


THE MAGAZINE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

AUTUMN 2019



Poverty in plenty

What is poverty?

PAGE 6

Frugal Innovation –
how to do more with less

PAGE 12

Offering shelter
and hope in
King's Lynn

11

Face to faith:
Global justice

15

New church
planting
programme

22

Eco soundings:
Climate change

31

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From the Editor

I've been a Christian for almost 40 years yet still feel I'm barely scratching the surface in terms of understanding some of the big issues in this world and how, as a person of faith, I should respond to them. While accepting it is a constant learning process, there are some issues which seem a priority to God.

There are over 2,000 verses in the Bible on poverty and justice. This seemed as good a premise as any to invite some people to tackle the subject of poverty in our world today and how we might respond.

In our main feature (pg 6), a discussion is held among a small group of people who have some knowledge and experience of working or volunteering with people in poverty or have acknowledged a "lack" in their own life.

There is a concern around the issue of homelessness, as a symptom of perhaps both material and spiritual poverty, running through this issue. Shelter solicitor Julia Wheeler urges us to respond (pg 4), Lucy McKitterick reflects on the first year of the King's Lynn Winter Nightshelter (pg 11) and Andy Bryant explains how a knitted house in Norwich Cathedral is raising awareness of the issues around homelessness (pg 10).

Bishop Jonathan talks of the importance of us "reaching out" to alleviate all

types of poverty in his Pause Button piece (pg 5). Some practical responses are shared with the idea of "frugal innovation" (pg 12) and community fridges (pg 14). Fiona Haworth shares her faith journey with a particular consideration of global justice issues (pg 15) and pupils at a rural primary school in south Norfolk prove that you're never too young to challenge our policymakers to give access to education for all worldwide (pg 17).

I hope the theme of this issue, along with the other content, inspires you to look afresh at your own faith journey and response to some of these "big issues".

Blessings,



Barbara

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Cover photo: STN Trust's installation "Rooms with a View", raising awareness of modern slavery in Norfolk. © Jason Baldry



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Contents

THE MAGAZINE | AUTUMN 2019

4 COMMENT: ... he felt compassion for him

5 PAUSE BUTTON: Reaching out



6

FEATURE:
What is poverty?

9 REVIEW: Books on the theme

10 The House that shames us

14 Community fridges – fighting food poverty

18 CYF: chaplaincy in schools

21 Becoming a Reader – Charlie's story

24 Christmas Alive at Ashill

26 FOCUS ON: Tas Valley

29 Petertide ordinations

30 News in brief



32

OUT & ABOUT:
Parish happenings



“When he saw the man, he felt compassion for him...”



It has become an unavoidable fact that homelessness in the UK has grown massively since 2010. There is a housing crisis because we do not have affordable housing. Housing available for rent, let alone to buy.

If you lost your job, how long could you keep up the repayments on your mortgage or your rent? Could you afford a zero-hours contract, not knowing one week to another what your pay will be? Can you wait five weeks before you get your first benefit income?

Most people aren't homeless because they have drug addictions, or alcohol abuse, but because a simple change happened to their circumstances and the cost of their housing was too high for them to fix the problem. There, but for the grace of God, go I.

Then once homeless, it is so hard to rehouse people, because the benefit system and the average wages do not match the average private rents. This traps people into homelessness, or into temporary accommodation (provided by councils to only those homeless people in 'priority need') because there are not enough social or council homes to move people to instead.

How then, as Christians, do we respond to this?

Our God tells us to “Love mercy, seek justice, and walk humbly with our God” in



Micah 6:8. “Love mercy” means to look at a person on the street and not blame them for being a drug user (most people only get into drugs, or develop mental health problems, after being made homeless). Help the homeless person, regardless of why he is homeless. Give him or her a cup of coffee. A hot sandwich. A smile. A leaflet about where to go for the foodbank or a night shelter. A phone number for Shelter (0808 800 4444).

Secondly, seek justice for that person, or for homeless people overall. “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute” says Proverbs 31:8. Sign petitions on the internet. Write to your MP and councillors.

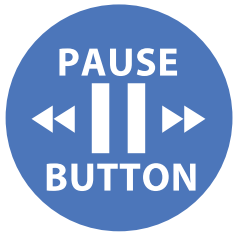
Donate food items to a food bank. Volunteer somewhere.

Thirdly, walk humbly with our God. In the good Samaritan parable, Luke 10:33 says: the “Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him”. In the Greek, this actually says “his bowels exploded”! In our parlance we would say, “his heart broke”.

That is how Jesus sees you. Jesus is the Samaritan, and you are a victim of assault by illness, debt, grief, poverty, homelessness, sin. Jesus looks at you, and his heart breaks. And it's because Jesus does this for you first, that he says “Yes, now go and do the same”. By walking humbly with our God, you can love homeless people because God has first loved us. And if you are reading this and you are homeless, know that Jesus has been homeless too, and his heart breaks with love for you.



Julia Wheeler is a solicitor at Shelter, the national charity campaigning for homeless people. Julia represents homeless people and defends possession proceedings across Norfolk. She worships at Broadgrace Church in Coltishall.



Reaching Out

It's pretty clear in almost every page of this edition of *The Magazine* that the consistent question is: how is it that in an era of plenty, there is yet so much poverty? And is there anything we can do about it?

Jesus' response to Judas, "you will always have the poor with you," has proved grimly prophetic. It is partly because any structuring of society will have both "sinkers" and "risers", and partly because greed and selfishness seem ever-present realities.

The contrasts are extreme, and you don't have to look all that far to find them. I see them when I go to Papua New Guinea (which I do again this September, amongst other things seeking out next year's Lent Appeal Project); but they are here in Norfolk as well, both in deprived urban areas and in parts of our rural communities too.

Does it have to be like this? Is poverty solely about lack of economic wealth? Where do spiritual poverty, the poverty of loneliness, the poverty of time to breathe deeply, relax with those we love, or to fulfil properly the range of possibilities within us fit in? Or the poverty of a childhood that fails to flourish for a variety of different reasons?

And are there things we could or should be doing? The encouraging truth is that many things are being done both by people in our wider communities, and by people in our churches. We hear of a wide variety of them at meetings of the Social Community and Environmental Concerns Forum.

Recently a shared initiative with the Church Urban Fund, which we call Imagine Norfolk Together, has harnessed commitment to several new ventures in Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn, including the provision of Winter Night Shelters in both towns. In these towns, in many others, and in Norwich itself, some remarkable things are being done.

We have recently said goodbye and thank you to Sir Richard Jewson as Lord Lieutenant of the county. At his farewell,



“This is something I am going to put my shoulder to. There were plenty of people saying: ‘Wait, see how it goes; don’t risk your early reputation on something that’s untested.’”

we heard something of the growth of the Norfolk Community Foundation over the last 15 years. It supports the work of hundreds of charities across the county, big and small, church and secular – all seeking in various ways to alleviate poverty.

At its inception Sir Richard, newly appointed, stuck his neck out and said, “This is something I am going to put my

shoulder to. There were plenty of people saying: ‘Wait, see how it goes; don’t risk your early reputation on something that’s untested.’” It was a significant piece of reaching out. The Community Foundation is now well established and seeking still to do more: to continue reaching out to the furthest corners of the Diocese and county.

In the end “reaching out” is a very large part of the response that’s needed – in practical help, in understanding of the particular poverty, with money sometimes, and more often with time and care. Jesus is God’s act of reaching out to us. Poverty of so many types is eased when we join in that reaching out.



Jonathan Meyrick
Bishop of Lynn



What is poverty?

Simply a lack of money to pay your way – or more extensively no access to health provision, education, safe water and housing? Or is it an emptiness of spirit or loneliness? Biddy Collyer hosted a discussion with Anna Heydon, Peter Howard and Lorie Lain-Rogers to tease out the definition of poverty in a world of plenty.

Photo: © Paul Clarke/iftx

International development agency Tear Fund says the definition goes deeper still and that its roots are in broken relationships. Using the fall in Genesis as the starting place, it says that this is where it all went wrong, not only affecting our relationship with God, but with each other and with creation. It is clear to see that we are out of balance with the natural world and that the impact of this is felt most keenly by the poorest, through famine, flooding and disease.

Photo: © Adam Jackson



Biddy Collyer

As we talked, one thing we were clear about though was that any restorative action needed to be bottom-up, not top-down. The “Lady Bountiful with her basket of food for the poor in the village” style is just demeaning to everyone. God made us equal.



Anna Heydon

“I believe the church and the leadership of the church should be as diverse as the people God has created.”

Anna spoke of the work of The Poverty Truth Commission. They have piloted programmes in Glasgow and Leeds, bringing together the “experts”, that is, those who have a direct experience of poverty, with those who make and implement policy, to help them understand more fully the realities of life for those who their policies affect. The

experts get the opportunity to talk to those in power. The experts set the agenda for the meetings. It is not about blame, it is about building relationships and listening to each other.

This way of working towards much-needed solutions is echoed at the end of Darren McGarvey’s book, *Poverty Safari*. Brought up in a poor area of Glasgow by an alcoholic mother, he too was one of the experts. The book tells his story, one of drug addiction and unemployment. However, by the time he reaches his thirties, he has a revelation: just pouring in more money will not solve the problems. He is part of the solution. Having found his voice – and pen – he now speaks publicly on poverty and no longer plays the victim card. In doing so, he has found dignity and a sense of purpose.

Part of Darren McGarvey’s way out of poverty was having access to his local libraries. These were places where he could go to get quiet time and access to books, a place that expanded his mind and opened him up to a new way of thinking. Lorie pointed out: “But now libraries are being turned into community centres, and the number of books has gone down.” In Anna’s experience, libraries are one of the few places for people who are homeless in Great Yarmouth to go for the day. The atmosphere is relaxed and tolerant and there are literacy lessons and a chance to read the newspapers as well as books.

Our thoughts then turned to education and Lorie, having been a teacher when comprehensive schools were introduced, felt that such large schools have not helped social mobility. Unless parents are highly motivated, some children can fall through the gap: “I taught in a secondary modern and we raised the aspirations for those kids with really good music and drama as well as the other subjects. Now there is no money for music, no money for the arts at all.”

Anna knows of some Christian families in the Great Yarmouth Borough who have made the conscious decision to send their children to schools at the centre of their communities over more prestigious schools further away. “I believe that God has used their decision to encourage their children to be fully immersed in the local education system and community to build strong relationships of mutual blessing and to demonstrate the love of God for the areas where they live, work, study and worship.”

