
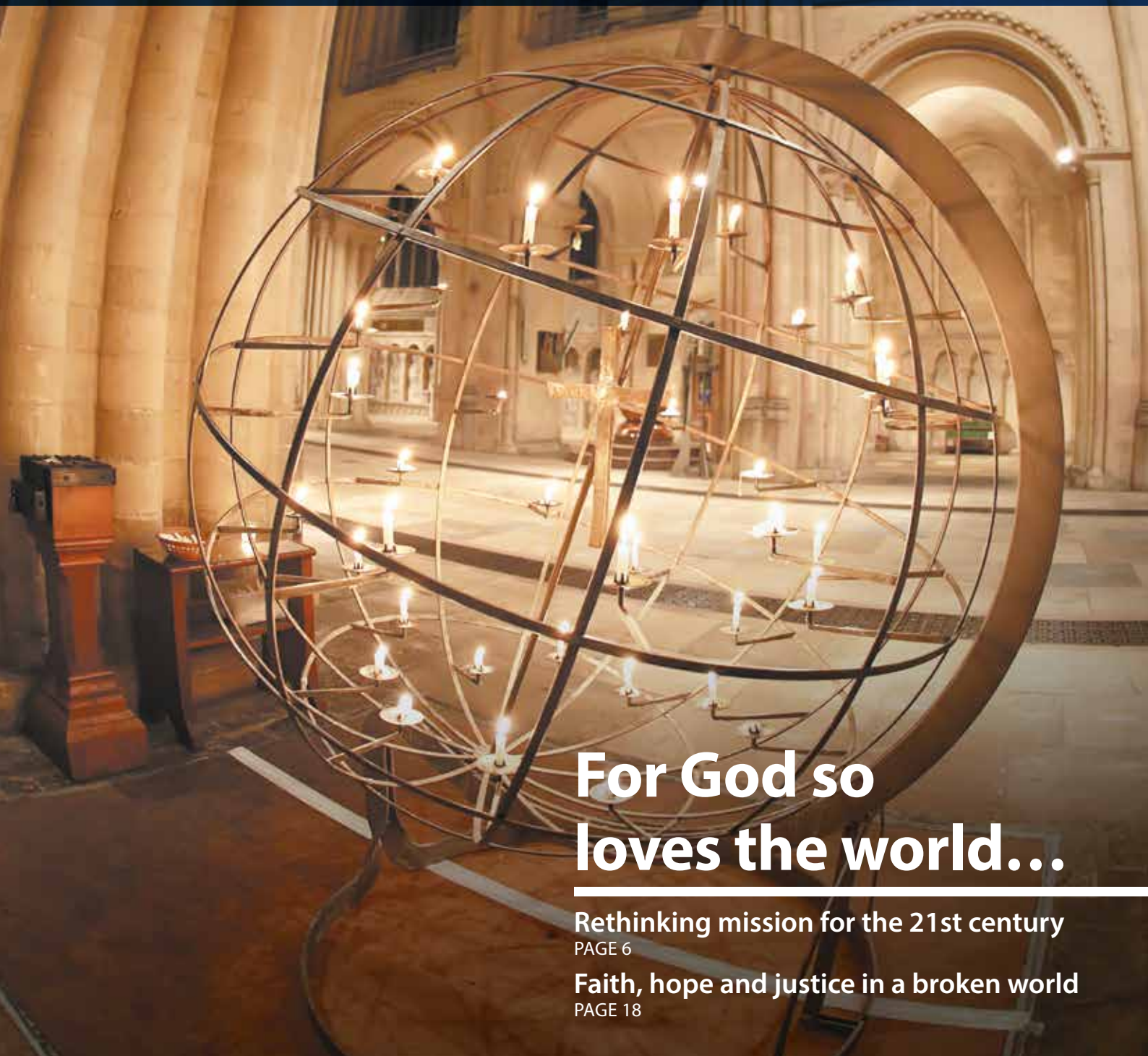


JULY-AUGUST 2017

THE MAGAZINE

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich



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Mrs Burrington Writes

Your church questions answered by the lady who knows

Q Our vicar is away for a two-month exchange in Uganda. When we asked around for cover, we discovered that the neighbouring clergy are on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and our area bishop is researching church-planting in rural Asia. Meanwhile our churchwardens and readers are in various parts of the Mediterranean. No one seems to be interested in Norfolk. What can we do?

Mrs B It's unfortunate that everyone's away at the same time. However, here's my advice:

- i) Give them all a warm welcome when they return. It's possible they wanted a break from you.
- ii) Don't begrudge anyone their time having adventures. Having been immobilized for a month following my bunion operation, I can assure you that people often long to get out and about.
- iii) See if you get something back from all these trips – a return visit from an overseas minister, exotic snacks for the next coffee morning, or some amusing stories involving the bishop and an intemperate goat (there are always a few of those).

Q Although I'm happy to do a little gardening to keep the church looking nice, people don't realise how hard it is to keep the weeds down in summer. No-one else wants to help. What should I do?

Mrs B I recommend stopping altogether for a while; people will only properly understand when the church ceases to look nice. Find a get-out that no-one can really argue with. Do you have any buns that need attention?



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From the Editor

As I write this editorial, the General Election is imminent, but the usual political clamour has been muffled by the awful terrorist events in Manchester and London. By the time you read this, I'm sure the headlines will have moved on, but the impact will linger far longer.

Amid the tumult of stories of terror, pain and heartbreak, a defiant love is making its voice heard. While there will, inevitably, be some who use these evil incidents to incite hatred and division, there is an insistent and heartfelt cry from all sides of the Manchester and London communities (some of the most diverse in the UK), and indeed across the world that there is more that unites us than divides us.

This edition is all about engaging with the world around us, through connecting with people.

