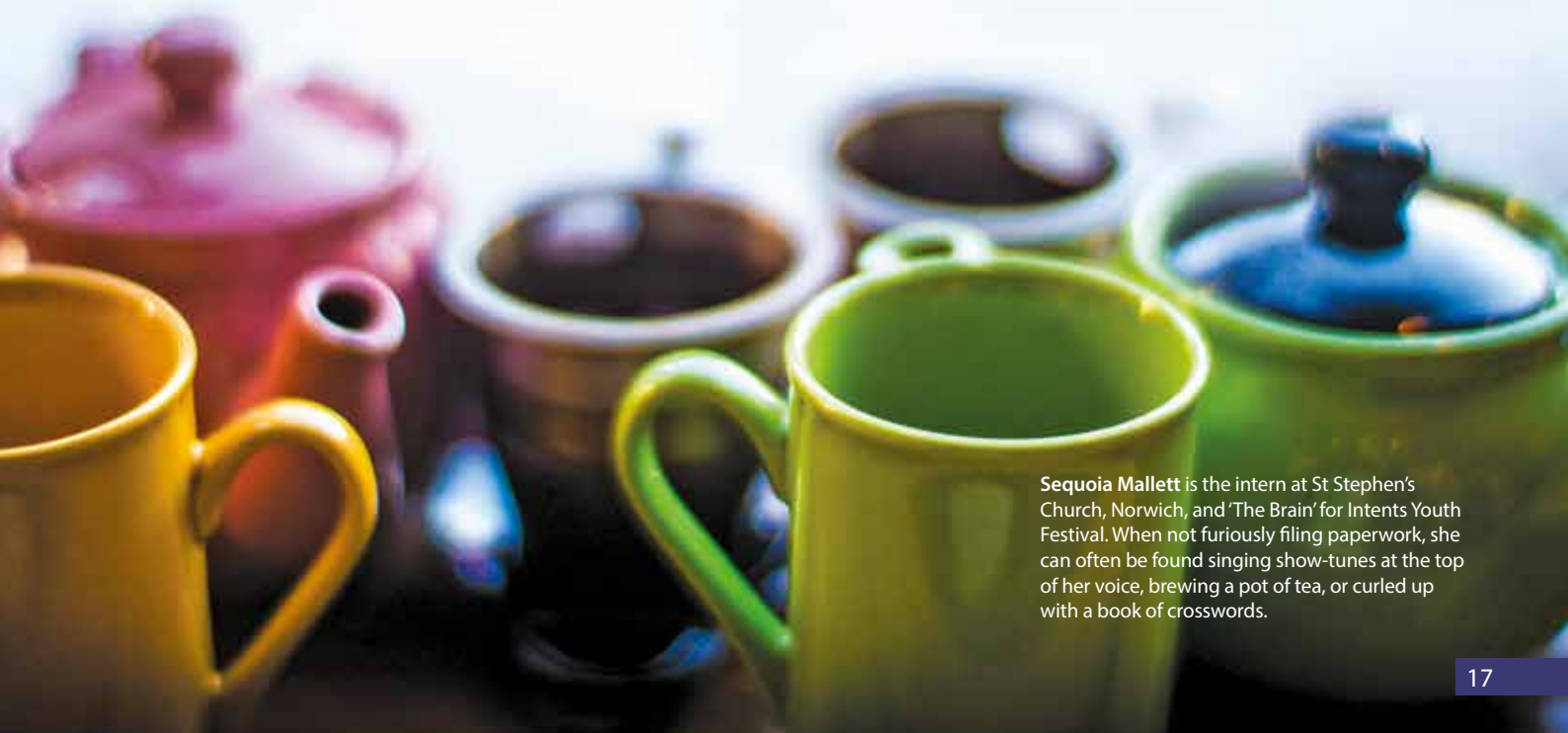
The meaning of love, and 'living in love' is far greater than words. Love, it seems to me, is making the conscious choice, no matter the cost, to see someone better off, in a mirror of Jesus on the cross, making the ultimate sacrifice to see us saved, so that we may know the Father's love for us.

One of my favourite ways to 'love' other people is through cups of tea. There aren't many situations where a cup of tea goes unwanted, but there are times when it is exactly what's needed, and wordlessly producing one, and leaving it, without expectation, next to whoever needs it, is a great way to let them know they're loved.

Loved by me? Sure, but also, that they're loved by God. The act of love, seeing the need for tea and fulfilling it, whilst seemingly miniscule, reminds that person that they are important, worth taking care of, and cherished, and that is how God loves us.

If the meaning of love is to show how God loved us through the cross and loves us still, showing people they matter and that they're worth making the effort for, is at the core of that.

I like to think of it this way: God is constantly waiting by the kettle for us, and knows exactly what we need, before we even tell him. He is always ready to show us how much he loves us, whenever we need to receive it, and knowing that makes it impossible not to share it with others – however they like their tea.



Sequoia Mallett is the intern at St Stephen's Church, Norwich, and 'The Brain' for Intents Youth Festival. When not furiously filing paperwork, she can often be found singing show-tunes at the top of her voice, brewing a pot of tea, or curled up with a book of crosswords.

My cathedral life: Lucy Thalange

My parents started taking me to Norwich Cathedral when I was three years old so naturally Sunday school was the highlight for me. I also enjoyed people-watching, and at communion I noticed that it was only the people that put their hands out who got the bread. I was hungry so every week I would put my hands out to see if I could get some bread but the priests saw right through me and gave me a blessing instead.

One week, when I was about 11, I noticed one of my friends from Sunday school being an acolyte (although at this point I thought it was pronounced 'alcolyte' which suggests a slightly different role). I wanted

to help during services like she did, so I got my parents to talk to the Canon Pastor at the time to see if I could have confirmation lessons. Each Saturday morning for two months I, and another girl I became friends with, learnt more about how the services worked and looked more closely at the teachings of the Bible.

Getting confirmed was definitely a turning point for me as a member of the cathedral community. I was much more aware of Christianity as a part of my life and now understood why everything was done in a certain way. Becoming an acolyte also gave me a sense of purpose. The Dean also asked me to meet and give flowers to the Queen when she came to open the Hostry.

This clear acceptance into the cathedral community gave me more confidence to socialise after the services and I made friends with some of the older members of the congregation.

At 14 I joined the Cathedral Girls' Choir as did one of my childhood friends (purely by coincidence). Not only did it bring us closer but we both made lots of new friends who I'm sure we'll stay in contact with for years to come. My friend wasn't particularly religious so I really enjoyed seeing her fall in love with music I'd been listening to all my life (and now she's even thinking about getting confirmed). This was another turning point for me as I had done a lot of choral singing before but not in a way that involved giving back to a community that had helped me grow.

Being members of the Cathedral Girls' Choir helped both of us grow as musicians and has shown me a new way to be a part of the cathedral community. As if it were all some sort of mystic cycle my friend from Sunday school became Head Chorister and a year later my childhood friend and I became Co-Head Choristers. This is our last year before we leave home and it's safe to say we're already missing it.

I honestly couldn't have dreamt of a better experience as a member of the cathedral community. I have seen the cathedral change and grow just as the cathedral has seen me change and grow. I have been encouraged to take every step that I did and introduced to new paths I didn't know existed, so all that's left to say is "thank you".

Photo: © Paul Hurst all rights reserved




NORWICH
CATHEDRAL

Prayer Calendar

May 2017

Mon 1

FLEGG GROUP (MARTHAM): Clippesby, Martham, Repps, Thurne. Clergy: Karen Rayner, Sandy Mitchell. Reader: Alison McTaggart.

Our Archdeacons, John Ashe, Steven Betts and Karen Hutchinson, and for the Archdeacon's Charge and Picnic taking place at Wolterton Hall today.

Diocese of Nasik (North India): Bishop Pradip Kamble.

Tue 2

FLEGG GROUP (ORMESBY): Ormesby St Margaret, Ormesby St Michael, Rollesby. Clergy: Mandy Bishop. Reader: Margaret Parish.

For the Cathedral's three new Ecumenical Canons: David Paul, Julian Purchasehouse and Jon Norman.

Dioceses of Natal, Natal North West and Natal South (Southern Africa). Bishops Dino Gabriel, Tsietse Edward Seleokane and Hummingfield Ndwandwe.

Wed 3

GORLESTON ST ANDREW: Cliff Park Community Church, Gorleston St Andrew Clergy: Brian Hall, Mike Simm. Readers: Patricia Kane, Melvyn Reid, Wendy Bircham, Mary Ives, Tracy Mayne.

Diocesan Secretary, Richard Butler and his PA, Gemma Bradley.

Diocese of Nassau and The Bahamas (West Indies): Bishop Laish Boyd.

Thu 4

GORLESTON ST MARY MAGDALENE: Clergy: Linda Ricketts. Peterhouse CofE Primary Academy (Gorleston).

Diocesan House receptionists, Sally Finn and Julie Turner.

Diocese of Namibia (Southern Africa): Bishops Nataanael Nakwatumba and Petrus Hilukiluah.

Fri 5

GREAT YARMOUTH TEAM MINISTRY: Clergy: Simon Ward (Team Rector designate), Grant Bolton-Debbage, Jemma Sander-Heys, Frank Cliff. Readers: Pat Stringer, Carolyn Cliff, Michael Gibbs. St Nicholas Priory CofE VA Primary.

The Diocesan Board of Finance chaired by Bill Husseby.

The Indigenous Peoples of the Anglican Church of Canada and their bishop, Mark MacDonald.

Sat 6

THE SOUTH TRINITY BROADS: The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Reader: Judy Pritchard. Fleggburgh CofE VC Primary School.

Director of Finance, Susan Bunting, and Management Accountant, Michael Hibbin.

Diocese of Navajoland (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop David Bailey.

Sun 7

BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)

Our Mission Strategy and every parish across this diocese as we seek fresh imagination from God for the tasks and opportunities before us.

Diocese of Ndokwa (Nigeria): Bishop David Obiosa.

Wed 24

HOLT: Clergy: Howard Stoker, Stephen Graham. Reader: John Allen.

Education Support Officer, Louise Reeves.

Diocese of Niger Delta West (Nigeria): Bishop Emmanuel Oko-Jaja.

Thu 25

STIFFKEY AND BALE: Bale, Binham, Field Dalling, Gunthorpe, Langham Episcopi, Morston, Saxlingham, Sharrington, Stiffkey Clergy: Ian Whittle.