Both Anna and Lorie are directly involved with charities who understand the idea of the need to work alongside the people they want to support. This is achieved by bringing them into the decision making of the organisations, although this brings its own challenges. If you haven’t been exposed to working to a committee structure with set ways of working, it can be difficult to find your place in it and to make your voice heard.

One young woman Anna heard speak at a conference was training for ordination. Coming from a working-class background she was unaware of the different conventions that were operating. She said, “I believe the church and the leadership of the church should be as diverse as the people God has created.”

One example of diversity that Peter talked about was the Holt Community Café Association, one of a growing number of Places of Welcome. “Most people only see Holt as a place of wealth but there are long-term effects involving mental and physical health, such as loneliness, low self-esteem and wellbeing.” According to the organisation End Child Poverty, 27.4 per cent of young people in the district live in child poverty, above the national average of 26.9 per cent.

Out of those who attend the Community Café, at least 70 per cent consider themselves physically, socially or mentally challenged in some form which includes loneliness, isolation, ill-health and dementia. Open one lunchtime a week, the café is run by local Christians to provide love, friends, conversation and good food in a safe place, and now sees between 70 and 85 people each week.



Peter Howard

Peter shared three stories that illustrate this love in action:

One young woman came into the café in a state of anxiety and depression. She had lost everything, was in a half-way house and was struggling to cope. Through her new friends in the café, she has turned her

“The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty – it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There’s a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”

life around and is now one of the leading volunteers in the café and giving back to her community in many ways.

An elderly lady who was isolated came in one day and said she had not spoken to anyone for two weeks. Now she has so many friends that she cannot walk down the High Street without people stopping to talk to her.

The team at the café invited the local Adult Learning Hub to join them. Now four or five of those who came to be helped are working as volunteers, with one achieving his Level 3 Hygiene award.

Anna agreed these stories are a great illustration: “There is something powerful about someone coming intentionally alongside you, recognising the potential and skills you have got and investing in you. That in itself has huge practical and symbolic value as well. Doing as a human what God is doing for us.”

The developed world was shocked when Mother Teresa said: “The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty – it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There’s a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”

Spiritual poverty is so much harder to see than physical. It can get hidden beneath the accumulation of wealth, the busyness of everyday life or work. I didn’t recognise that this was why I felt so empty in my thirties. I had everything I had ever wanted. Husband and children I loved, a nice house and comfortable life. The emptiness drove me to seek a

resolution for it and that took about six years until finally I became a Christian. When I surrendered to Jesus, it felt like my world turned from grey to colour. I found a new purpose and sense of worth, even discovering gifts I didn’t know God had given me.

Peter begged to differ somewhat in his view: “Material inequality is what the prophets were addressing in the Old Testament when they spoke of justice/righteousness (the same word in Hebrew!) and what is addressed by the good news in both the Sermon on the Mount and in Luke 4:18. For me, spiritual poverty is something experienced by the victims of inequality, on both sides of the divide. The solution, depending on where you stand, is repentance or restitution.”



Lorie Lain-Rogers

Lorie chipped in: “People, whoever they are, need to know that they are loved. It is not that all who are rich are sinners and all who are poor are saints and if we swapped the two round it would work. It wouldn’t change anything. We are all sinners, equal

before God and we all have a destiny to grow into.”

We agreed that the trouble is that many people do not know that what they are feeling is spiritual poverty and, like me, will try to find things to fill that hole. It is just that too many people miss the blessing because they look in the wrong place. For as the New English Bible version of Matthew 5:6 says, “Blessed are those who know their need of God.”

“God’s world is designed for all to flourish without oppressing others,” said John Wesley. If we believe that to be the case, societal transformation is possible. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, we can make a difference.

Wesley’s understanding that we grow spiritually by ministering to the needs of others means that by opening ourselves up to the love of God in Jesus, we will all be richer than we ever knew to be possible.

Biddy Collyer is a churchwarden at St Stephen’s Norwich, a grandmother to Charlie, and loves walking, sailing and family life.

Anna Heydon is a Development Worker for Imagine Norfolk Together, working with churches in the Great Yarmouth area to encourage their work in and with the local community.

The Revd Canon Peter Howard is the Urban Officer for the Diocese of Norwich and retired in 2016 as Vicar of St. Francis Heartsease. He supports clergy and churches in engaging with ministry in poor communities.

Lorie Lain-Rogers is a churchwarden at St Peter and Paul, Bergh Apton, was a co-founder of Seven Cs Community Project and is a local charity trustee.

Review

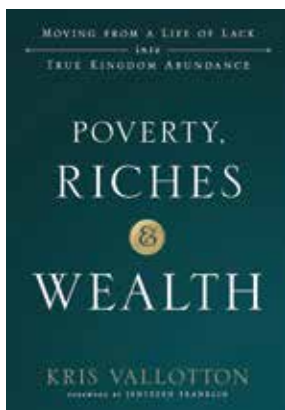


A selection of books on the theme of poverty in plenty, reviewed by Steve Foyster.

Poverty, Riches & Wealth

Kris Vallotton

*Chosen Books/Baker Books (2018) £9.99
Revelation price £8.00*



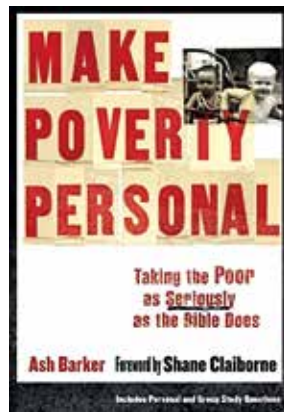
Some ministers tell their congregations that God will make them all rich, rich, rich! Others spurn the word and insist that true Christ-likeness is found in forsaking all worldly riches and possessions. The truth is, both are right, and both are wrong.

With refreshing honesty, humour and keen insight, best-selling author and pastor Kris Vallotton mines the Scriptures in an eye-opening study of what the Bible really says about money, poverty, riches and wealth. He discovers these surprising truths: Jesus was not poor and homeless; heaven is described in the language of wealth; you can determine your wealth based on how much, and how well, you love yourself. The author asserts that when we learn to cultivate a mindset of abundance, no matter our circumstances, we can begin to experience the wealth of heaven in every area of our lives.

Make Poverty Personal

Ash Barker

*Baker Books (2009) £9.99
Revelation price £8.50*



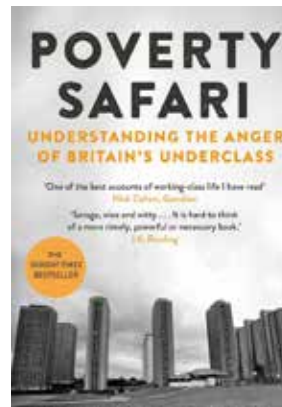
In a world of plenty, poverty abounds. Poverty is not new, and neither is God's deep concern for the poor; it is a theme woven throughout the pages of scripture. Yet sadly churches and individual Christians have too often either been "blind" to this Biblical emphasis or feel paralysed into inaction by feelings of helplessness.

In his provocative book Ash Barker offers both challenge and hope. By working his way through both the Old and New Testaments he reflects on significant passages of God's concern for the poor. These studies are interlaced with personal reflections from 15 years of ministry amongst the poor. To be read individually or within a small group for discussion.

Poverty Safari: Understanding the Anger of Britain's Underclass

Darren McGarvey

*Picador Books (2018) £8.99
Revelation price £8.00*



Darren McGarvey, also known as Loki, grew up in Pollok. He is a writer, performer, community activist and columnist, and former rapper-in-residence at Police Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit. He was a member of the Poverty Truth Commission that was hosted in Glasgow in 2009 and has presented eight programmes for BBC Scotland, exploring the root causes of anti-social behaviour and social deprivation.

Part memoir, part polemic, this is a savage, wise and witty tour-de-force. The author gives an unflinching account of the realities of systematic poverty, laying down challenges to both the right and left of the political spectrum. A timely, powerful and necessary book.

A Compassionate Call to Counter Culture in a World of Poverty

David Platt

*Tyndale House (2015) £2.50
Revelation price £2.00*



In this companion piece to his bestselling book *Counter Culture*, David Platt offers sound Biblical support and practical action steps to help Christians take a courageous and compassionate stand against poverty.

Drawing heavily on personal stories and scripture, he encourages Christians to get involved and commit to countering poverty, highlighting a wide variety of relevant ministries and organisations that need help in this mission. The stage is set for the God of the universe to do the unimaginable, the shocking and the scandalous and he wants us to be part of it by standing up for Christ in the fight. A really powerful book that should make the reader distinctly uncomfortable for all the right reasons.



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The House that shames us

After a helter-skelter, what might you next find in Norwich Cathedral? Andy Bryant tells us: the answer is a house. At first glance it might be tempting to assume that this is a rather happy dwelling, a house wrapped in multi-coloured scarves. But behind the seemingly cosy image is another story. This is a house that should shame us.



To coincide with World Homelessness Day on 10 October, St Martins, in partnership with Norwich Cathedral, will be building a house of scarves – 4,677 scarves to be precise, one scarf for each person who slept rough in England last year. Each scarf will be different in colour and texture but among the bright colours, if you look carefully you will find 600 black scarves, one for each person who died sleeping rough in England in 2018.

Rough sleeping is, of course, only the visible tip of the iceberg of homelessness. Out of immediate sight are those trapped in bed and breakfast accommodation or sofa surfing. And when these options run out then the only option is to sleep on the streets.

Although we talk of “the homeless”, the reality is rather a myriad of different stories, of particular individual circumstances, many of which could happen to any of us, which leads to people sleeping on the streets.

People who are homeless should be accepted as individuals and not prejudged by their situation or challenges. Each

‘brick’ of the knitted house is unique and represents a person. Often homeless people experience a loss of identity, so the diversity of the scarves reminds us of the distinctive and individual nature of each individual and their story.

New people are arriving on the streets all the time, usually local people. Thankfully rough sleeping is reducing in Norwich, due to the work of the Pathways team, which is a consortium of organisations who work together to reduce rough sleeping in the city. Official figures for the last three years are: 2016: 34, 2017: 30, 2018: 22.

Charities such as St Martins do a lot of prevention work, often in the community and supporting people with poor mental health. St Martins runs groups and activities for people who have enduring mental illness – and it’s frequently the creative activities, such as knitting, that help people feel better, more confident and connected to others.

Nevertheless, living as we do in one of the richest countries in the world, it should shock and shame us that, according to the housing charity Shelter, 320,000 were recorded as homeless in 2018. It is hoped

the presence of this knitted house in the Cathedral will challenge all who see it to ask how we can overcome the inequalities that beset our society.

Our Christian calling is not just to grow the church but also to grow the kingdom, to ensure that the kingdom values of justice and mercy lie at the heart of the world about us and that together we create communities where all know they are loved, valued and cherished.

NORWICH
CATHEDRAL



The Knitted House will be on public display 7 – 28 October at Norwich Cathedral. www.cathedral.org.uk

Offering shelter and hope in King's Lynn

Project Co-ordinator Lucy McKitterick looks back over the first year of the King's Lynn Winter Nightshelter.

In the autumn of 2018 we began recruiting for our first all-winter season, and by the end of March this year 130 volunteers had welcomed 97 homeless guests in a total of 2,897 beds. Each night for five months of the winter we opened our doors to whoever needed us; cooked, listened and cared for them; and so, opened ourselves to the extraordinary privilege of welcoming Jesus Christ.

The number of night shelter schemes run by groups of local churches has been growing rapidly in recent years. In Norfolk there are similar schemes operating in Great Yarmouth and in Norwich, and nationally such shelters have become an essential lifeline when other provision is full, unavailable, been tried before, or just not there.

Many shelters occupy a rota of church buildings; in Lynn we are blessed with a single location (an old music hall!) adapted for use which has been an important part of establishing somewhere people can find "home".

We accept guests both on referral from other agencies and those who "refer" themselves: for some there will be ways to link them with other support but with others we see the hard reality of what saving lives in cold weather can look like. The young man in a wheelchair hearing voices between detentions in psychiatric care, the woman with limbs ulcerated from years of needle use giving sexual favours in exchange for crack cocaine, the husband shaking in the gutter each evening with alcohol seizures, were not easy guests: yet they came because in Norfolk last winter there was nowhere else for them to go.



Mayor's thank you event for volunteers



“I think this is the perfect opportunity to help my community.”

The plight of the unwanted in our nation is the responsibility of all of us: but for Christians these "referrals" are an invitation to obey the Saviour who asks us to love and serve his poor and through this service to know him better than we did before.

The cross on the wall in our reception in Lynn is not where our guests will see it, cold and tired from the streets – they do not need to know if we are a church night shelter, the way we treat them will tell them that – but where we can see it, when we are listening to them.

And Jesus on the cross is here with us in his beauty and dignity especially in the most "complex needs" individuals who, because of addiction or abuse or violence

or depression or just from exhaustion, have the most visible wounds.

Norfolk's night shelters are part of a new regional forum of similar projects across East Anglia: like all of them we shall be opening again in Lynn this winter and we need each other's expertise and prayers. There are huge challenges – from safeguarding to risk assessment to raising funds – but in coming forward to accept this vital work in our communities we are a visible witness to the love of Jesus who suffers for and with us and so offers a life-changing hope.

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Frugal Innovation: how to do more and better with less

Keith James looks at what we might learn from a growing informal, grassroots movement.

Many churches face significant challenges. We are being asked to do more with less – as are many others: the NHS, education and third sector have all been grappling with more being required of them but with less funding.

And this country is not on its own in facing these issues. Over three billion people live outside the formal economy and face significant needs in health, education, energy, food and finance. However, there has also been real growth in community groups with limited resources, creating faster, better and cheaper solutions.

This movement is called “Frugal Innovation” and it is popular in Africa and South Asia, particularly in India where it is known as Jugaad, a Hindi word that means an improvised fix, a clever solution born in adversity.

People have learned to get more value from limited resources and find creative ways to reuse what they already have. For example, in India, potter Mansukh Prajapati has created a fridge made entirely of clay that uses no electricity and can keep fruits and vegetables fresh for many days – it is, quite literally, a cool invention.

In Kenya, half of the population uses M-PESA, a branchless banking service that uses basic mobile phones to enable people without access to traditional banks to deposit, withdraw, transfer money and pay for goods and services. This is greatly needed in Africa because 80 per cent of people do not have a bank account but 82 per cent have a mobile phone.



Frugal Innovation takes something that is abundant – mobile connectivity for example – to deal with what is scarce – traditional banks.

This approach is diametrically opposed to the way we innovate in the West. Our conventional business model is “more-for-more”, but it is under pressure. Many people cannot afford existing products and services, and we are running out of natural resources. There is a growth in Frugal Innovation in the West with the rise of crowdfunding, peer-to-peer sharing and the maker movement.

The *Every One Every Day* project is a good example. It began with opening two shops (the first of five) on high streets in Barking and Dagenham. The scheme offers something which is plentiful – empty shop and office space – to meet a need for people to meet, make and create. They have since opened “maker spaces”, equipped with laser cutters and other tools, sewing machines and working kitchens.

If you want to be a Frugal Innovator there are a few key principles:

Seek opportunity in adversity. Difficult, unpredictable situations often contain within them the seeds and impetus for us to look afresh at familiar problems.

Do more with less. What do you have (and take for granted)?

Think and act flexibly and laterally. Ask: what’s another way of looking at this?

Keep it simple. Use existing resources, rather than focusing on what you do not have. Sometimes this simply means offering the resources or a challenge to others and inviting them to help or use them.

Include the margin. Who are the people who are missing or on the edge? Use the wisdom of the crowd. They can bring insight, energy, ideas that change familiar ways of looking at the same old problems.

Follow your heart. How much does that matter to you? Persistence and resilience are key attributes.



“Our conventional business model is more-for-more, but it is under pressure.”

There are many examples of Frugal Innovation in the Bible. The story of the feeding of the 5,000 is one. It is principally a sign of how Jesus transforms human lives and meets our deepest needs for meaning and eternal life. But it is also worth noting how Jesus keeps his nerve in the crisis of being faced with lots of hungry people, in a remote place.

The miracle of transformation is made possible by noticing and including someone who is marginal in that society and in that story, a child. The fragments are noticed and valued – when they are gathered up and there is enough to fill 12 baskets. On their own, they were merely

scattered left-overs, but collected there is enough for another feast.

Churches often speak about themselves in terms of deficit: not having enough money, enough people, enough younger people, not having the right sort of building for worship and mission.

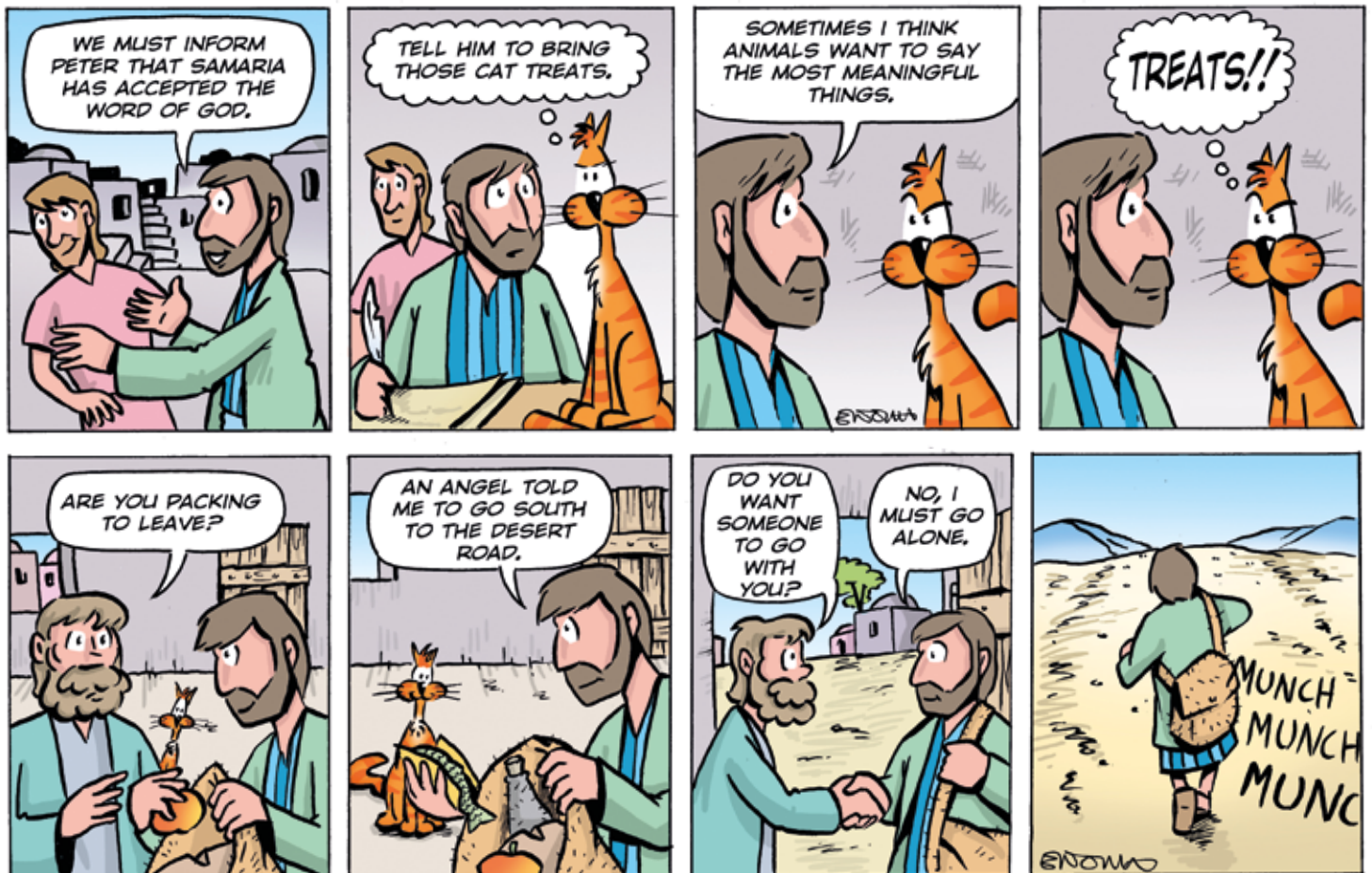
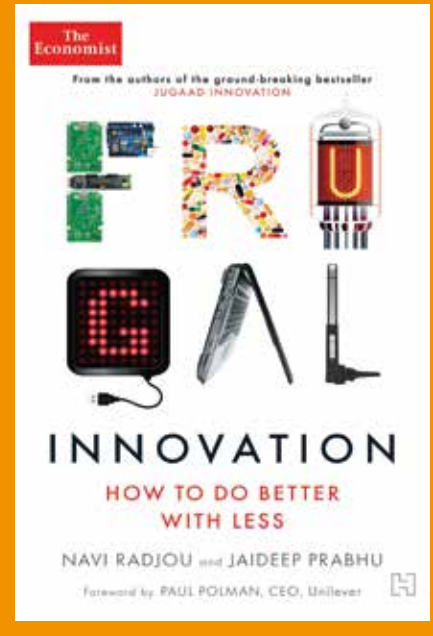
Frugal Innovation does not deny the reality of the problems we face. It has proved inspirational however, as it invites us to harness the resources we do have, to invite human ingenuity, to engage and receive from the marginal, to persist and experiment, so that adversity can be transformed into opportunity and blessing.