The three 'beacon' events across our diocese today - at Norwich Cathedral and the Minsters at King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth - as they launch our response to "Thy Kingdom Come, 2017" and for Christian communities across the globe beginning these ten days of focused prayer.

Fri 26

WEYBOURNE GROUP: Bodham, East with West Beckham, Kelling, Salthouse, Upper Sheringham, Weybourne. Clergy: Phil Blamire. Reader: John Arkell.

Kelling CofE VA Primary School.

Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT): Executive Officer, Paul Dunning, and PA, Hannah Bannister.

Diocese of The Niger Delta, (Nigeria): Bishop Ralph Ebirien.

Sat 27

DEANERY OF HUMBLEYARD: Rural Dean: Paul Burr. Lay Chair: Vivienne Clifford-Jackson. DNEAT Finance Team: David Hicks and Imogen Cox.

Diocese of Niger West (Nigeria): Bishop Johnson Ekwe

Sun 28

BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)

The United Reformed Church: Eastern Synod Moderator, Paul Whittle.

Diocese of Nike (Nigeria): Bishop Evans Jonathan Ibeagha

Mon 29

CRINGLEFORD: Colney, Cringleford. Clergy: Graham Wilkins. Reader: Shirley Wood. Cringleford CofE VA Primary School.

The ministry of our retired clergy and Readers. Today's National Pilgrimage at Walsingham.

Diocese of Nnewi (Nigeria): Bishop Godwin Okpala.

Tue 30

HETHERSETT: Great Melton, Hethersett, Little Melton. Clergy: Derek McClean. Reader: Harold Kerslake. Hethersett CofE VC Junior School.

DNEAT Improvement Director, Simon Morley, and Governance Manager, Jill Wakefield.

Diocese of Nord Kivu (Congo): Bishops Muhindo Isesomo and Enoch Kayeeye.

Wed 31

HIGH OAK, HINGHAM, SCOULTON W WOOD RISING: Clergy: Colin Reed. Readers: Jean Batchelor, Dale Southall. Morley CofE VA Primary School.

DNEAT Operations Manager, Sharon Money, and Business Manager, Jenny Pringle.

Diocese of North Ankole (Uganda): Bishop Stephen Namanya.

Editor: The Revd Susanna Gunner, Bishop's Chaplain - 01603 614172, bishops.chaplain@dioceseofnorwich.org

Mon 8	<p>DEANERY OF HEACHAM AND RISING: Rural Dean: Jonathan Riviere. Lay Chair: Wendy Leedham.</p> <p>Norwich Cathedral: its mission and ministry and, in particular, tonight's talk by Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid.</p> <p>Diocese of Nebbi (Uganda): Bishop Alphonse Watho-kudi.</p>
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Tue 9	<p>CASTLE RISING: Clergy: Jonathan Riviere.</p> <p>WISpire and Spire Support Services: Les Bailey and Rachael Lamb.</p> <p>Dioceses of Nebraska and Nevada (Episcopal Church of the USA): Bishops Scott Barker and Dan Edwards.</p>
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Wed 10	<p>DERSINGHAM, ANMER, INGOLDISTHORPE & SHERBORNE: Clergy: Mark Capron. Readers: Neil Adams, Alan Crawshaw, Kathleen Terry. Dersingham CofE VA Primary School & Nursery, Ingoldisthorpe CofE VA Primary School.</p> <p>Diocesan Accounts Team: James South, Lina Wiseman, Sam Witton and Ben Tooke.</p> <p>Diocese of Nelson (Aotearoa NZ and Polynesia): Bishop Victor Richard Ellena.</p>
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Thu 11	<p>DOCKING, THE BIRCHAMS, FRING, STANHOE WITH BARWICK, BAGTHORPE AND SEDGEFORD: Clergy: Peter Cook, Richard Collier. Reader: George Eve.</p> <p>Docking CofE Primary School.</p> <p>Parish Funding Support Officers: Geoff Freeman and Robert Culyer.</p> <p>Diocese of New Busa (Nigeria): Bishop Israel Amoo.</p>
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Fri 12	<p>THE WESTERN SHORE TEAM MINISTRY: Heacham and Snettisham. Clergy: Veronica Wilson, Paul Niemiec. Readers: Margaret Asprey, Jennifer Sparks, Pip Lawrence, Penelope Sutton.</p> <p>Today's Prayer Pilgrimage around Humbleyard Deanery.</p> <p>Diocese of The New Guinea Islands (Papua New Guinea): Bishop Allan Migi.</p>
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Sat 13	<p>HILLINGTON: Clergy: Jonathan Riviere.</p> <p>All parish treasurers and deanery assessors.</p> <p>Diocese of New Hampshire (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Robert Hirschfeld.</p>
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Sun 14	<p>BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)</p> <p>On this Lulleå Sunday, we pray for God's blessing on our link diocese in Sweden, for our mutual flourishing and particularly today for the Deanery of Piteå and for its Rural Dean, Helen Lundberg.</p> <p>Diocese of New Jersey (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop William Stokes.</p>
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Mon 15	<p>HUNSTANTON ST EDMUND: Hunstanton, Ringstead. Clergy: John Bloomfield, James Monro.</p> <p>For God's blessing on this Christian Aid Week and on all collectors and fundraisers.</p> <p>Dioceses of New Westminster and Niagara (Canada): Bishops Melissa Skelton and Michael Allan Bird.</p>
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Tue 16	<p>SANDRINGHAM: Fitcham, Sandringham, Wolferton. Clergy: Jonathan Riviere, Paul Gismondi. Readers: Paul Ringwood, Frances Stanton. Fitcham CofE Primary Academy. Sandringham & West Newton CofE VA Primary School.</p> <p>Diocesan Property Committee chaired by David Richardson.</p> <p>Diocese of New York (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishops Andrew Dietsche, Allen Shin and William Franklin.</p>
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Wed 17	<p>SAXON SHORE: Brancaster, Burnham Deepdale, Holme-next-the-Sea, Hunstanton St Mary, Thornham, Titchwell. Clergy: Susan Bowden-Pickstock. Brancaster CofE VA Primary School.</p> <p>Today's meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance Executive and Bishop's Council.</p> <p>Diocese of Newala (Tanzania): Bishop Oscar Mnung'a.</p>
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Thu 18	<p>DEANERY OF HOLT: Rural Dean: Jeremy Sykes. Lay Chair: Carolyn Sexton.</p> <p>For those being confirmed tonight at St Faith's Gaywood.</p> <p>Diocese of Newark (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Mark Beckwith.</p>
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Fri 19	<p>MATLASKE: Baconsthorpe, Barningham Winter, Hemstead , Matlaske, Plumstead, Edgefield, Saxthorpe with Corpusly. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.</p> <p>Glebe Committee chaired by Michael Falcon: Glebe Surveyor, Hannah Paybody.</p> <p>Diocese of Newcastle (England): Bishops Christine Hardman and Mark Tanner.</p>
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Sat 20	<p>BRININGHAM: Briningham, Brinton, Hunworth, Stody, Swanton Novers, Thornage</p> <p>The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Reader: Jennie Critchley</p> <p>Diocesan Board of Education chaired by Mark Allbrook.</p> <p>Diocese of Newcastle (Australia): Bishops Greg Thompson and Peter Stuart.</p>
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Sun 21	<p>BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)</p> <p>The Baptist Church: Richard Lewis, Regional Minister.</p> <p>Diocese of Ngbo (Nigeria): Bishop Christian Ebisike</p>
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Mon 22	<p>BRISTON: Briston, Burgh Parva, Hindolveston, Melton Constable. Clergy: Jeremy Sykes. Reader: Carolyn Sexton.</p> <p>Director of Education, Andy Mash, and all involved in the ministry of our church schools.</p> <p>Diocese of Niassa (S. Africa): Bishops Vicente Msossa and Manuel Ernesto.</p>
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Tue 23	<p>GLAVEN VALLEY (BLAKENEY): Blakeney, Cley-next-the-Sea, Glandford, Letheringsett, Wivelton. Clergy: Libby Dady. Reader: Paul Veltch. Blakeney CofE VA Primary School.</p> <p>Education Office Manager, Holly Davy.</p> <p>Diocese of Niger Delta North (Nigeria): Archbishop Ignatius Kattey.</p>
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Fri 23

CORTON: Corton, Hopton. Clergy: Roger Key. Corton CofE VA Primary School, Hopton CofE VA Primary School.
The ministry of our retired clergy and Readers.
Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island (Canada): Bishop Ronald Wayne Cutler.

Sat 24

GUNTON (NR LOWESTOFT): Gunton St Peter. Clergy: Trevor Riess.
PlayVan Development Worker, Lesley Gurney.
Diocese of Nsukka (Nigeria): Bishop Aloysius Agbo.

Birth of John the Baptist

Sun 25

BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)
The Religious Society of Friends: Area Representative, David Saunders.
Diocese of Nyahururu (Kenya): Bishops Stephen Kabora and Jacob Lesuuda.

Trinity 2

Mon 26

KESSINGLAND: Gisleham, Kessingland, Rushmere. Clergy: Janet Wyer. Reader: Doreen Cowie. Kessingland CofE Primary Academy.
For all those being confirmed tonight at Winterton.
Diocese of Nzara (Sudan): Bishop Samuel Enosa Peni.

Tue 27

SAINT PETER AND SAINT JOHN KIRKLEY: Kirkley with Lowestoft Saint John. Clergy: Eoin Buchanan.
For all in our diocese training to be Readers and for Charles Read, Director of Reader Training.
Diocese of Offa (Nigeria): Bishop Akintunde Popoola.

Wed 28

LOWESTOFT CHRIST CHURCH: Clergy: Matthew Payne. Readers: Trevor Houghton, Peter Williams.
All those on retreat at Ditchingham this week in preparation for their Ordinations this weekend.
Diocese of Ogbaru (Nigeria): Bishop Samuel Ezeofor.

Thu 29

LOWESTOFT ST ANDREW: Clergy: Damon Rogers, Nicholas Klorides
Bishop's Officer for Ordinands and Initial Training, David Foster, and assistant, Margaret Mallett.
Diocese of Ogbia (Nigeria): Bishop James Oruwori.