Further resources

Frugal Innovation: How to do better with less by Navi Radjou and Jaideep Prabhu

www.weareeveryone.org

www.thersa.org/discover/videos/event-videos/2014/07/Charles-Leadbetter-on-Frugal-Innovation



A *Peter's Cat* collection is available as an eBook from Amazon. Cartoon resources for Sunday schools can be found at www.deadseacomics.co.uk

Fighting food poverty by using plenty

Food Banks have become a familiar sight in the landscape of our country – many run by churches in this Diocese. Food poverty is a fact of life, alongside food waste. A different initiative that is attempting to deal with both issues is the community fridge network. Here Damon Rogers and Isaac Sibanda share their story of how this is impacting their neighbourhoods.

Lowestoft

In March 2019 the first community fridge in Suffolk opened at Saint Andrews Church in Lowestoft. The fridge project came about through a partnership between Saint Andrews and Community Action Suffolk and has the support of the Hubbub and Neighbourly charities.

Essentially the aim of the community fridge is to reduce food waste going to land fill sites. In practice something different happens: we have found that all of the food that is donated to the community fridge is distributed to people who are living in food poverty.

It has been heart-breaking to hear some of the stories of people who have been sanctioned by the Universal Credit system, or who are working on limited-hour contracts and do not know from one week to the next whether they will have enough money to live on. Such people are our usual “customers” at the community fridge and we are often reminded of Jesus’ words, from Matthew’s Gospel, “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink.”

In the future we intend to develop what we do further by spending time to get to know the people who come to the community fridge and by building our relationships with them so that we can support them more and offer them prayer ministry as well.

The fridge was donated by Hughes Electrical and, that apart, everything we needed was purchased for less than £100. For any church that is thinking of setting up a community fridge we would say “go for it”, because what you will offer really can make a difference in people’s lives.

Norwich

St Francis on the Heartsease estate in Norwich is a church that opens its doors to our community to share food, faith and fellowship. We see the stark reality of food waste and aim to create an environment that is friendly, dignified, welcoming and filled with Christ’s love and laughter.

As a church we think it is important that we value God’s gifts, and this is food that would otherwise end up in the bin. It is for anyone and everyone to use. We think that helps to deal with the stigma that can sometimes surround needing help.

The Hive, a converted GP surgery next to the church, houses the fridge, and non-chilled goods fill more tables around the room. Many individuals who were once in need give back to by donating a few extra bits to be redistributed with the other goods.

Part of this work also comes from our “Healthy Hive Drop-in”, a place to share ideas about how to get more active, deal with stress, asking what is in our food

and how we can eat more healthily. In our community of volunteers and helpers there are no experts, just neighbours wanting to look after their health and environment together.

Find out how to set up a community fridge at: www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge





Global justice



Fiona with Zeina

The Revd Fiona Harworth, assistant priest at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich city centre, shares her everyday faith journey with an emphasis on making a difference worldwide.

A formative experience for me as a young Christian at university was meeting students from different part of the world and listening to their stories. Many of these students were very hospitable, and sharing food was a very significant way of building friendships.

Sharing a meal and listening as Sudanese and Libyan students spoke about the political situations they faced at home and hearing their interpretation of global news from a non-Western perspective opened a new way of seeing and understanding the world for me and made me aware of the levels of injustice that many people faced in their daily lives.

How to make sense of what I heard and to act on it as a Christian was extremely challenging. When I read the gospels, I read them in the light of those formative conversations that challenged my understanding of power and colonialism. Fortunately, I became aware of the work of Christian Aid at a similar time and found in their work a positive way of engaging practically and spiritually with global issues.

I am a member of the Iona Community, and our rule of life commits us to daily prayer and requires us to work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Over a month the Community's daily office prays for every nation in the world.

My prayers for many of these nations are informed by the work that Christian Aid is doing in these countries with their partner organisations. Praying for Sierra Leone, I remember the campaign for maternal health. When we pray for the Middle East, I particularly remember Zeina

Zakar, who works with Christian Aid's partner Association Najdeh in Lebanon, supporting refugees.

I was able to arrange for Zeina to speak at a Sunday morning service at St Peter Mancroft. Hearing first-hand from Zeina about the plight of Syrian and Palestinian refugees brings home the reality of the situation in the Middle East in a way that no amount of news reports can. Zeina had a profound impact on the congregation.

I am very keen to engage with global issues in our worship. We should bring before God the wider world and issues of concern. I have been involved in leading worship exploring a variety of global issues including "A Lament for Aleppo", "Women's Stories in the Light of #MeToo," and "The Challenge of Climate Change".

When I am searching for resources addressing global issues, the Christian Aid website frequently has testimonies, prayers and stories which give a voice to

people living in extremely challenging circumstances. It is also good to have simple, practical actions for people to participate in. Earlier this year, as part of the Christian Aid campaign, we took a letter signed by members of the congregation to HSBC in Norwich requesting that HSBC live up to their promises on climate justice.

Bringing global issues into our worship reminds us that we are part of the world that God has made, the world that God loves, and that our lives are bound up with the lives of all God's children.

“I am very keen to engage with global issues in our worship. We should bring before God the wider world and issues of concern.”



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Unlocking access to education worldwide

How can children from a small rural primary school help influence the life chances of millions of children throughout the world who are denied access to education? This was the question that Forncett St Peter Church of England Primary School asked themselves, as they took part in a week-long “Send My Friend to School” campaign and explored how the school vision of “love your neighbour as yourself” can be made relevant in their daily life. Teacher Helen Cartner takes up the story.

In 1948 the United Nations General Assembly declared that everyone has a right to free primary education. Now, 70 years on, there are still an estimated 262 million children and young people across the world who remain out of school.

To raise awareness the school has been engaged since 2007 with the UK coalition of the Global Campaign for Education. During this year’s campaign week, the pupils explored the theme “Let’s Unlock Education for Everyone”. Each class had a different focus learning about the many barriers to accessing education and what could be done to “unlock” these problems. The children discovered that poverty is a very big factor alongside conflict, gender, disability and locality.

Pupils shared their learning when Richard Bacon, MP for South Norfolk, visited the school in June. He met members of the School Council who had taken a leading role in organising the programme. “We all looked amazing,” they reported, “because we had our special ‘Send my Friend to School’ t-shirts on!”

The Year Six representatives took Mr Bacon on a tour of the school. We started in Ruby Class where the children were finding out about schools that don’t have many toys, while in the Year Two Diamond Class they

were working on a poster about having teachers. They explored a school in Ghana which had only five teachers but 880 children!

Sapphire Class were learning about gender equality and how some girls are not allowed to have an education. Often family poverty requires them to take responsibility for chores and look after younger siblings at home or work to earn money. Sometimes girls are forced to marry when they are young. Even lack of sanitation and clean water facilities is a barrier with children expected to walk long distances to collect clean water for use at home.

Lastly Emerald Class were focusing on transport issues. In many cases going to school involves travelling to another town or village; many families cannot afford the bus fare, or the journeys can be too long or dangerous. Even when there is a local school, many children are unable to attend maybe because they do not have money for school uniform or because of responsibilities at home.

Finally, we held a special assembly in



the hall. We gave Mr Bacon copies of the School Charter, which outlines the concerns of the school community regarding global education and includes an explicit request to the UK government to renew its commitment of ensuring education for all; we asked him to deliver them to the Secretary of State for International Development and to the Foreign Secretary.

During the assembly, Mr Bacon answered questions about his role as an MP and commended the pupils on how they are using their collective voices to help create positive change.

www.campaignforeducation.org/en
www.forncett.norfolk.sch.uk



Chaplaincy in schools

By Jonathan Richardson and Keith Rengert

A Reepham pupil reflects in a German cemetery, Ypres

How shall young people cleanse their way to keep themselves according to your word? (Psalm 119: 9)

Across the Diocese of Norwich there is a wide range of individuals, both lay and ordained, and organisations working to support schools through chaplaincy. In preparing for a recent *Chaplaincy In Schools* training day we identified over 30 people with chaplaincy roles in our secondary schools.

Traditionally this has been something led by the private schools, but we are seeing a gradual increase in other areas. One reason for this may be in response to a mental health crisis amongst young people and the realisation that schools need to support pupils' health both physically and spiritually.

Chaplaincy as a model has grown over recent times. By the late 20th century chaplaincy, as cited by the Revd John Caperon, was described as: "A clergy person commissioned by a faith group to provide pastoral service to an organisation."

Like many definitions, no sooner was it written it was out of date, as nationally chaplains come from many different faith perspectives and indeed no faith perspective at all. They can also be ordained or lay. Caperon suggests that a

more accurate definition of a chaplain for our time might be: "... described as a person designated by a sponsoring organisation to offer care and support to members of a group or community."

What a chaplain does, particularly in a school context, will and does vary according to the organisation they represent, the organisation in which they serve and the hours that they must dedicate to the role.

There are obviously sensitivities about how faith is represented in schools – particularly non-church schools. In Colchester eight out of the 12 high schools work with Christian Youth Outreach, a local charity, to run chaplaincy. One of the head teachers when challenged on why they allowed chaplaincy in a secular school responded by saying: "We are secular because we include all faith, not that we exclude all faith."

In the Diocese of Norwich, Reepham is an example of a school that has been on a journey of discovery in relation to chaplaincy.



"The knowledge that there was a High School and Sixth Form College in Reepham and discovering that the church had traditionally had a very positive relationship with them, was a big draw to my applying to be Team Rector of Reepham & Wensum Valley Team Ministry," says the Revd Keith Rengert.

Engagement with the school started with a group of local clergy from the school's catchment area, beyond traditional parish boundaries, delivering assemblies once or

twice a term. After a year Keith felt that he wanted to offer more. In discussion with the headteacher it was decided that he would take up a formal chaplaincy role to the school and college. This happened a year ago and since then the work and opportunities have grown.

Keith's role at Reepham High School and College could be considered very part-time as he has many other parochial and chaplaincy responsibilities. However, he places a high priority on the School Chaplaincy role. It is no secret that this age group is largely missing from our churches, particularly in rural areas.

Jesus seemed to prioritise his time going out to those outside of the religious institutions of his day and his great commission of Matthew's Gospel exhorts us to do nothing less. It is so much more than that, though. A chaplain, or indeed any member of the laity or clergy, who goes into a school and offers a service (in the broadest sense of the word) must do so without preconceived ideas or expectations.

There is a hope, and maybe an expectation, that a minister investing such a lot of time and energy in the local school will bring back the 'good times' of families and young people filling our churches, with flourishing Sunday schools and youth clubs.

Yes, that would be great, but if that is our hope and expectation, whether articulated or not, then the time invested would have to be limited based on results. If numbers of young people at Sunday services have not increased because of this ministry after a certain period should the chaplaincy be discontinued or deemed unsuccessful?

Chaplaincy, like any other kind of ministry, takes time and is a slow process, as is all relationship-building. The role of a chaplain may come into its own in a school at a time of crisis such as the sudden death of a pupil, member of staff or parent. The time spent building relationships and trust will enable a far deeper response.

At Reepham, Keith tries to visit the school at least twice a week at lunchtime to mingle with pupils and staff. Both Keith and the Revd Helen Rengert give their time to mentor pupils. The school pastoral team refer to them as another adult they can confide in and chat to (within the confines of current safeguarding best practice) whether that be for school or home life issues.



Downtime with Revd Keith as referee, Ypres

As the chaplaincy role has developed Keith has become more embedded in aspects of school life. He explains:

"As chaplain I have also involved myself with the allotment project which, as well as teaching pupils about food production and recycling also gives a safe space away from the academic rigours of school life.

"Perhaps this year the most rewarding aspect of my chaplaincy role so far was to accompany 30 year nine pupils and staff on the annual trip to Ypres to visit war cemeteries and museums, with the same number of German and Belgian children from their link schools. To see those children visibly moved by the sight of so many war-graves, to witness them begin to grasp the horror and waste of war was a real privilege.

"As the headteacher said upon our return, 'When we agreed to start school chaplaincy, we were both experimenting as to how it would work. This trip is definitely an appropriate place for the chaplain to be. You're on this trip as long as you want to go.'

"Perhaps that is chaplaincy – indeed Christian ministry. We are all on this trip for as long as we want to be, to see by God's grace, just how far it might go."

“The knowledge that there was a High School and Sixth Form College in Reepham and discovering that the church had traditionally had a very positive relationship with them, was a big draw to my applying to be Team Rector of Reepham & Wensum Valley Team Ministry”



If you are inspired to start connecting with your local school please get in touch with the Children, Youth & Families team at the Diocese of Norwich.

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Becoming a Reader

This year marks 50 years since women were first licensed as Lay Readers in the Church of England. Charlie Houlder-Moat is a first-year Reader in training with the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC) at St Mary's, Watton, and is employed by the Methodist Forces Board as a Lay families worker at RAF Marham Chaplaincy. She tells her story.

Setting up home in Norfolk almost four years ago coincided with me heading back to church and starting on the incredible journey of training for lay ministry. I hadn't been in church for long before somebody asked the question: "Have you ever thought about becoming a Reader?" This question at first puzzled me as I wasn't sure what they meant by the term Reader.

It was this conversation that sparked my interest to find out more. I attended a Life Calling day, spoke to other Readers in my church and linked up with a wonderful Vocations advisor. All these steps helped me to discover exactly what being a Reader or Licensed Lay Minister was about and whether this was what God was calling me to.

At the heart of the role is the ministry of teaching, preaching and leading worship. This was one aspect that really grabbed me. Trainee Readers have a full timetable and are trained in theology, pastoral work and a variety of ministerial skills. The biggest draw however was to have the opportunity to work alongside people and help them connect faith and life.

It is often stated that Readers are a "bridge" between the secular and sacred world. I am passionate about church being an inclusive space for all people and am continually looking at ways to develop new forms of church which take place outside the traditional confines.

Another important aspect of the training is that we are encouraged to be ourselves and to shape our ministry according to our own particular gifts. One passion of mine is to utilise my outdoor education and naturalist skills

to offer alternative forms of worship to enhance spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing. I lead Worship in the Woods sessions in my chaplaincy role and am encouraged to explore various worship materials as I put services together.

I really enjoy training with the other Readers and Ordinands. We are a diverse bunch of people from all over, including the Diocese in Europe! I am training part-time so balancing the two-year training including writing assignments, completing a portfolio, plenty of reading and commitments in church alongside a full-time job and family commitments at times is pretty challenging.

In addition to training as a Reader with the C of E, I also work full time for the Methodist Church at RAF Marham Chaplaincy to support military families. It is a wonderful ecumenical experience as God has called me to ministry in both areas and to both denominations.

I count it a complete privilege and blessing to be a Reader in training during the 50th year of women Readers. Here's to my next 50 years!

“The biggest draw however was to have the opportunity to work alongside people and help them connect faith and life.”



New church planting and revitalisation programme for the Diocese of Norwich

The Diocese of Norwich has been awarded £1.98m by the national Church of England towards a new programme to form new churches and revitalise existing ones.

The money comes from the Archbishops' Council Strategic Development Funding which supports transformational work programmes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "From congregations in cafés and community centres to sports ministry and social action, these projects are moving the heart of our mission to where it should be, recognising Jesus beyond the borders of the institutional church. The good news of Jesus Christ cannot be contained within existing worshipping communities. We want everyone to know how much they are loved by God."

Beginning in September 2019, the project aims to grow over five years,

creating 10 new or revitalised, self-sustaining churches across Norfolk & Waveney.

Teams of church and worship leaders, sports and youth ministers and others will be appointed to areas where research shows there are local needs the church can help meet and communities that can be better supported with additional resources.

The programme seeks to reach both rural and urban areas, engaging with young people and families by focusing on areas of population around secondary school catchment areas.

It builds on the Diocese's Undergraduate Training Scheme in Youth Ministry and expands and combines that with the work of St Thomas Norwich (STN), a city centre resource church in Norwich,



which has experience of planting new congregations and churches.

Sports ministries form an important part of the programme, taking inspiration from STN's Sports Factory which has been highly successful in running holiday clubs, community events, sports coaching academies, social sport and work with disengaged young people. Mobile skate parks and mobile football



cages will form part of the programme to bridge the church and community through sport.

“A lot of young people see the church as just pews and hymns – not something that relates to them,” says Tim Henery, who leads sports ministry at St Thomas’s. “Through playing sports, they realise that there are people who come to church and are like them.

“Sports ministry is helping us to reach people who may never have heard the message of the gospel, helping us to transform their view of the church. We are building relationships and changing lives.”

Ruth Anderson, who founded the sports ministry work at St Thomas’s, said, “Interest in sports and fitness is at an all-time high with huge audiences for the Cricket World Cup and England’s women’s football team this year.

“Our work presents an opportunity that we might not otherwise have had: thanks to a shared love of sports we can talk about faith and the wider questions of life. It’s really encouraging to see this vision being embraced and replicated in other areas of Norfolk.”

A new church training hub will also be formed, based at St Barnabas Church in Norwich, to attract and develop future leaders – both ordained and those not ordained. The Diocese’s vision is that the training hub will be an ongoing legacy of this programme to equip future church planting initiatives and support wider church revitalisation projects.

“This is an exciting and fresh opportunity to develop new areas of work and help people in sharing faith with our communities,” said the Venerable Ian Bentley, Archdeacon of Lynn, who is chair of the programme board.

“It builds upon the successful experience of STN’s work in growing a disciple-making church and is targeted to help communities where there is need. Churches are at the heart of community life and a growing church means we can



“Our work presents an opportunity that we might not otherwise have had: thanks to a shared love of sports we can talk about faith and the wider questions of life.”



offer more support to local communities. We want to empower churches to exist for their local community, and so each church may have a different focus, style or support depending on local needs.”

Existing buildings will be used to deliver the programme and it is envisioned that some new churches will meet in schools or village halls and some in existing church buildings. Several churches being supported may be existing church congregations while others may be new congregations.

The Revd Ian Dyble, Vicar of the Mitre Benefice in Norwich, will additionally be appointed Director of Church Planting & Revitalisation for the Diocese.

“Planting new churches and disciple-making is part of the DNA of the church,” said Ian. “Jesus said: ‘I have come to give life in all its fullness’, and we want to enable people to experience that together through the local church.

“The new training hub is particularly important in enabling us to recruit and train individuals to be part of the new teams who will make such a difference, and I’m looking forward to others catching the vision of the church in action.”

The first steps

The 10 geographical areas of focus have not yet been finalised, but the programme will begin by working in several ways and places:

Two church ministers have recently been appointed to work alongside existing leaders and churches in Costessey and Sprowston. Initially they will be familiarising themselves with aspects of STN and how their Sports Factory operates.

From October they will be training alongside others in the new training hub at St Barnabas Church in Norwich.

The first student in the Undergraduate Training Scheme in Youth Ministry will start in September, based in the Lowestoft area.

In Brundall and Thetford, the programme will seek to employ youth ministers to help churches connect with young people.

The Diocese will also be recruiting staff to set up the programme’s sports ministry team and purchasing equipment.

Experience from these areas will help guide and shape future growth and locations.



Christmas Alive – food for the soul

By Rachel Kehoe

Google “poverty of the soul” and it’s described as “one without purpose or direction”. Just today I heard someone say, “Everyone is starving, we (people who love Jesus) know where the food is.” Of course, Jesus is the food. The Bible says in Psalm 34:8 “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

Christmas Alive is the banquet we want to share: through theatre, music, dance and experience we bring our gifts to Jesus and see what he will do with them.

This event at the Fountain of Life, Ashill, Norfolk, came as an immediate and clear vision – from a love of all things Christmassy, a passion for history, but most of all a deep desire to share the love of Jesus with everyone, so in need of his love. It came to life through inspiration from the Holy Spirit, a trusting and empowering church leader (the Revd Stephen Mawditt) and a willing, gifted and committed congregation and of course a lot of hard work and sacrifice.