Saints Peter and Paul

Fri 30

LOWESTOFT ST MARGARET: Lowestoft St Margaret, Oulton Community Church. Clergy: Michael Asquith. Lay Workers: Paul McDonough. Readers: Gerda Buckley, Alan Llewellyn.
For all in training on the Eastern Region Ministry Course and its Principal, Alex Jensen.
Diocese of Ogbomosho (Nigeria): Bishop Matthew Osunade.

Editor: The Revd Susanna Gunner, Bishop's Chaplain - 01603 614172, bishops.chaplain@dioceseofnorwich.org

Prayer Calendar

June 2017

Thu 1

MULBARTON: Bracon Ash, Flordon, Hethel, Mulbarton. Clergy: Adrian Miller, Andrew North.
Schools Project Development Officer, Graham Copsey.
Diocese of North Carolina (The Episcopal Church of USA), its Assistant Bishop, William Gregg and the fruitful search for a new Diocesan Bishop.

Fri 2

SWARDESTON: East Carleton, Intwood, Ketteringham, Swardeston. Clergy: Paul Burr. Reader: Peter Worby
Lay Development Officer, Paul Overend, and assistant, Liz Dawes.
Diocese of North Central Philippines: Bishop Joel Atiwag Pachao.

Sat 3

UPPER TAS VALLEY: Fundenhall, Upper Tas Valley All Saints. Clergy: Suzanne Cooke. Readers: Michael Boxall, John Hooper, Margaret Styles. Forncett St Peter, Hapton and Tacolneston CofE VA Primary Schools, and Wreningham CofE VC Primary School.
IT Administrative Assistant, James Hodson.
Diocese of North Dakota (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Michael Smith.

Sun 4

BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)
On this Pentecost Sunday which is also Environment Sunday, pray that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, all Christians may strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
Diocese of North East India: Bishop Michael Herenz.

Pentecost

Mon 5

WYMONDHAM W SILFIELD AND SPOONER ROW Clergy: Catherine Relf-Pennington, Andrew Slater. Lay Worker: Ruth Brett.
Our Archdeacons: John Ashe, Steven Betts and Karen Hutchinson.
Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies): Bishop Leroy Brooks.

Tue 6

DEANERY OF INGWORTH Rural Dean: Andrew Beane. Lay Chair: Angela Quinn.
Youth and Children's Forum chaired by the Bishop of Lynn.
Diocese of North Karamoja (Uganda): Bishop James Nasak.

Wed 7

COLTISHALL: Coltishall, Frettenham, Hainford, Horstead, Stratton Strawless.
Clergy: Chris Engelsen, Keith Dignum. Readers: Nora Hall, Clifford Self. Aylsham St Michael's CofE VC Nursery & Infant School, Cawston CofE Primary Academy.
Today's meeting of Bishop's Staff.
Diocese of Cochin (South India): Bishop Baker Ninan Fenn.

<div> <div>Thu 8</div> <div> <p>AYLSHAM & DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY : Aylsham, Badersfield, Blickling, Brampton, Burgh-next-Aylsham, Buxton with Oxnead, Cawston with Booton & Brandiston , Haveringham, Heydon, Lammass, Marsham, Oulton SS Peter and Paul, Wickmere w Wolterton, Ifteringham w Mannington and Little Barningham. Clergy: Andrew Beane, Jack Branford, Deb Cousins, David Hagan-Palmer, Andrew Whitehead. Readers: David Martin, Joy Taylor, Liz Dawes, Kandi Kamnoun. Hainford CofE VC Primary School.</p> <p>The mission and ministry of The Horstead Centre, its Board of Trustees and Manager, Josie Barnett.</p> <p>Diocese of North Kigezi and North Mbale (Uganda): Bishops Patrick Tugume-Tusingwire and Samuel Gidudu.</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Fri 9</div> <div> <p>SCARROWECK GROUP (ERPINGHAM) : Alby, Aldborough, Calthorpe, Erpingham, Ingworth, Thwaite All Saints. Clergy: Paul Thomas. Readers: Ian Andrews, Helen Burrell, Angela Parkes, Colin Willis. Erpingham CofE VC Primary School</p> <p>Norwich Cathedral: its mission and ministry.</p> <p>Diocese of North Queensland (Australia): Bishops William Ray and Saibo Mabo.</p> <p>Diocese of North West Australia: Bishop Gary Nelson.</p> </div> </div>
<div> <div>Sat 10</div> <div> <p>For all involved in pastoral reorganisation, that transitions may be smooth and newly-formed benefices thrive.</p> <p>The Horstead Centre's administrative team, Elaine Cissell and Louisa Taylor, and Senior Instructor, Chris Martlew.</p> <p>Diocese of Northern Argentina: Bishops Nicholas Drayson, Mateo Alto, Urbano Duarte and Cristiano Rojas.</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Sun 11</div> <div> <p>BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)</p> <p>The Deanery of Skelletteå in our link diocese of Luleå and its Rural Dean, Carina Wikman.</p> <p>Diocese of Northern California (Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Barry Beisner.</p> </div> </div>
<div> <div>Mon 12</div> <div> <p>DEANERY OF LODDON Rural Dean: David Owen. Lay Chair: John Lowrey</p> <p>Children, Youth and Families Manager, Jonathan Richardson.</p> <p>Diocese of Northern Indiana (Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Edward Little. (trans.)</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Tue 13</div> <div> <p>BRAMERTON GROUP MINISTRY (ROCKLAND) : Bramerton, Carleton St Peter, Claxton, Kirby Bedon, Rockland St Mary, Surlingham. Clergy: John Shaw, Mandy Ansell, Wendy Shaw. Readers: Hubert Hedge, Evelyn Hedge.</p> <p>'Imagine Norfolk Together' Development Workers. Anna Heydon and Andrew Frere-Smith. Diocese of Northern Izon (Nigeria): Bishop Fred Nyanabo.</p> </div> </div>
<div> <div>Wed 14</div> <div> <p>CHET VALLEY : Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley, Loddon, Sisland. Clergy: David Owen, Alison Bail, Jill Haylock, Ros Hoffmann. Reader: Belinda Barwick.</p> <p>Alpington & Bergh Apton CofE and Thurton CofE Primary Schools.</p> <p>For all parish youth workers and the Youth Task Force chaired by Peter Leech.</p> <p>Diocese of the Northern Philippines: Bishops Brent Alawas and Miguel Yamoyam.</p> </div> </div>	

<div> <div>Thu 15</div> <div> <p>BRAMERTON GROUP MINISTRY (THURTON): Ashby St Mary, Bergh Apton, Framingham Pigot, Thurton, Yelverton. Clergy: Chris Ellis. Reader: Gillian Stevens.</p> <p>Corpus Christi</p> <p>For all Sunday School teachers and children's workers and for the Children's Task Force chaired by Louise Alder.</p> <p>Diocese of Northern Malawi: Bishop Fanuel Emmanuel Magangani.</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Fri 16</div> <div> <p>PORINGLAND : Framingham Earl, Howe, Poringland. Clergy: Robert Parsonage, Debbie Driver.</p> <p>At the beginning of Refugee Week, pray for the millions who have been forced by violence or hunger to leave their homes and for a wise and compassionate response to their needs.</p> <p>Diocese of Northern Michigan (Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Rayford Ray.</p> </div> </div>
<div> <div>Sat 17</div> <div> <p>RAVENINGHAM GROUP : Aideby, Burgh St Peter, Haddiscoe, Norton Subcourse, Raveningham, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, Thurton, Toft Monks, Wheatacre. Clergy: Nick Will. Reader: Denston Anderson</p> <p>Chaplain to the UEA, Darren Thornton, and his ecumenical colleagues.</p> <p>Diocese of Northern Luzon (Philippines), its clergy and people as they await the appointment of a new bishop.</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Sun 18</div> <div> <p>BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)</p> <p>The Salvation Army: Commanders of the Anglia Division, Derek and Susan Jones.</p> <p>Diocese of The Northern Territory, (Australia): Bishop Greg Anderson.</p> </div> </div>
<div> <div>Mon 19</div> <div> <p>VENTA GROUP : Arminghall, Caistor St Edmund, Stoke Holy Cross Clergy: Rob Baker. Reader: Lyn Marsh</p> <p>The Diocesan Ministry Consultants Scheme.</p> <p>Diocese of Northern Uganda. Bishop Johnson Gakumba.</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Tue 20</div> <div> <p>WAVENEY (GELDESTON): Ellingham, Geldeston, Gillingham, Kirby Cane, Stockton. Clergy: Julie Oddy-Bates. Reader: John Lowrey Ellingham CofE VC Primary School, Gillingham St Michael's CofE Primary Academy.</p> <p>Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) chaired by Alan Kefford.</p> <p>Diocese of Northwest Texas (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Scott Mayer.</p> </div> </div>
<div> <div>Wed 21</div> <div> <p>DEANERY OF LOTHINGLAND Rural Dean: Jeremy Bishop. Lay Chair: Andrew Shepherd.</p> <p>DAC Secretary, Matthew McDade, Assistant Caroline Rawlings, and DAC Administrator, Margaret Mallett.</p> <p>Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Sean Rowe.</p> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Thu 22</div> <div> <p>CARLTON COLVILLE: Carlton Colville, Mutford. Clergy: Jeremy Bishop. Reader: Mark Ellis.</p> <p>Discipleship and Ministry Forum chaired by the Bishop of Thetford.</p> <p>Diocese of Norwich: Bishops Graham, Alan and Jonathan.</p> </div> </div>

&

The Revd Catherine Relf-Pennington is to be the next vicar of Wymondham. She will be the 60th Vicar of the church, which was founded in 1107, and the Abbey's first woman Vicar. She was appointed to the role of Associate Vicar at Wymondham Abbey in 2013, so is familiar to the Abbey's congregation and the town. "The heart of the job is loving and serving the people of Wymondham and Spooner Row, whether they come to church or not," said Catherine. "There is a great team at the Abbey and a wonderful church family. It is a great blessing and huge honour to have been appointed to this historic church and serve this community."