As with many visions, it started small. In its first year, just a handful of stalls outside the church building created the suggestion of Bethlehem village. We had a carpenter’s stall, a potter and a basket weaver, a few shepherds, along with a donkey. Inside the church we performed a few scenes from

the Nativity story during the carol service. But with a growing vision came a growing appetite, as the number of people wanting to come and see swelled, so much so, that the church wasn’t big enough to hold everyone.

A few years on and Christmas Alive is a living breathing Nativity village, full of atmosphere, sights, sounds, aromas and flavours of ancient Bethlehem. It has become a popular event with visitors coming from all around the country.

Last year a version of Charles Dickens’ *Christmas Carol* was performed in the church, with a matinee and evening show either side of the village experience outside. This version had the miserly old sinner, Ebenezer Scrooge, visited not by three ghosts but by the Holy Spirit. In *Scrooge Reworked* the protagonist finally comes to his redemption after first encountering the infant Jesus and then witnessing his death on a cross.

The performance was so well received that it is back this coming Christmas by popular demand.

Charles Dickens was himself a Christian and deeply compassionate and concerned for the poor. Before he died



he wrote a small book especially for his children, *The life of our Lord*. In it he wrote, “My dear children, I am very anxious that you should know something about the history of Jesus Christ. For everybody ought to know about him.”

Our deepest longing is for no one to miss out on the most incredible feast that awaits us in the presence of our Lord, as Jesus says in Luke 14:12 “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” A life without Jesus is meaningless, it is a desperate poverty.

Let’s go out and find creative ways to tell people about Jesus, however small our gifts or resources. Give them to him and see what he will do.



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Tas Valley Team Ministry



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



Newton Flotman, Saxlingham Nethergate, Shotesham, Swainsthorpe, Tasburgh and Tharston (all in the Domesday Book) are the six parishes, led by the Revd Dawn Davidson and located south of Norwich, that make up this team ministry. It also includes Tas Valley Cell Church, supported by the first Bishop's Mission Order to be granted in Norfolk.

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed our new Team Vicar, the Revd Austin Uzoigwe, with a wonderful service in St Mary's Church at Tasburgh, bringing together people from different nations. Austin is originally from Nigeria and his wife, Annette, is Dutch. Dawn and Austin are ably assisted by a lay reader, four authorised worship assistants, two readers in training and a community outreach worker.

Building networks

Committed to sustaining and growing rural church, we seek innovative ways of encouraging faith. Communities easily drift apart and become isolated without facilities such as shops, pubs and post offices, but we have risen to the challenge to reach out and build networks within our benefice retaining traditional events

such as annual fetes, harvest festivals, carol services, coffee mornings and open gardens.

Originating from an Alpha Course, Tas Valley Cell Church appeals to those who might not usually attend a parish church. Meeting on a weekday evening in a member's home, sessions are structured around Welcome, Word, Witness, and Worship.

Why "cell"? Cells are designed to grow and divide to form new cells – so are we! Meeting in small groups makes for a more personal experience and is conducive to nurturing discipleship effectively. Each cell has its own focus and is very much involved in the community; for example, the youth cell, known as JAM (Jesus and me), meets regularly to encourage faith.

There are a variety of church services available to suit all tastes and we come together for a benefice service (with an invited speaker) whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month. This enables us to deepen our awareness of the worldwide church, celebrate our faith and face challenges together. Occasionally, services are held outside, such as a pet service, the patronal service, and Remembrance Day services. In Tharston, Carols by Candlelight have proven popular.

Building community

Creating community is important. Newton Flotman Café Church is well established, running monthly in our local primary school, starting with a light-hearted quiz and ensuring there is a craft or activity for the children. We are also blessed to have teenagers involved in the music group and operating the Powerpoint® presentation. Our aim is to provide a relaxed, family-friendly venue where the Christian message is offered alongside refreshments and fun.

We have regular involvement with our three church schools, enjoying Open the Book sessions with the children which provide them with opportunities to hear Bible stories and to join in and dress up as the characters, a fun, learning experience for all.

Whilst outreach extends further, with the benefice supporting the local food banks and being long-term supporters of the Operation Christmas Child Appeal, active involvement in our local communities remains essential.

Newton Flotman has welcomed a new outreach post office on Tuesday afternoons in the Church Room. It is also looking to reorder the church building to make a more flexible space for worship



and community use. The benefits of doing so have been recognised in Swainsthorpe where a community friendly space was created by replacing the pews with comfortable chairs enabling more freedom and creativity in worship.

Tas Valley Cell Church, with financial assistance from the Fountain of Life Network and Rural Ministries, supports our community outreach worker who has introduced a monthly lunch for local parishioners and regularly visits and provides a worship service at the local care home.

“Our aim is to provide a relaxed, family-friendly venue where the Christian message is offered alongside refreshments and fun.”

Building upon our heritage

While looking to the future, we remember the past and seek to preserve our rich heritage. Several parishes have experienced the joys of bringing heritage projects to fruition:

- In Saxlingham Nethergate, a full set of eight bells was recast and attracts visiting bell ringers from across the country. There is nothing quite like sitting out in the garden on a summer's evening listening to bell practice.
- In Shotesham, it was decided it was time to find a way to hang a sixth bell which had been cast in memory of Robert Mayhew who died at the age of 12. The project to restore the tower and rehang the five existing bells and the one new bell was recently completed and culminated in a service of dedication for the new bell and rededication of the existing bells.

Participation of parishioners in both projects in terms of donations, fundraising and volunteer assistance strengthened community links.

On the conservation front, St Mary's in Saxlingham Nethergate requested the Broderers Guild to undertake major restoration of one of the altar frontals. With funding from an anonymous donor, the work was completed, and the altar frontal is now much admired and will be treasured for many years to come.

Last year, we commemorated the end of the WW1 and honoured the sacrifices

made by those who lost their lives while serving our country:

- In Swainsthorpe, a local artist gifted a newly created stained glass window depicting the poppy fields for permanent display in the Church.
- St Mary's Newton Flotman set up a Heritage Group, complete with its own YouTube channel. Activities have focused on renovating the wooden War Memorial housed within the church with a new name added to it. Twice-yearly, villagers get together to reminisce and add to the archives.
- In Saxlingham Nethergate, the history of the fallen from WW1 and who are remembered on the village and church War Memorials was researched. Over the period of the last four years, each person has been commemorated in the issue of the local village magazine published closest to the 100th anniversary of his death.

Looking forward, we have a relatively new staff team and are working to deepen our unity across the Team Ministry. Our focus is on loving God, building his church and serving our local community. www.tasvalley.org



Resources

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



New Bible study booklets to focus on everyday faith

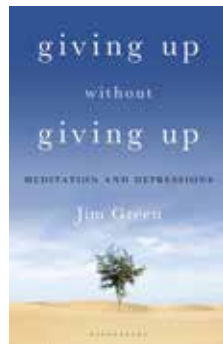
A new set of resources is currently being written by Susanna Gunner, Spirituality and Discipleship Adviser for the Diocese of Norwich.

"We often sing 'Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart', so with what vision might we, as Christians, respond to some of the most pressing issues of our time?" asks Susanna. "The world's contemporary crises can feel overwhelming: what can we do? This new series of booklets will help us look through the lens of faith at huge and urgent matters such as the climate emergency, homelessness, single-use plastic and loneliness.

"The booklets will offer biblical and theological connections, inspiring stories of those already taking action in our region and signposts for your own response. Paintings, poetry and prayers will be included to enrich thought and stir imagination."

Further details to follow in the next issue of *The Magazine* and on the Diocese of Norwich website.

New book on meditation and mental health from local author



Jim Green is an oblate (religious member) of the World Community for Christian Meditation and attends a regular weekly group which meets in Booton. His book *Giving Up Without Giving Up: Meditation and Depressions* was published by Bloomsbury in March.

"What if the suffering that we call depression contains experiences and lessons without which we cannot be fully alive?" Drawing on his experience of meditation within both the Buddhist and Christian contemplative traditions, as well as his own times of personal loss and bewilderment, Jim offers an account of just how this wisdom practice can accompany each person as they make "the gentle pilgrimage of recovery".

Highlighting modern slavery in Freedom Week

UK Freedom Sunday falls on 20 October this year. The Norfolk Modern Slavery Collaboration, initiated by the STN Trust and with support from Imagine Norfolk Together, is asking individuals and churches to highlight the issue of modern slavery on our doorstep in the days either side of Freedom Sunday. Church packs are being co-ordinated to include: prayer points, sermon ideas, some facts and statistics about modern slavery, pictures and leaflets. Keep an eye on the Diocese of Norwich e-news and website www.DofN.org/modernslavery for further details.



Interfaith Week 2019

Taking place between Sundays 10 and 17 November, this national week aims to strengthen good interfaith relations at all levels, increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, and increase understanding between those who do and those who do not have religious beliefs.

Inter Faith Week



Consider what you or your church might be able to do to highlight the good work done by local faith, interfaith and faith-based groups and organisations. Celebrate the diversity and commonality in your neighbourhood. A full toolkit of resources and more information can be found at www.interfaithweek.org

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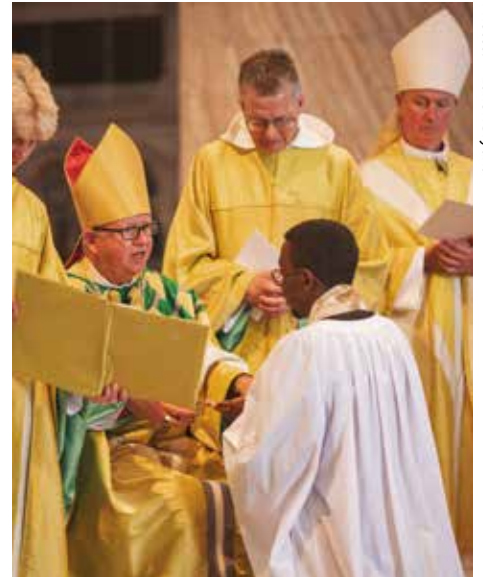
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Petertide Ordinations 2019

On a very warm Saturday at the end of June, 15 people were ordained Deacons and seven ordained as Priests in two services at Norwich Cathedral.



Photos: © LukeWbryant

New Deacons

Andrew Bevan, Stalham & Smallburgh Benefices

Annie Blyth, Colegate & Tombland, Norwich Benefice

PJ Brombley, Mitre Benefice

Andy Bunter, Sprowston Benefice

David Cossey, Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne Benefice

Daniel Doran-Smith, Earlham Benefice

Gary Gould, Hempton with Pudding Norton and Walsingham, Houghton and Barsham Benefices

Tracy Jessop, Wroxham with Hoveton Saint John with Hoveton Saint Peter, Belaugh and Tunstead with Sco Ruston Benefice

Matthew Luscombe, Mitre Benefice

James Pinto, Holy Trinity, Norwich

Vivienne Ridpath, Belton & Burgh Castle Benefice

Michaela Sorensen, Watton Benefice

Tim Watts, Earlham Benefice

Tracy Williams, St Francis, Heartsease & St Matthew's, Thorpe Hamlet

Andrea Woods, Mattishall and Tudd Valley Benefice



New Priests

Rachel Foster, Poringland Benefice

Louisa Pittman, Barnham Broom & Upper Yare Benefice

Laura Purnell, St Faith's, Gaywood

Angela Rayner, St Margaret with St Nicholas, King's Lynn

Isaac Sibanda, St Francis, Heartsease & St Matthew's, Thorpe Hamlet

Samuel Thorp, Diss Team Ministry

Shawn Tomlinson, Christ Church, Eaton

Joshua Bell, All Saints, South Lynn was ordained by the Bishop of Richborough at All Saints' Church, South Lynn.





News in brief

Updates from across the Diocese

New Norfolk Trauma Forum appeals for information help

Trauma in children's early lives can have a lifelong impact, affecting their relationships, education and mental health. A new Forum is appealing for opinions on possible new services.

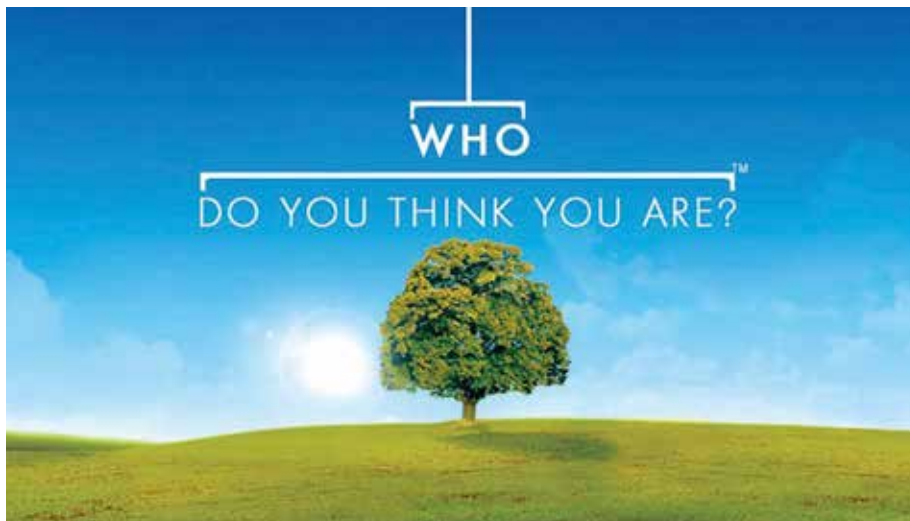
The need for early intervention and prevention inspired North Norfolk's MP Sir Norman Lamb and Elaine Bennett, a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist and member of Fountain of Life Church in Ashill, to establish the Norfolk Trauma Forum. Members include the statutory and voluntary sectors and the Bishop of Lynn. The Forum, through The Benjamin Foundation, has secured National Lottery development funding to investigate how the best evidence for early intervention can be applied in Norfolk.

Specialists and internationally recognised trauma experts are considering the potential for a new Children and Parents Service (CAPS), a training programme to build trauma awareness skills and support practices across the work force who come into contact with young trauma victims, and a series of specialised support packages aimed at pre and primary school age children.

Input from local communities is vital if a substantive bid for any of those elements goes forward to the National Lottery. Elaine is undertaking the review of the need for a CAPS service and is appealing for input. "As many of our churches work alongside parents and young children every day, I would be interested to hear what services might be helpful," she said.



Please contact Elaine directly to share your thoughts and input by early October, at ebennett10@btinternet.com



Fundraiser for support centre in Gaywood

A bungalow in the grounds of St Faith's Church is being transformed into a drop-in centre, café and local support venue, with West Norfolk Mind planning on having a base there. The million-pound redevelopment will also provide a church office and disabled access toilets.

Alex Graham, creator of the popular TV programme *Who Do You Think You Are?*, will be giving an illustrated talk to help raise funds for the development. He reveals details about how he came up with the idea and what made Jeremy Paxman cry over some facts from his own family story.

Saturday 28 September 7.30pm, at Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, PE30 4DZ. Tickets are £10 from the church office 01553 774916.

Word on the Wash, King's Lynn

This annual Bible teaching weekend returns to King's Lynn Academy from Friday 13 September. "From grace to glory: gospel-shaped living in today's world" is the theme for this year. Christians from over 40 churches will be gathering for Bible teaching, worship and fellowship from Friday evening and throughout Saturday. Four afternoon seminars on the Saturday will focus on key issues for Christians in today's world. There will be a separate programme on the Saturday for those aged between 5 and 15. The event is free, with an opportunity to donate. Register online at www.wordonthewash.org.uk or on arrival at the welcome desk. Kings Lynn Academy, PE30 4QG.





“Act as if our house is on fire; because it is.”

By Nick Brewin and Patrick Richmond



Greta Thunberg, a Swedish teenager, recently alerted everyone to the catastrophic consequences of global warming. Since seven billion people share this one single planet, we all have a stake in its future. It is our only home. What should we do, she asks, now that we have woken up to the fact that our house is burning?

We should act, now, but to whom do we turn for guidance about *what* to do? Climate change is one of the most urgent challenges facing the world today and it will be the topic for a Science-Faith Lecture in Norwich Cathedral on 14 October.

This year's Cathedral lecture, the eleventh in the series, will be dedicated to the memory of Professor Derek Burke, CBE, who served as Vice-Chancellor of UEA from 1987 to 1995. As a committed Christian, Professor Burke was always anxious to promote a constructive dialogue between science and religion, with a special interest in social responsibility in science. He founded the Science-Faith Cathedral Lectures as a forum to explore a wide range of important scientific issues from a Christian perspective.

The lecturer, Mike Hulme, is Professor of Human Geography at Cambridge University and was previously a member of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He is well known in Norwich and Norfolk because he was Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change at UEA from 2000 to 2007. He is

very interested in how religious thinking and cultural traditions can be reconciled with the implications of climate change. His recent books include *Why We Disagree About Climate Change* and *Weathered: Cultures of Climate*.

Who controls the world's climate? Is it an act of God, or of Nature? Over the centuries, the vagaries of weather have been explained by a wide range of cosmologies, religious beliefs, political ideologies and scientific paradigms. Today, we realise that our climate is increasingly becoming the consequence of our own actions as morally accountable human actors.

The UN warns that the consequences of climate change are already being felt around the world, and that these impacts will worsen in the years ahead, especially for the poorer communities of the world. We can slow down the rate of change, but we can't stop it from happening. The proposed solutions to the "climate crisis" are deeply political, with different winners and losers depending on what policies we pursue.

“Who controls the world's climate? Is it an act of God, or of Nature?”

We are now confronted with an ethical problem of global dimensions. Who should decide which solutions and which technologies are appropriate, and who should bear the cost for these changes? Is it the responsibility of rich countries or multinational companies or rich people to take the lead in reducing the impact of climate change? Is it the task of national governments or ordinary citizens, technological engineers or social entrepreneurs, religious leaders or cultural celebrities? Each of these groups has a distinctive role to play.

The lecture will be suitable for a non-specialist audience. All are welcome – of all faiths and none. No booking is required. The lecture is organised by Science and Faith in Norfolk, a Norwich-based discussion group.



Cathedral Lecture on Climate Change

Professor Mike Hulme, University of Cambridge
Monday 14 October, 7pm–8.30pm
Norwich Cathedral Nave, NR1 4DH

For further information, contact: Prof Nick Brewin, Secretary,
Science and Faith in Norfolk sfnorfolk1@gmail.com, 07901 884114

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 to barbara.bryant@dioceseofnorwich.org or tag [f @dioceseofnorwich](https://www.facebook.com/dioceseofnorwich) [t @DioceseNorwich](https://twitter.com/DioceseNorwich)

24/7 Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come at Heacham Church

This parish church held its second annual prayer room in their Church Hall in the run-up to Pentecost. "It was especially good to share this with our Methodist brothers and sisters in Christ. There were prayers for the world, our friends and families, for forgiveness and for our local village."



Byrd at Blofield

The Choir of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, performed in Blofield Church in July to over 150 people. "We heard 'William Byrd – A Musical Portrait', 'Old Testament Biblical Dramas' and some lively Spirituals. Blofield has a close connection with the music of Byrd through his patron Edward Paston who is buried here."

Holiday reading

One of our loyal readers took her copy of *The Magazine* on holiday to read. Here's Sue in the Austrian Alps. Do share your far-flung *Magazine*-reading pics!





Christchurch Lowestoft's 150th celebrations

The most easterly church in Britain has been celebrating its anniversary all year with a wide variety of events including special services with preaching from past ministers, floral and wedding dress displays, historical photo and video exhibitions and lots of cakes and refreshments.



Gypsy and traveller day at Gressenhall

The Revd Chris Copsey was part of the welcome team at this event. "We had great fun on a smoothie bike, a smoothie maker attached to a static bike. One recipe for kale and banana wasn't too popular until it was tried by Dolly and her Grandmother who both agreed it was really tasty!"



Upper Sheringham bells go to Dorset

"Many people stopped in their tracks when they saw the six bells from All Saints Church being loaded onto a lorry to start their journey to Nicholson Engineering in Bridport, Dorset. When restoration work is complete and a new frame, fixtures and fittings are done they'll return later in the year."



Horstead's Arron on rations

One of the Activity Instructors at the Horstead Centre, Arron Fisk, raised money for Syrian Refugees by undertaking a sponsored ration challenge. "I did it to show refugees that I'm with them, not against them. It gave me a glimpse into their lives and more understanding of how much suffering they endure to simply stay alive."

Beer & Hymns at The King's Head, North Elmham

"The format is quite simple: three 'sets' of hymns, with breaks and hot snacks, provided by the pub. We've held two events each year, with hymns themed to the season. I'd love to recruit our pub congregation as a choir – they sing with such gusto and enthusiasm! And, as they do so, they're praising God!"