- ◀ The Revd Simon Ward, appointed Team Rector of the Great Yarmouth Team Ministry.
- ◀ Sian Griffiths, appointed Bishop's Assistant Safeguarding Adviser.
- ◀ The Revd Canon Christopher Davies, appointed Interim Team Vicar Designate (part-time) of the Heart of Norfolk Churches Benefice.
- ◀ The Revd Andrew Tyler, appointed Priest-in-Charge Ipswich, All Hallows (Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich), retaining PTO status in the Diocese of Norwich.
- ◀ The Revd Captain Martin Hartley, appointed Vicar of St Catherine's Mile Cross (Norwich).
- ◀ The Revd Keith Rengert, appointed Chaplain to the East Anglian Air Ambulance (Norwich).
- ◀ The Revd Glen Brooks, appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Somerleyton Benefice (Ashby, Blundeston w Flixton, Fritton, Herringfleet, Lound and Somerleyton).
- ◀ The Revd Michael Langan retired on 28/02/2017 as Rector of the Shellrock Benefice.
- ◀ The Revd Karlene Kerr, appointed Associate Priest (Team Vicar Designate), Gaywood Benefice.
- ◀ The Rt Revd Peter Fox, retiring on 04/07/2017 as Vicar of the Lakenham Group (St John and Tuckswood).

The Revd Adrian Aubrey-Jones, The Revd Canon Bob Baker,
The Revd John Stride, The Revd Lyn Page, The Revd Sandy Mitchell,
The Revd Anthony Long, The Rt Revd Peter Fox

- ◀ Miss Shelagh Sweeney, Reader of the Sheringham Benefice on 01/03/2017.
- ◀ The Revd Canon Brian Cole on 11/02/2017.
- ◀ The Rt Revd John William Salt on 08/02/2017.

Feedback from our readers

The theme of the last issue is timely, given the political upheaval due to Brexit. Particularly helpful were Ruth Valerio's comments. The concept of humans in partnership with God, governing what is his according to his aims and values, for the benefit of the whole, us and them, needs to be widely disseminated.



There are two other points which give significant support to this theme:

First, two international treaties, the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and the 1979 Bern Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats, both refer to the 'intrinsic value' of wildlife, as well as its usefulness to human society, and that it should be conserved for both reasons by restraining human exploitation. They are perfectly clear; human demands and interests cannot always take precedence over wildlife. The right understanding of Genesis fits this perfectly.

Secondly, the Ecumenical Patriarch, HAH Bartholomew, has for two decades organised the 'Religion, Science and the Environment' symposia aimed at creating practical measures to improve the ecology of several seas and rivers, by bringing together multi-faith ecologists, politicians and theologians, to debate and create a theological basis for the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment.

The Christian responsibility is not just personal in the way we live and use natural products, but also political, to demand of Government strong and effectively enforced legislation that will be capable of preventing businesses from damaging wildlife and natural ecosystems. It is not just 'Human Rights', but also wildlife 'Species Rights' that are enshrined in international law, and in Christian theology. As Christians, we must demand both of our Government.

Nicholas Crampton, Mundford



Help with youth work across the Diocese

Getting started with youth work in your area can be daunting, but there are a range of regional charities that can work with churches at a local level. Jonathan Richardson gives a brief overview.

Many of these charities have strong Christian roots so can help churches nurture and disciple young people in their faith, as well as helping reach out with community activities. Most of them also run or take groups to camps and festivals.

All the groups listed here provide a wide range of youth activities running clubs, schools work, Christian Unions, church groups and community projects. Some also have a range of specialist resources and skills to run radio, film, music, sport and dance projects.

Youth for Christ Centres

Youth for Christ Centres are part of the national movement of Youth for Christ (YFC) and are part of a network of over 70 centres across the UK. The family of centres work with each other and share

resources but are locally resourced independent charities with a local focus.

As faith-based organisations, the centres aim to demonstrate the love of God to young people, discuss the gospel of Jesus in relevant ways and support young people who choose to be a disciple of Jesus. They can access, and sell on, a range of nationally provided mission teams and resources such as the 'Rock Solid', 'Mettle' and 'Lumen' resources.

Norwich Youth for Christ

Norwich and the surrounding area. Check out their 'Tracks' mobile recording studio. www.norwichyfc.co.uk 01603 620678

East Norfolk Youth for Christ

Yarmouth and the surrounding area. Check out the mission teams they take into a local high school. www.enyfc.co.uk 07733 143660

North Breckland Youth for Christ

Dereham and surrounding villages. Check out the feature film they made: 'Looking to Eternity'. www.northbrecklandyfc.org.uk 07747 471221

Integrate Youth for Christ

South Norfolk and South Breckland. Check out their football cage, which can also be hired. www.integrateyfc.org.uk 01379 658796



Other Charities & Groups

ENYP – county-wide

ENYP works across the Diocese with a hub in Lowestoft. They run over 50 groups partnering with other agencies and organisations. Check out their dance, football and intergenerational clubs. www.enyp.org.uk 07599 544038

Rayzone – Reepham and surrounding area. www.rayzone.org.uk 07341 937685

Identity – serving the Gorleston area. www.identityyouth.co.uk 07956 631644

EP Youth – Fakenham and surrounding area. Check out their bus. www.epyouth.org.uk 01328 851020

Wymondham Youth Bus – Wymondham and surrounding area. Check out their bus. www.wymondhamchurchnetwork.org.uk/youth-bus 01953 602891

The Sports Factory – west Norwich and surrounding area. www.stn.org.uk/sport 01603 624390



A Broad experience

Why would you want to spend the whole week of your October half term holiday on a sailing boat? Commodore Fiona Turner answers the question.

Many of us have been asked the same question at Cormorants Sailing Holiday! Will it be cold and frosty? (We've had snow!) Will it be hot and we'll sail in shorts all week?! Fortunately we like feedback, so over the years we've had a lot of answers to our questions. Some of our young people come to meet up with friends again, others come for the adventure of sailing, some of our young people tell us every year how much they like the food (others say it's not their favourite!), many go home with new skills and the pleasure of having tried something new, or stayed away from home for a week for the first time.

One of our favourite quotes from a young person about the worst thing in the week was 'having to go home', while our favourite best thing quote has to be 'pretty much everything, but especially the people'. Others

focus their best thing quotes on more practical answers: sailing the big boats, sailing the dinghies, getting extra bacon, buddy boat meetings, the talent show, leaning the boats over far enough to wash the windows(!), cake, more cake, having an amazing skipper and simply getting away from school!

As a Christian sailing holiday, we meet each evening either in groups of two boats or all together in a hall. The singing always gets a mention in the feedback... I'll leave you to guess which category that goes in, and the Bible studies that we do are often mentioned as helpful places to think about questions in life. We all know we have busy lives, so Cormorants is a great opportunity to get away from the stress, spend time outdoors, meet new friends and learn about much more than how to sail a boat.



Bookings for Cormorants 2017 are now open; closing date 31 July. If you think this might be a holiday you or a young person you know would enjoy, visit our website at www.cormorants.org.uk or email Fiona Turner at commodore@cormorants.org.uk. Bursaries are available – please contact Fiona.

Mrs Burrington's Granddaughter Writes



While Mrs Burrington convalesces from a long-overdue bunion operation, her forthright granddaughter Hermione looks after her column

Q We have tried everything to get young people into church. On Tuesday lunchtimes we have a children's church history lesson (free of charge); on Thursday there is a youth café (alongside the Faithful Fogeys' afternoon tea); and on Sundays we now dedicate four minutes of every service to a children's talk. To date, no young people have attended any of these events. What more can we do?

Hermione So – is this right – you've set up these events without actually having anyone to invite? At a time that suits you? And without finding out if people are interested? You've got everything the wrong way round. Get to know some young people and their families and work from there. It's not that complicated!

Q We were initially delighted with our new youth worker, who is a qualified sports coach, fashion guru and rap artist. However, the people coming to his youth club are interested in chess, architecture and science fiction novels, and the youth worker is threatening to resign. What should we do?

Hermione Whatever qualifications your youth worker has, he seems to lack the main one: accepting people as they are. He needs reminding that rap, clothes and football are not the point of youth ministry; God is. It sounds like your kids need some kindly old folk to play chess with.

As it happens, I'm in the middle of a chess game with my gran at the moment. She sends her regards.

Olywn hits the high notes for 70 years

By Richard Parr



One of the country's longest-serving choirgirls has celebrated seven decades in the same Norfolk church choir with a special Songs of Praise service.

Olwyn Barber joined the choir of St Faith's Church, Gaywood as a 12-year-old schoolgirl and an amazing 70 years later she is still helping to lead the worship every Sunday.

During the service on April 30 the hymns were all chosen by Olwyn and St Faith's Rector, the Revd Julie Boyd, spoke about why they were Olwyn's favourites.

"When I joined the choir aged 12, I never imagined that 70 years later I would still be a member of the choir. Singing has been a joy in my life and I have loved helping to lead the worship at St Faith's Church for all these years. Other choir members jokingly say that if they wanted to remove me, the church would have to apply for a Faculty because I am regarded as part of the fixtures and fittings in St Faith's," said Olwyn.

Julie Boyd spoke of Olwyn's remarkable achievement and dedicated loving service to God and his church at St Faith's, Gaywood, where Anglicans and Methodists worship together.

King's Lynn churches visit the Mosque

By Laura Baker, Curate at King's Lynn Minster



Members of King's Lynn Minster and All Saints' visited the local Muslim Community Centre earlier this year. I had been at a protest in the town against President Trump's Muslim travel ban, carrying a hand-made sign

that read 'we stand with Muslims' and giving a short speech saying that I supported Muslims, as a Christian. At the protest, I met a Muslim woman called Hala and we arranged for a group from the church to visit the Muslim Community Centre.

We were welcomed so warmly and they were thrilled to have us. They gave us tea and coffee; we heard the call to prayer and then watched their afternoon prayer. They told us about Islam, how they pray and about the mosque. It was fascinating and we had a brilliant time. We asked lots of questions and the Imam came to welcome us and thank us for visiting and supporting them. We are all keen to meet again!

Children pipe up for Eaton Organ Appeal

By Rosalind Wright



Christ Church Eaton has, for some years now, been raising money for the restoration of its organ, and now this project is coming to fruition. One Saturday morning, donors were invited to come to the church to inscribe their names onto pipes and the children at Stretton School also had a pipe signing day!

As the children had organised a non-uniform day to raise money for the organ restoration fund, and specifically the organ pipes, the fundraising team brought three of the organ pipes to the school so that pupils could handle them. After a talk about how the pipes were made and played, the pupils were delighted to have the chance to blow into them and compare the different sounds each pipe produced. They then inscribed their names on the pipes using the special metal stylus that had been provided. It was a memorable event for the children that left them with a strong impression and understanding of how an organ is built and works. They are now looking forward to seeing the restored organ installed and hearing it played.