WHAT'S ON

Highlights of events and learning opportunities across the Diocese September – November 2019

For more head to www.DofN.org/events

SEPTEMBER

Bel Canto Concert

Sat 7 Sep | 7.30pm - 10pm

Address: St David's Church, St David's Drive, Thorpe End, Norwich NR13 5BF

Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening of live music, featuring Daniel Bartlette and Dhilan Gnanadurai, in the beautiful and accessible St David's Church and Hall.

Admission: £10 including glass of wine and refreshments.

Contact: Nicky, 07766 747514, ndunnett8@gmail.com or Jo, 01603 433025, josephine.quarterman@talktalk.net



Flower Festival

Sat 14 Sep - Mon 16 Sep | 10am - 5pm daily, Festival Praise Service 6pm on Sun

Address: St Mary's Church, Off Blundeston Road, Somerleyton NR32 5PR

A day to admire beautiful flower arrangements and enjoy the stalls and refreshments.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Mary Truman, 01502 731600, marytruman@yahoo.co.uk

Harvest Flavour Concert

Thurs 19 Sep | 7.30pm

Address: St John the Baptist's, Church Lane, Lound NR32 5LL

A fantastic musical evening with a flavour of the season.

Admission: £8.

Contact: Matthew Hardy, 01502 733625 or Judith Hobbs, 01502 732536, hobbsnec@btinternet.com

St Mark Lakenham's 175th Anniversary Celebration

Sun 22 Sep | 10am

Address: St Mark's, Hall Road, Lakenham NR1 3HL

A special celebration service with the Archdeacon of Norwich as our guest preacher.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Fr. Erik, 01603 449156, w-lindell@outlook.com



Open Word Part I: Know your Bible, Know your Lord

Every two weeks beginning Mon 23 Sep | 7pm

Address: St Alban's Church, Grove Walk NR1 2QF

Join an 18-evening adventure in God's Word through 2019/20 and discover what it contains and how the Holy Spirit speaks to us through its timeless truth.

Admission: Free, with donations for refreshments.

Contact: Matthew Hutton, 01508 520775, matthew.hutton@stn.org.uk

The Nikolsky Vocal Ensemble from Russia

Sat 28 Sep | 7pm

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

A professional, all-male vocal ensemble from the shores of the Volga river in Russia.

Admission: £10.

Contact: Clive McCombie, 01603 754466/07990 630611, ctm@performancematters.co.uk

Marham Military Wives Choir at Deepdale Festival

Sat 28 Sep | 4pm

Address: St Mary's Church, A149, Burnham Deepdale, King's Lynn PE31 8DD
Marham Military Wives Choir joins us for a very special session in St Mary's Church as part of Deepdale Festival 2019.

Admission: Festival ticket (see website) or £5 at the door (if availability).

Contact: Deepdale Festival, 01485 210256, stay@deepdalebackpackers.co.uk



Harvest Food Fair

Sat 28 Sep | 10am - 4pm

Address: St Andrew's Church, Attleborough Road, Hingham, Norwich NR9 4HW

Celebrating harvest with a food festival. We will be offering the best of local produce along with some local arts and crafts.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Revd Sally Wallace-Jones, 01953 853165, revsamwj@gmail.com



The Wisteria Church monthly charity talks

Sun 29 Sep | 10.30am

Address: St Giles's Church, St Giles Street, Norwich NR2 1EU

Every month we support a different charity: this September it is The Holy Land Project.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Canon Captain Darren Thornton, d.thornton@uea.ac.uk



OCTOBER

Soulshaper Youth Weekend

Fri 4 Oct - Sun 6 Oct | 6pm Fri - 2pm Sun

Address: The Horstead Centre, Rectory Road, Horstead NR12 7EP

A residential discipleship weekend for youth groups or individuals who do not have a regular church youth group.

Admission: Young person £80, Youth Leader £30.

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

The Ayoub Sisters in concert

Sat 5 Oct | 7pm

Address: All Saints, B1147 opposite Rectory Road, Swanton Morley, Dereham NR20 4PB
In aid of The Friends of All Saints, the internationally acclaimed duo will perform a unique crossover concert in the heart of Norfolk to include traditional Scottish, Arabic and 'popular' music.

Admission: £17.50.

Contact: Ben Hughes, 07710 115135, benhughesad@gmail.com

A two-day retreat on Julian of Norwich

Fri 11 Oct - Sat 12 Oct | 1pm on Fri to 4pm on Sat

Address: St Julian's, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1QD

This series of talks and periods of led contemplation focus not only on what we learn from Julian of Norwich herself but also how this has shaped the lives of those who have read or heard her teaching.

Admission: £20 - £40.

Contact: Howard Green (Secretary to the Friends of Julian), 07879 883045, howard.green@julianofnorwich.org

Sing the Word! Plainchant Workshop

Sat 12 Oct | 10am - 2.30pm

Address: St Nicholas Church, Church Plain, Great Yarmouth NR30 1NE

Experience the authentic tradition of Anglican

chant and ancient plainsong and encounter the Word of God anew as you join with others in Singing the Word!

Admission: £10.

Contact: Revd Jemma Sander-Heys, 01493 304609, jemmajanders@hotmail.com

The Never Ending Story – workshop

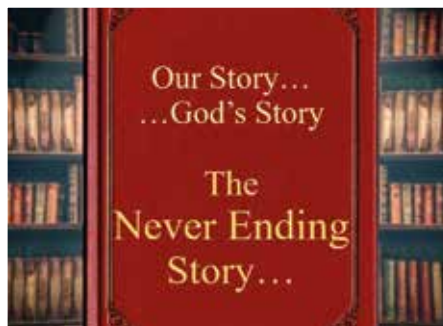
Sat 19 Oct | 10am - 12.30pm

Address: St Cuthbert's Church, Wroxham Road, Sprowston, Norwich NR7 8TZ

Our story – God's story – an interactive workshop in dynamic storytelling and communication; for public presentation and personal reflection. We are all part of God's big story.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Dean Akriell, 01603 482360, dean@sprowston.org.uk



Doors of Hope

Sat 19 Oct | 9.15am - 3.30pm

Address: Fountain of Life, The Well Christian Centre, Swaffham Road, Ashill, Thetford IP25 7BT

Fountain of Life Church hosts its second conference to equip the church to respond to mental ill health and promote emotional wellbeing.

Admission: £15 per person.

Contact: 01760 441902, registration@folchurch.co.uk

Autumn Soul - A Day to Go Deeper

Thurs 24 Oct | 10am - 4pm

Address: Bothy 5, Wigwam Retreat Centre IP22 2SZ

Autumn-themed day retreat led by retreat guide Brian Draper. A wonderful opportunity to walk our prayer labyrinth in the Victorian walled garden.

Admission: £35 incl. teas, coffees and light lunch (concessions available).

Contact: Les Crossland (Centre Co-ordinator), 02084 910222, pwtcfl@aol.com

NOVEMBER

Doing Advent – a day for preachers and worship leaders

Sat 16 Nov | 9.45am - 3.30pm

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

Workshops, worship and learning, bringing fresh perspective on the Advent Season.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Lesley Lofts, 01603 882338, lesley.lofts@dioceseofnorwich.org

Thriving Women Clergy

Wed 20 Nov | 10am - 3.30pm

Address: Brooke Village Hall, Norwich Road, Brooke NR15 1AB

A workshop day focusing on how women clergy can inhabit their roles with more authority, confidence and integrity.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Lesley Lofts, 01603 882338, lesley.lofts@dioceseofnorwich.org

A Celebration of The Tree of Life

Fri 22 Nov - Sun 24 Nov | 10am - 5pm

Address: All Saints Church, The Street, Dickleburgh, Diss IP21 4NQ

A celebration of the Tree of Life. 50 decorated trees or tree-related artefacts. Children's activities, and light refreshments available in church on all three days.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Gale Hodgkinson, 01379 740042, gale-h@tiscali.co.uk

Welcome Services for Bishop Graham

Wednesday 6 November, 2pm
Norwich Cathedral

This service includes the enthronement and is a ticketed event.

The following services are open to all and are a great opportunity to welcome the Bishop and celebrate his arrival in your local area.

Monday 18 November, 7pm
Great Yarmouth Minster

Sunday 24 November, 4pm
St Peter & St Paul's, Cromer

Monday 25 November, 7pm
St Cuthbert's, Thetford

Wednesday 27 November 7pm
King's Lynn Minster

Full details phone **01603 880853** or at www.DofN.org/welcomeservices



RESOURCING YOUR PARISH

An exhibition and workshops for all involved in parish ministry

An opportunity to speak to Diocesan staff and officers as well as local/national organisations to gain practical help and support. Come with several people from your church.

Workshop streams:

- Money Matters
- Treasurers Workshop
- Care of Church Buildings
- Capital Fundraising Projects
- Ask the Archdeacon

- Community Engagement
- Faith Sharing Tips
- Being a Dementia Friendly Church
- How to have Better Meetings

Marketplace:

ROOTS for Churches, Church Army, Mothers' Union, and many more.

Tuesday 17 September

6.30pm - 9pm

Cromer Academy
Cromer, NR27 0EX

Wednesday 18 September

6.30pm - 9pm

Open Academy, Salhouse
Road, Norwich, NR7 9DL

Saturday 5 October

9.30am - 12.30pm

Old Buckenham High School,
Old Buckenham, NR17 1RL

Free to attend but please book in advance at:

www.DofN.org/RYP or call Angela George on **01603 881724**

Children, Youth & Families

ONE BIG DAY CONFERENCE

A day to gather together; exploring with your team, volunteers and others what it means to develop a culture of discipleship across generations, abilities, geographical boundaries and in the wider community.

Seminar streams:

- Pioneering Intergenerational Church
- Inclusion
- Nurturing Faith in Families
- Prayer Spaces in Schools

- Connecting & Growing your Open the Book Ministry
- Baptism, Christening & Liturgy
- The Golden Thread
- Youth Culture

Marketplace:

ROOTS for Churches, Kids Matter, Care for the Family, Mid Norfolk Kidz Klub, Craft Resources, YFC and many more.

Saturday 2 November 2019, 9am - 5pm
Northgate High School, Dereham, NR19 2EU

Cost: £7.50. Lunch & refreshments included.

To book visit: www.DofN.org/OneBigDay or call Liz Dawes on **01603 882335**