Breaking the Silence on International Women's Day

By Barbara Bryant

Norfolk women pledged to support the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls on International Women's Day in Norwich Cathedral. The Norfolk Federation of Women's Institutes (Norfolk WI) convenes Norfolk Women Reaching Women: a coalition of over 25 organisations including Mothers' Union, Diocese of Norwich. They wanted to highlight the United Nations' initiative to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The keynote address was given by Aneeta Prem, President of the Freedom Charity, an international organisation, based in Norwich, which aims to raise awareness and prevent child abuse affecting girls in the UK. She spoke movingly of girls experiencing forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). "We cannot say this is not our problem; it's happening in the UK, with over 150,000 girls affected," Aneeta said. "We have to take a stand. We are the generation that can eradicate FGM."

"Norwich has embraced this issue by hosting an event like this. Each person can take responsibility to keep women safe. We need more volunteers to help spread the word and speak out about these atrocities against our young women."

The event brought together a variety of groups to highlight the issues and the work already being done, and to pledge future actions. This event was just one of thousands taking place around the world on International Women's Day.

"As an international charity, Mothers' Union has a long history of campaigning at United Nations and government levels to end violence against women and girls in its many forms," said Marguerite Phillips, Norwich President. "Members work within their local communities across the world to bring about change. We were delighted, once again, to join with the growing number of organisations who are part of Norfolk Women Reaching Women and on International Women's Day 2017 state our concerns about women everywhere and pledge our organisation's action."

For further information:

www.facebook.com/FreedomCharity/
www.munorwich.org



The National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham



A weekend of events to pray for the Mission of the Church to our nation

40 Hours of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
in the Shrine Church beginning with a Pilgrimage Eucharist
5 pm on Saturday 27th May

Ecumenical Vigil of Prayer
at St Mary's Parish Church with addresses by The Bishop of Norwich & The Abbot of Farnborough
8.15 pm on Sunday 28th May



Monday 29th May - The National Pilgrimage
12 noon Eucharist in the Abbey Grounds

2.30pm Sermon & Procession Preacher: Fr Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap. - Preacher to the Papal Household
 attended by the Bishop of Norwich and the Bishop of East Anglia

Further details on www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk or phone 01328-820239



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News in brief

Updates from across the Diocese

Ecumenical Criminal Justice Forum



The group was formed to offer a platform for discussion in the area of criminal justice, so that practitioners in this area can come together to hear speakers from different disciplines within the field, and debate issues of the day as they affect them and those encountered within the criminal justice system.

The Forum meets three or four times a year and brings together a variety of professionals and volunteers in the field of criminal justice, including the probation and prison services, the police, the judiciary, and agencies concerned with victim support, mental health and addictions, rehabilitation of ex-offenders and other specialist areas.

In late 2016-2017 presentations were given by Martin Graham from the National Sentencing Council, and Ged Bales, a consultant Forensic Psychiatrist. Further areas to be covered this year are the Britannia Cafe at HMP Norwich, the 180 scheme, police work with young offenders and safety in prisons.

Meetings usually take place at Granary Court, Bishop's House, Norwich. For further information: Paddy Seligman 01263 768742 paddy@pseligman.co.uk

Domestic Abuse law to change following Mothers' Union campaign

Mothers' Union, which represents over four million members worldwide, welcomed an announcement by Prime Minister Theresa May in March that current legislation governing domestic abuse in England and Wales is to be overhauled.

In November, Mothers' Union submitted a petition signed by 4,500 of its members and supporters to Downing Street, calling for changes to the statutory Child Maintenance Service, so that survivors of domestic abuse are not forced to re-engage with their

former partner, often the perpetrator of the violence against them.

Mothers' Union is campaigning for survivors to be exempt from the 'collect and pay' charges imposed for using the statutory Child Maintenance Service, as they may have no other option to receive or make payments for their children without further risk of control, abuse or violence.



Welcome to Tim Rogers

The 'Celebrate' stream of the Diocesan Mission Strategy emphasises the value of creating short films that celebrate ways parishes are being missional and inspire others.

In July 2016 Bishop Graham appointed Katherine Limbach as his Press Officer; her role writing news articles, editing eNews, and promoting parish events online and through social media, became vacant.

In January 2017 we were pleased to appoint Tim Rogers to the Digital Communications Officer role, which included those elements alongside creating short films.



Tim is married to Becca who is Priest-in-Charge of St John's, King's Lynn and Assistant Priest of King's Lynn Minster with St Margaret's. Previously a Deputy Headteacher in Liverpool before they moved to King's Lynn, Tim was also a professional videographer filming weddings.

If you have any local news or events you would like publicised to a wider audience then contact Tim on 01603 882376 or news@dioceseofnorwich.org



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The Coastal Group – walk, eat, pray, share, love!

By The Revd Catherine Dobson

A regular feature focusing on a benefice or group of parishes in the Diocese of Norwich, written by someone from that community.

Who & where we are

The Coastal Group of parishes is made up of 10 coastal villages on the north-east coast of Norfolk, stretching from Bacton to Sea Palling with Waxham. Our aim is simple: a practical outworking of our Lord's commandment to love our neighbour, in our communities, welcoming all. We are here for everyone.

In practice, this takes a different form in each of our villages, as each church community has a definite local flavour, made up of the gifts and talents of the people in each place.

For instance, in Sea Palling, our organist Paul has written choral music for services and settings for communion which we use in worship. Paul's wife, Beverley, conducts the Sea Palling Singers, a community singing group, who join us to enhance the music at our services at various times of the year.

And our Churchwarden at Ridlington went to town using his creativity in advertising the Harvest service!

Our villages are holiday destinations, and so church families

change with the seasons. From Easter to October our communities are augmented by those who holiday here. Many of these people have holidayed here for generations, and come back at the same time every year, so we look forward to welcoming them among us. The Norfolk Coastal Path also brings walkers to our churches, and we aim to welcome everyone, whether they come to worship, for a cuppa, cakes, to climb the tower or to admire our beautiful buildings.

We are proud of our links with our lifeboats – the RNLI at Happisburgh, and the Independent Station at Sea Palling. We join together for Sea Sunday and other festivals in the year. The lifeboat team joins us for the Beach Service to remember the lost village of Eccles on August Bank Holiday Sunday, and also on the anniversary of the loss of HMS Invincible on the 16 March 1801, with the tragic loss of over 400 lives.

There are also many informal links with the crews, many of whom are part of our villages, and we are immensely proud of the vital work they do.

Beverley, who has been part of our church family at Walcott in the last year said:

“In April 2016, I had to give up work and driving, and I wondered how I was going to manage living in the countryside. But there is always someone willing to pick me up and help me in other ways. I was so pleased when I was asked to read in church – this really reinforced the fact that not only did I feel welcome at services, but others valued the contribution I could make. I feel honoured to be part of Walcott church and the Coastal parishes. My life has changed so much, but this has been one of the best years of my life, when I thought it would be one of the worst.”



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace.”

1 Peter 4:10

Eating and walking

It would be fair to say much of what happens in the Coastal Group centres around food!

From refreshments after the service, which can take as long as the service itself, monthly Mardle lunches, soup kitchens, pancakes, cake sales and strawberry teas... the list is endless! Many of these events are attended by people who do not come to church, and these occasions provide an opportunity for people to meet and enjoy being together.

To counter-balance some of the calories consumed, we have recently started a walking group, as a joint initiative with our school, which again brings people together whose paths might not otherwise have crossed, with a common purpose. Our hardy group of walkers are out and about every month, whatever the weather, walking for about 90 minutes, chatting and taking some gentle exercise along our local footpaths, and enjoying being out in the fresh air.

Lucy, a parent from school, who was one of the instigators of the group, said: “The walking group was intended to bring people together to gently exercise but has quickly become a monthly highlight of laughter and small adventure!” Eating, walking, talking, sharing... there are good biblical precedents for all these things!

Prayers, bells and schools

And all of this is underpinned by prayer. Not only on Sundays in our services, but also by a small but committed group of people who say Celtic Morning Prayer together at 9am on a Wednesday morning. This group moves round each village, week by week, praying across our Coastal group. Here we hold all our plans, our hopes, our fears, and all on our hearts and minds before God. Often we are joined by the lay pastor from Lessingham Methodist chapel, and our prayers hold us together.

Living so close to the ocean, those at sea are never far from our sight and our thoughts. We pray regularly for them; our local fishermen, those off-shore on rigs and wind-farms, cargo vessels and cruise ships, and their families. We have a group of knitters who knit woolly hats for Mission to Seafarers – something practical which brings enjoyment to those who knit, and warmth to those who wear them!

There is a strong tradition of bellringing in the Coastal Group. Where there is a bell, whether one or eight, we ring them! Gilbert has been our Tower Captain at Happisburgh for 60 years, and the bells there are rung for every service, thanks to our group of ringers.

Our links with our local schools continue to be a great source of joy, serving the local community. Church members are involved as school governors, which is an enormous privilege and responsibility. The



Mary, who volunteers at Happisburgh School, said:

“I really enjoy doing this and it is lovely to see the children making progress. I get a lot of satisfaction out of it. It’s a two-way thing.”

church in Happisburgh supports the Friends of the School, and volunteers hear children read, and help in any way they can.

None of this is rocket science; it is just a practical outworking of what it means to love God and our neighbour in the beautiful area in which we are privileged to live. We aim to use our gifts and talents in the service of others.

If you are up this way, pop in! We hope you will always find a warm welcome.

Out & About

happenings across the Diocese

A round up of some of the parish activities over the past few months – do send in your photos (at least 1MB in size please!) and an explanatory caption to barbara.bryant@dioceseofnorwich.org. To see more photos, visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/dioceseofnorwich/photos

Confirmations at Harling

Worshippers gathered from across the Harling United Benefice to welcome Bishop Alan for the confirmation of six bright-eyed, excited candidates at St Peter & St Paul, East Harling, which was followed by a hearty hot lunch. Bill, Sine, Annie, Dominic, Ella and Eve are pictured with Bishop Alan and The Revd David Smith.



Team work at Holy Trinity, Gisleham

An enjoyable morning was had by all, as volunteers turned up to create a 'working party' to help clear the grounds around the church. There was a real sense of team spirit as the sun shone and all enjoyed the much-deserved donated hot lunch to celebrate their hard work.



First meet-up for LGBT+ Created

The first 'Created' meet-up was a lovely chance to meet new people and discuss ideas and thoughts for the future. We're looking forward to connecting with more folks ahead (next dates: 8 May and 19 June) and seeing how Created can be a safe place for LGBT+ affirming Christians to meet and be encouraged. www.created.org.uk



Mini professors at Aylsham

Over 500 people flocked to a science, engineering and technology day at Aylsham Church which was transformed into a laboratory, a rocket launching station, a dark room, and a construction site. "Our five-year-old loved it, as did we! Aylsham Church... you are amazing!" said participant Hannah Westwood.



©Catherine Beane

Annual Pancake Day Race

Staff and Choristers battled it out at the annual pancake day race at Norwich Cathedral; it's fair to say the Choristers won it!



Bradwell Mothers' Union's worldwide visitor

Rosemary Kempself CBE (pictured, left) was guest speaker at Bradwell in March. Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union (2007 – 2012) and awarded the CBE in 2014 for her services to families. Rosemary was welcomed by 50 Members and friends from all branches of the MU in the Waveney and Yare Group.



A new song at Mulbarton

Mulbarton Community Choir gave their debut performance to a sell-out audience in late March; supported by Norfolk Wherry Brass. The Revd Andrew North, Musical Director and Curate said: "The choir not only makes a fantastic sound, but is also a driving force in building community in Mulbarton."



Giving up giving up: 40 Acts at Cromer Parish Church

Parishioners signed up for '40acts', a generosity challenge created by the charity Stewardship. The church committed to doing an event together each week during the Lent period, and individuals and families were encouraged to do their own acts of kindness daily throughout the week.

Find out what else is going on across the Diocese on our website:
www.dioceseofnorwich.org/news/events





A festival first: The Twelve Towers



Hosting a month-long arts festival seemed the perfect way to celebrate the new-found collaboration of 12 (and counting) rural churches. Festival co-ordinator Liz Dawes describes how it came about.

Finding a name for the festival was tricky because any kind of geographical name started to limit its scope. 'The Aylsham & District Team Festival' didn't have much ring to it. Then one day my son was reading the second book in The Lord of the Rings trilogy, The Two Towers, and it got me thinking about church towers. There was a slight hitch when I remembered that Badersfield doesn't have a tower, but then I thought of the Air Traffic Control Tower from the RAF Coltishall days. That counts! The Twelve Towers Festival was born.

The twelve churches involved are Aylsham, Badersfield, Blickling, Brampton, Burgh, Buxton, Cawston, Haveringland, Heydon, Lammas, Marsham and Oxnead; and between them they've come up with a huge array of activities from concerts to a 'Terrific Towers' Activity Day with tower-climbing; from a tour of the RAF Coltishall Control Tower to a Beer and Band Evening with Wildcraft Brewery.

The idea was to build upon what was already happening in June across the parishes and support them as a team. A few extra events were added and a "Festival twist" was given to others such as the normal bell-ringing practice evening becoming "come and try bell-ringing".

Sponsorship from Broadland District Council has funded a promotional brochure and a digital exhibition which will tell the story of some of communities, though image, music and artefacts, along with a cycle route coving 15 local churches. The Norfolk Museum's Service will be curating exciting exhibitions in some of the churches. It's been really positive that these two organisations have seen this as church in the community.

"We are really excited about The Twelve Towers Festival and how it will bring our churches and communities together celebrating heritage, music and culture," says the Revd Canon Andrew Beane, who leads the Aylsham District Team Ministry. "The Festival will bring together different generations, offering events and activities for our schools and local families. We are delighted that the Festival also gave us an opportunity to work with the Broadland Tourist Officer and Norfolk Museum Service and they caught our vision of using our church buildings in creative and innovative ways to inspire our communities."

You will be able to pick up a flavour of what's going on from Aylsham's pop-up radio station. "Pop, Corn & Grace FM will be taking to the airwaves again from their studio in Aylsham Parish Church from 1 – 4 June," says station organiser Kandi Kammoun. "We'll be looking ahead to the Festival events coming up, along with broadcasting some of the events live."

The aims of the Festival are to give people opportunities to discover more about themselves and their communities, to affirm our rich and diverse heritage and culture of rural Norfolk and to celebrate the relationships and partnerships which support rural communities. Many of the events are free and there will be something for everyone to enjoy.



1 – 30 June 2017

www.aylshamparishchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/popcornandgraceFM

@12towersnorfolk



Resources

General and seasonal resources and ideas to inform, inspire and enable.



Thy Kingdom Come: new resources

New resources are now available for parishes from the Diocese for Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer movement between 25 May and 4 June.



Prayer ideas for your church – an A4 booklet full of creative ideas and sessions to help churches join with others around the world in praying for their friends and families.

Bookmarks – one side has the Thy Kingdom Come branding and the other four suggestions of ways to pray, encouraging people to pray for friends and family to come to know Christ.

Pop-up banners – pole mounted, with a lightweight base; these are versatile, portable and include a handy carry bag.

All of the above are available via the Diocesan online shop at www.dioceseofnorwich.org/article?id=3095 or by phoning 01603 880853.

Additional resources and information, including materials to download, liturgical resources, Novena booklets, a 'Kingdom Kit' helping families pray together, and tips on organising local events are available at: www.thykingdomcome.global

Refugee Week : Different Pasts, Shared Future

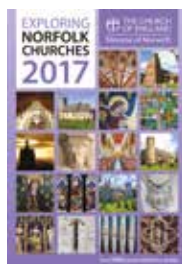
Running this year from 19–25 June, Refugee Week is the UK's largest festival celebrating the contribution of refugees and promoting understanding of why people seek sanctuary. The Refugee Week website www.refugeeweek.org.uk has a multitude of resources for churches and individuals to use to highlight this issue.



A new short film focusing on refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants: *Who is my neighbour?* has been produced by the Diocese and is available to download for use in services, meetings or assemblies from www.dioceseofnorwich.org/churches/society/refugees

Exploring churches booklet

Each year the Diocese of Norwich produces a free guide to churches in Norfolk and Waveney that are open during weekdays as well as on Sundays. The booklet details nearly 600 churches and contains descriptions of the churches, photos, location information, website details and other useful information such as any local shops, other amenities and toilet facilities available or nearby.



The booklet is available at Tourist Information Centres, churches, museums, libraries and other places of interest across Norfolk and Waveney. Do ensure you have some of these available in your church. The booklet is available to view online, download, or request by post at: www.dioceseofnorwich.org/visiting/guides, 01603 880853

Travelling exhibition available to highlight local mission

A travelling exhibition entitled 'Mission Is...' has been launched as part of the Diocese's Mission Strategy 'Celebrate' stream. The exhibition is available for churches to borrow, and highlights a series of stories illustrating some of the innovative ways that churches across the Diocese are seeking to serve their local communities, showing the confident, outward-facing way local churches are making a difference.

The exhibition also encourages visitors to share what the word 'mission' brings to mind, on cards provided or through social media. If you would like to borrow the exhibition for your church, please contact Andy Bryant at canon.missionandpastoral@cathedral.org.uk 01603 218331



A Little Book of Sermons...

... has been compiled by the Revd Keith E.A. James, taken from those he has preached in the Hempnall Group of parishes since his retirement. It is on sale at £6 per copy with £2 going towards a fund to restore the lead stolen from St Mary's Church Hempnall. Contact: keith.j@pobroadband.co.uk 01508 470032



Promote your local church groups & activities

Bright Map is an online map where visitors can search for community groups and activities near to where they live, many run or supported by local churches.

Add your church's to the map for free at www.brightmap.org/norfolk

WHAT'S ON

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES EVENTS
are highlighted in red

LEARNING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
are highlighted in green

Highlights of events and learning opportunities across the Diocese

May – July 2017

For more head to www.dioceseofnorwich.org/events or follow us @DioceseNorwich

MAY

Carleton Rode Music Festival 2017

Fri 5 May - Sun 7 May

Various times

Address: All Saints, Church Road,
Carleton Road NR16 1RW

The 2nd Carleton Rode Music Festival 2017
including International and local artists/
performers.

Admission: Fri – £10 (£6 concessions),

Sat – £12.50, Sun – Free

Contact: Pat Graham, 01953 860294

Good News for God's Earth

Saturday 6 May

10am-4.30pm

Address: The Green Britain Centre,
Swaffham PE37 7HT

A day of presentations, conversations,
activities and worship, with guests
leading workshops, helping us to
consider our Christian concern for the
environment.

Admission: £20 with lunch £10.00
without lunch (please bring your own)

Contact: Liz Dawes, 01603 882335,
liz.dawes@dioceseofnorwich.org



NCCL - Old Testament: Wisdom

Saturday 6 May – Session 1

Saturday 10 Jun – Session 2

10am-12.30pm

Address: Norwich Cathedral, The Close,
Norwich NR1 4DD

Session 1 will focus on the Wisdom
literature of the Old Testament and Session
2 explores a group of texts with a much less
positive view of life, particularly at Job and
Ecclesiastes.

Admission: £10 for individual session

Contact: NCCL Admin Team: 01603 218443,
NCCL@cathedral.org.uk

A Night of Music and Song

Saturday 6 May

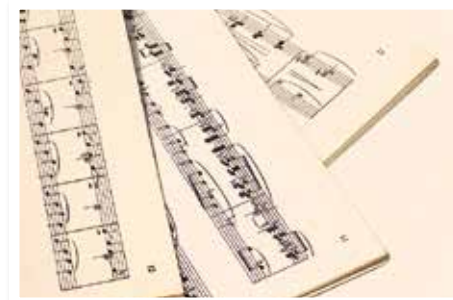
7.30pm

Address: St Botolph's, Gayton Road,
Grimston PE32 1BH

A joint concert with the King's Lynn male
voice choir and the King's Lynn brass band to
raise money to have our church organ rebuilt
and restored back to its former glory.

Admission: £10 or £8 concessions
(available on the door)

Contact: Samuel Bone, 07837 331023,
terencesamuel@hotmail.co.uk



Craft Fair

Saturday 6 May

10am-4pm

Address: St Mary and St Thomas of
Canterbury, Becketswell Road,
Wymondham NR18 9PH

Join us in the church and churchyard for a
craft fair celebrating local designers, makers
and traditional crafts.

Admission: Free

Contact: Esther, 01953 607062,
learningandevents@wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Faith, Hope and Justice in a Broken World with Dr Rowan Williams

Monday 8 May

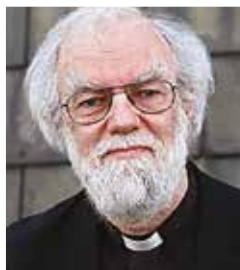
6.30pm

Address:
Norwich Cathedral,
The Close NR1 4DD
Dr Rowan
Williams, former
Archbishop of
Canterbury, will
be speaking
about justice from

a theological viewpoint and how this impacts
us as Christians. What responses should we
make to world issues?

Admission: Free - donations to Christian Aid
welcomed

Contact: Julian Bryant, 01603 620051,
jbryant@christian-aid.org



Science-Faith Cathedral Lecture

Wednesday 10 May

7pm-8.30pm

Address: Norwich Cathedral, The Close
NR1 4DD

Professor Tom McLeish, a distinguished
scientist, will explain "Why God loves
Science and Science needs God". All are
welcome of all faiths and none.

Admission: Retiring collection (voluntary)
Contact: Prof. Nick Brewin, 07901 884114,
sfnorfolk1@gmail.com



Starting a Fresh Expression of Church

Saturday 13 May

10am-5pm

Address: Well Christian Centre, Fountain of
Life, Ashill IP25 7BT

A day to look at how to start a fresh
expression of church - with stories, workshops
and wisdom from practitioners around the
diocese.

Admission: £15

Contact: Sally Gaze, 01508 470762,
sally@tasvalley.org

Marham Bluebirds Military Wives Choir concert

Saturday 13 May

7.30pm

Address: St Mary's, Off London Street,
Whissonsett NR20 5ST

A concert in the beautiful St Mary's church by
the Marham Bluebirds Military Wives Choir.

Admission: £10

Contact: Sue Rutter, 01328 701908,
suerutter03@yahoo.co.uk

Church Building Projects: Purpose, Planning and Procurement

Monday 15 May

10am-4pm

Address: Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road,
Easton NR9 5ES

A new workshop developed by the National
Stewardship & Resources Team for anyone
involved in starting a building project in your
church or church hall.

Admission: £10 (lunch included)

Contact: Margaret Mallett, 01603 882359,
margaret.mallett@dioceseofnorwich.org

Supervising Lay Ministers (Clergy/Reader CMD)

Wednesday 17 May

10am-3.30pm

Address: Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton NR9 5ES

Training day for appointing, supervising and reviewing Lay Ministers (e.g. AWAs). This may be of particular interest to those who are new to supervising, such as new incumbents, or curates who are about to start their first incumbency.

Admission: Free

Contact: Liz Dawes, 01603 882335,

liz.dawes@dioceseofnorwich.org

'Conflict and Collaboration' – Cantamus Celebrating 100 Years

Friday 19 May

7pm

Address: St Margaret of Antioch's, Church Road, Thorpe Market NR11 8UA

Join Cantamus Choir in celebrating 100 years of women being given the right to vote in a very special concert focusing on female composers and collaborations with female composers.

Admission: £10

Contact: Katayoun Dowlatshahi,

01263 833847, cantamussingers@gmail.com

The Upper Octave Concert

Saturday 20 May

7.30pm

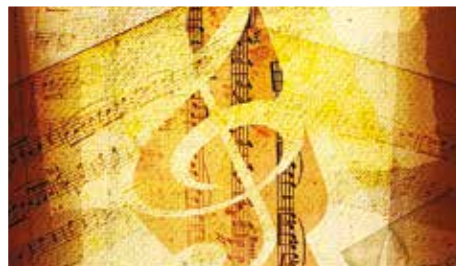
Address: St Ethelbert's, Church Road, Thetford IP24 1RJ

The Upper Octave, the six strong Norfolk based group of singers, present their latest version of Bizet to Broadway.

Admission: £10

Contact: Eileen Kitson, 01953 498609,

jrandeikitson@greenbee.net



Battle of the Somme film & concert

Saturday 20 May

7.30pm

Address: St Mary's, Mount Street, Diss IP22 4JT
Diss Museum presents the Somme film, made in 1916 and seen by 20 million people at the time, with music by the Pulham Orchestra.

Admission: £10

Contact: Basil Abbott, 01379 650618,

dissmuseum@lineone.net



Summer Stillness - Labyrinth Retreat

Wednesday 24 May

10am-4pm

Address: The Wigwam Retreat Centre, Riddlesworth, Near Diss IP22 2SZ

Summer is a time for restoration, giving ourselves permission to pause and to let life settle. Brian Draper will lead us in reconnecting with God and walking the delightful grass labyrinth.

Admission: £28 (concessions available to those on a low income).

Contact: Les Crossland, 020 8491 0222,

pwtcfl@aol.com

Open the Book Initial Team Training Day

Thursday 25 May

10am-3.30pm

Address: All Saints, The Street, Bawdeswell NR20 4UX

Discover Open the Book and how you could deliver bible stories to primary aged children in lively and informative ways as part of a local church team.

Admission: £6 one person, £10 for two people.

Contact: Anna Walker, 01603 882374,

anna.walker@dioceseofnorwich.org

Thy Kingdom Come Services at King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Norwich Cathedral

Thursday 25 May

Services at King's Lynn and Norwich Cathedral begin at 7.30pm

The service at Great Yarmouth begins at 7pm

As part of the global prayer movement, Thy Kingdom Come, the Minsters at King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth and Norwich Cathedral will be holding a Beacon Service for Ascension Day.

Admission: Free

Contact details:

King's Lynn: The Minster Office,
office@kingslynnminster.org,
01553 767090

Great Yarmouth: Church Office,
office@gtyarmouthminster.org,
01493 858410

Norwich Cathedral: The Chapter Office,
reception@cathedral.org.uk,
01603 218300



Intents 2017

(Week 1) 26 - 29 May and
(Week 2) 31 May- 3 June

Address: Brandon House Farm, Brandon Parva, Norwich NR9 4DJ
The Intents Youth Festival returns for 2017, with its usual mix of joyful eccentricity and dedicated worship.

Admission: See website for price details – www.intents.org.uk

Contact: thebrain@intents.org.uk,
07598 475436



Flower Festival 'Go into all the world'

Fri 26 May - Mon 29 May

26 and 27 May 10am-6pm

28 and 29 May 12pm-5pm

Address: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Church Street, Attleborough NR17 2AH
Beautiful floral art in a spectacular Bank Holiday celebration of the Christian faith around the world.

Admission: Free (Souvenir programmes available at £3).

Contact: Attleborough Church Office, 01953 454977, attleboroughchurch@btinternet.com



Quiet Day: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Saturday 27 May

10am-4.30pm

Address: All Hallows Convent, Ditchingham NR35 2DT

A day retreat looking at C S Lewis classic tale, exploring our visions and expectations, and how we might see and anticipate 'Aslan on the move' in our world.

Admission: £12

Contact: Beccy Gosling, 01986 892749,
info@all-hallows.org



CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 ►

Ryburgh Spring Fair: Plants, gifts and books

Saturday 27 May

9.30am-2pm

Address: St Andrew's, Bridge Road/Station Road, Ryburgh NR21 0DZ

All welcome to our Ryburgh Spring Fair.

Admission: Free

Contact: Anne Prentis, 01328 829413, annemcprentis@btinternet.com

Topcroft Open Gardens

Sun 28 May - Mon 29 May

11am-5pm

Address: Topcroft NR35 2BL

Approximately 12 gardens open in the pretty South Norfolk village of Topcroft.

Admission: £4

Contact: Daphne Beckett, 01508 482448, daphnebeckett@gmail.com



JUNE

Lunchtime concert - A Bishop Entertains

Thursday 1 Jun

12.45pm-1.30pm Lunch served from 12:15pm

Address: St Michael's, Market Place, Aylsham NR11 6LW

We are delighted to welcome our Bishop to present this, the first of our Thursday lunchtime concerts and part of the Twelve Towers Festival. 'Songs Ancient and Modern' with Rt Revd Jonathan Meyrick (Baritone) and Derek Blease (piano).

Admission: Free

Contact: Liz Dawes, 01263 735592, ek.dawes@gmail.com

Mini Individual Guided Retreat

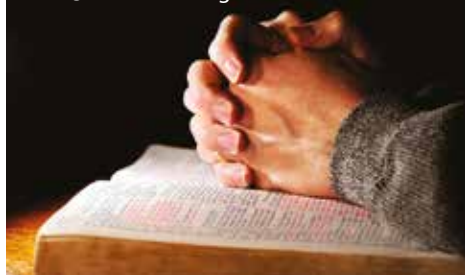
Mon 5 Jun - Fri 9 Jun

Address: All Hallows Convent, Ditchingham NR35 2DT

During this silent retreat you are helped to take the next step on your spiritual journey.

Admission: £220 inclusive

Contact: Beccy Gosling, 01986 892749, info@all-hallows.org



Shipdham and Little Gallery Quilters

Fri 9 Jun - Sun 11 Jun

Fri & Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm

Address: All Saints, Church Close, Shipdham IP25 7LX

2017 Exhibition of traditional and innovative quilts.

Admission: Free

Contact: Jill Arnold, 01953 886751, jillarnold06@gmail.com



Summer Flower Festival

Fri 9 Jun - Mon 12 Jun

10am-4pm

Address: St Botolph's, Church Road, Barford NR9 4AU

Summer themed flower festival in aid of the Barford church repair fund.

Admission: Free

Contact: Jan Smith, 01603 759700, jbsm@btinternet.com

Life Calling

Saturday 10 Jun

10am-4pm

Address: St Edwards Church, Lammas Road, Badersfield NR10 5LG

A day to discover what God is calling you to be and do as a faith-filled follower.

Admission: Free

Contact: Liz Dawes, 01603 882335, liz.dawes@dioceseofnorwich.org

Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk

Saturday 10 Jun

9am-5pm

Address: The Forum & Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1TF

An annual full-day event to celebrate and showcase the work of the Christian community right across Norfolk, including an exhibition, plus drama, music and youth activities.

Admission: Free

Contact: Jenny Drake, 01603 617905, celebrate@networknorwich.co.uk

Coffee Morning

Saturday 10 Jun

10am-12pm

Address: Village Hall, Ovington, Thetford IP25 6RY

Come and meet your friends (and maybe make some new ones!) at our Coffee Morning.

Admission: Free

Contact: Ann Johnson, 01953 885455, barleycroft@tesco.net

Flower Festival

Fri 16 Jun - Sun 18 Jun

10am-4pm daily

Address: St Bartholomew's Church, Sloley NR12 8HL

All welcome at our 'Flower Festival' with plenty of stalls, activities and also a 'What's my Line' competition.

Admission: Free

Contact: Pat Grimmer, 01692 500922

Syderstone Open Gardens

Sunday 25 Jun

1pm-6pm

Address: The Street, Syderstone PE31 8SD

Ten open gardens, ranging from the traditional to the quirky but all aiming to delight and inspire.

Admission: £3 per adult, accompanied under 12s free.

Contact: Dizzy Goff, 01485 578527, d.goff@btinternet.com

Patronal Festival Celebrations

Thurs 29 Jun - Sun 2 Jul

10am-4pm

Address: St Peter and St Paul's, Market Place, Swaffham PE37 7AB

Floral displays and Garden Fete.

Admission: Free

Contact: Ralph Clarke, 01760 722941, ralph.clarke677@btinternet.com

JULY

Erpingham Garden Fete & Fun Dog Show

Saturday 1 Jul

2pm

Address: The Rectory, School Road, Erpingham NR11 7QY

Traditional village garden fete with many attractions, and fun dog show.

Admission: £1 entry fee. Under 12s free

Contact: Revd Canon Paul Thomas OBE, 01263 761110, synergyatwork@aol.com

Bishop's Open Garden

Sunday 2 Jul

1pm-5pm (last entry at 4.30pm)

Address: Bishop's Garden, St Martin at Palace Plain, Norwich NR3 1SB

In aid of the St Francis Heartsease Parish Nursing Service, come and see the beautiful Bishop's Garden in the heart of Norwich. Enjoy refreshments and entertainment, and take the opportunity to explore the concept of Spiritual Health.

Admission: Adults £3, Children and

Wheelchair Users free, Guide Dogs only

Contact: Eleanor Laming, 01603 439101, eleandreg@icloud.com



The Bishop's Day of Celebration & Prayer

Saturday 14 October
10am – 4.30pm at Norwich Cathedral

A day for all the family

Join together for worship, celebration, prayer & activities

The day starts at 10am with an act of worship
led by the Bishop of Norwich

- Hear keynote speaker Mark Russell, Chief Executive of the Church Army
- Be inspired by innovative ways churches are serving their local communities
- Activities for children & youth
- Discover how the Mission Strategy 2021 is enabling local mission
- Explore different styles of prayer
- Take part in music workshops and rehearse & perform in a scratch choir

RESOURCING YOUR PARISH

An exhibition and workshops for all involved in parish ministry

Wednesday 10 May

6pm – 9.30pm

Fakenham Academy, NR21 9QT

Saturday 20 May

10am – 1.30pm

Open Academy, Norwich, NR7 9DL

An opportunity to gain practical help and support and access numerous resources in one place. Speak to Diocesan staff and officers as well as local/national organisations to receive advice in a whole range of areas including: church finance, children's and youth work, lay & ordained ministry, marketing and communications, grants and funding and more.

Details of workshops are online.

Free to attend but please book in advance at:

www.dioceseofnorwich.org/exhibition
or call Angela George on 01603 880853



Getting ready for Open Churches Week 2017

Norfolk Open Churches Week is an annual celebration where churches across the Diocese hold a variety of events in their church such as art exhibitions, flower festivals, concerts or children's activities.

This year the Week will run from **Saturday 5 - Sunday 13 August** and the theme is 'Our Parish in the World'.

If your church is hosting any activities or events please add them to our website as soon as possible; we will then promote them and encourage the local media to do the same.

The Diocese has 6x2ft 'Open Church' outdoor banners which can be purchased for £30 from the online shop or by calling 01603 880853.

Find out more at:
www.dioceseofnorwich.org/open

VISIT US AT THE ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW

28-29 JUNE 2017



Exhibitors



School Choirs



Prayer Garden

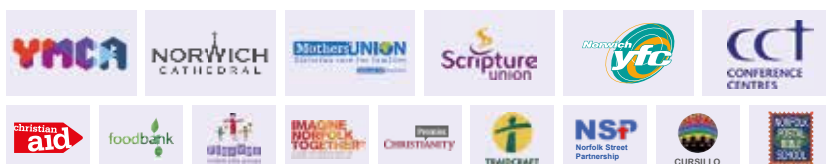


Toddler Zone



Children's Activities

EXHIBITORS partnering with us in this year's marquee include:



By Your Side: a short story

By Cole Tibbet

I have a great friend. He's always there for me. When I'm having trouble with my work or something like that he'll help me. If I'm being bullied he'll get rid of the bully. If I get upset, he'll comfort me. We're best friends. He's the kind of friend everyone would want.

The only problem is no one else can see him. Well, neither can I but I always know when he's there. When I turn to him or talk to him people sometimes make fun of me. They say I have an imaginary friend. But no, he's real. And I know he'll always be there for me no matter what. How do I know that? Well, this is how.

It happened just a few days ago, on a school day. It started at lunch time. Once every week, me and some of my other friends get to go to the library. So as soon as lessons finished we headed straight to the library; I took my watch with me. We ran through the many corridors slowing down when we passed the Headteacher's office.

When we reached the library we all began to read. Some time passed and I was so engrossed in my book that I forgot about my surroundings. I forgot about my friend. He circled the library aimlessly waiting for me to finish so we could play. But that time didn't come. I don't know what he did next.

When I noticed that it was almost time to have lunch I decided to play a game with the others. One suggested tag; another suggested ninja warriors; the guy next to me suggested the Random Game and the final one suggested Truth or Dare.

We all agreed to the last game and began. We played a couple games and it was my turn again. My closest friend out of the four dared me to do a little dance around the room. So, I began to dance.

But after doing multiple dance moves I accidentally knocked into a plant pot. It tipped over and shattered into pieces. Everyone gazed in horror.

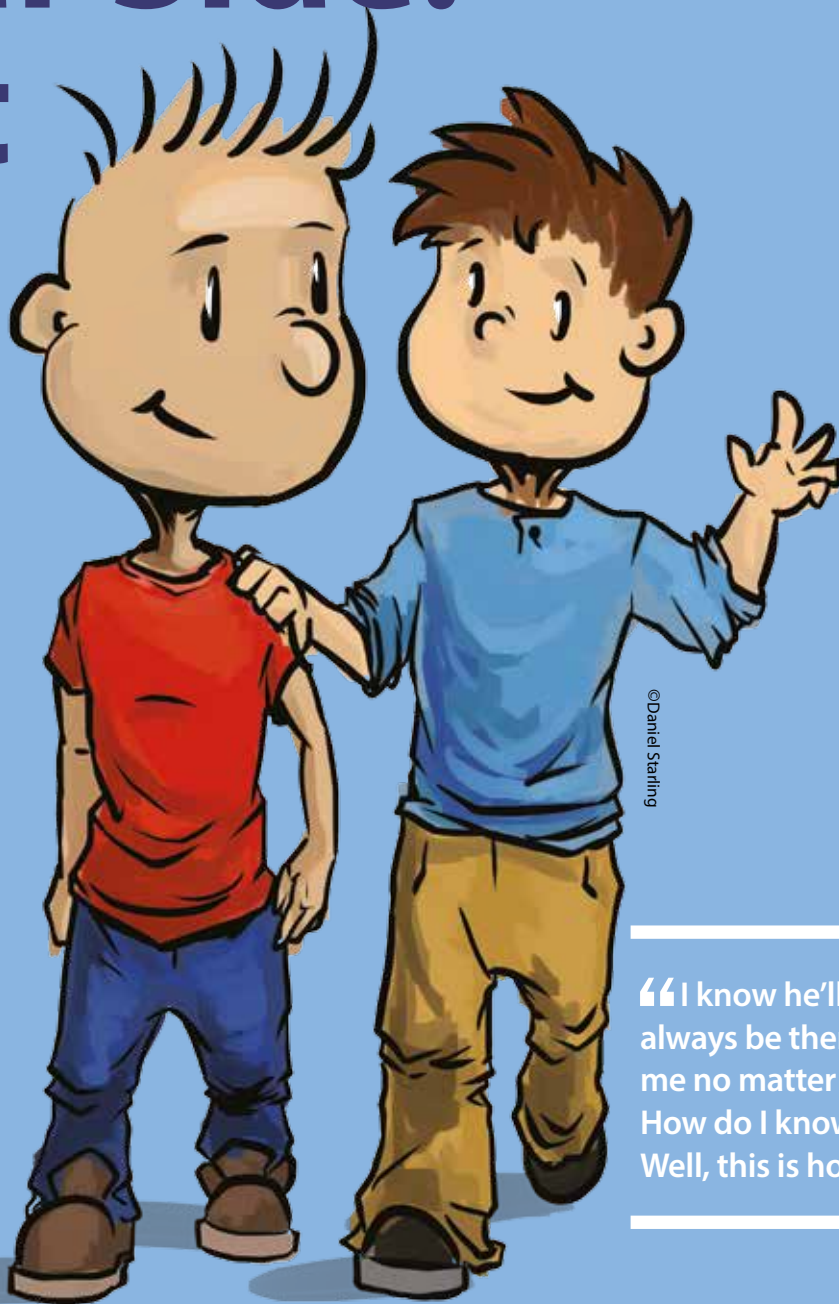
Before I could stop them they rushed to a teacher to tell. I could hear them shouting about how it was all my fault and they were trying to relax as I messed about: lies. Lies! The teacher came over and was not happy at all. I turned to look for my friend but he wasn't there. I was all alone. Or at least, I thought I was.

As the teacher walked me to the Headteacher's office I heard a voice in my head. 'Do not fret, I am here. You will be alright. I shall help you. Just wait. Just turn. I will be there.' So, I turned to my left and, he was there. Smiling at me. Visible. I could

actually see him. But no one else could. Did I care? No. He was there for me even though I ignored him and that's all that mattered. I didn't care if I got in trouble. Because I knew my friend would help me. And he did.



Cole is 10 years old and lives in Aylsham with his big sister Chloe, his Mum, Dad and cats Boots and Astra. When he grows up Cole hopes to be an author, a YouTuber and possibly write computer games.



“I know he'll always be there for me no matter what. How do I know that? Well, this is how.”