In Pause Button (pg 5) John Ashe says: "We can no longer ignore what is happening on another continent and the challenge of the gospel doesn't allow us to demonise those we don't understand. This challenge to engage with the world, whether our neighbour is a few yards away or thousands of miles away, is the way we live out the Eucharist in practice."

Evie Vernon states: "It must be the mission of every Christian to extend hospitality to the outsider and to educate themselves about how we

might seek to influence political policy to help the outsider. If we don't do it, who will?" (pg 6)

The other articles range across describing partnerships between Norwich and Burkina Faso, Stoke Holy Cross and Uganda; learning from one another from Thetford to Holmsund and China to Cawston; and relationship-building between East Harling and Papua New Guinea. Alongside these are stories of individuals who have followed God's calling from Norfolk to The Gambia or Southern India.

The common theme is one of "generous justice" (pg 40) and, as Dr Rowan Williams says (pg 18), "It is about a proper alignment with God's world, a conscious giving of ourselves to the stream of God's action in the world."

I hope this edition will inspire you to look beyond our differences, make connections, take action, start a conversation to learn from one another in this amazing, rich diversity of humanity to which we belong.

Blessings,

Barbara

Barbara Bryant
Editor



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Being Christ to others



For many, the word mission will bring to mind images of people in poverty somewhere overseas. In my experience mission starts much closer to home. As a child in a Methodist church I used to collect for J.M.A (Junior Mission for All); it taught me about people who gave to help others and those who received that help and passed it on.

In my youth I was part of an extraordinary organisation called Endeavour Training; our motto was “people matter most” and as individuals we were encouraged to give our time and skills to other people and learn that we grew and developed ourselves as we invested in the lives of others.

Life moved on, I married, had two sons, rediscovered faith along with my husband but then ... divorce. I was completely broken and felt such a failure. I gave up wearing my cross as I believed I was a

terrible witness. One day, walking alone, I met a lady, Sarah, who gave me a prophecy. She said: “I see you surrounded by African ladies, you are all dancing and smiling and you are happy.” I accepted this word and hid it in my heart; it was lovely but I had no idea how this might happen.

In November 2013 I heard Janet and Les Clarke talk about work their work in The Gambia. I listened and it was as if God was speaking into my heart. I chatted with Janet afterwards and it seems I was an answer to her prayer for help; so I became involved with G.A.T.E (Gambian Aid Through Education).

At first it was mainly helping with the fundraising events but eventually, in January 2015, I made my first mission trip to The Gambia. Much of our work is in receiving donations of money, clothing, seeds and sponsorship from people in the UK and channelling that help to the people in The Gambia who need it most.

It's physically very hard work when we are in The Gambia, but the rewards of the joy brought to the people we help far outweighs anything we go through. The people we work among are predominantly Muslim but they are people first and I learned many years ago from a French nun, in a rubbish dump in Egypt, you have to earn their trust by

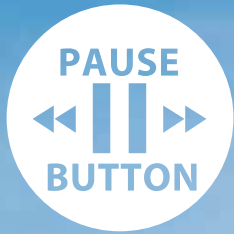
showing practical love over long periods before you share your faith.

God's love becomes real when through me it touches another because, as St Theresa of Avila says:

“ Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours. ”



Jane Moore
worships at St
Edmund's, Taverham.



How big is your world?

British Gas adverts over the past few years have suggested that the world we need to look after extends only as far as the walls of our own home. But is that true?

It was closer to the truth when Jules Verne's nineteenth century suggestion of getting *Round the World in 80 Days* was an impossible dream: yet travel today enables us to reach the other side of the world in hours. The very first circumnavigation of the world took over three years in 1519, while today's astronauts in the International Space Station see the entire globe every 90 minutes.

Our world has shrunk so that we are no longer amazed that pictures from thousands of miles away can be beamed live into our sitting rooms and the internet makes neighbours (and even friends) of people we didn't know existed: with the various forms of social media, we have instant communication.

With all this privilege of modern technology comes greater responsibility and we are challenged to ask again the lawyer's question to Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" We can no longer ignore what is happening on another continent and the challenge of the gospel doesn't allow us to demonise those we don't understand.

In recent years, there has been a trend back to nationalism and away from a recognition that we all breathe the same air, that we share the same planet, that we are members of a single human race.

Our fallen humanity pushes us to look after ourselves first but, in encouraging us to find our true selves, Jesus calls us to put others first and reminds us that greater blessing comes in giving than in receiving.

This challenge to engage with the world, whether our neighbour is a few yards away or thousands of miles away,

is the way we live out the Eucharist in practice. The final part of the service is called "The Dismissal" and without it, the Eucharist is incomplete. We are dismissed in the sense of being sent out, in the words of the Prayer after Communion, as a living sacrifice, to live Christ's risen life, to bring life to others, to give light to the world, so we and all God's children will be free and the whole earth will live to praise God's name. When that is our prayer, and having been nourished by the body and blood of Jesus who gave his life for us, we are dismissed in peace to "love and serve..."



The Venerable John Ashe
Archdeacon
of Lynn





Rethinking mission for the twenty-first century

We share an inter-connected world. Everything we do in our local community potentially affects the whole world, and everything that happens far away can have an impact on our neighbourhood. The commonly expressed truths that we live on 'a rapidly shrinking planet' and in 'a global village' make ideas like 'local mission versus global mission' irrelevant: the local is the global and vice versa. The Revd Dr Evie Vernon, Theological Adviser to the Anglican mission agency USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) asks where this leaves us.

First of all, we need to understand that while the call to be a missionary might be a very simple one, it is also very challenging. It would be so much easier if we could believe that mission is something that happens away from our homes, perhaps among the poor, whoever they might be, or overseas somewhere, and that mission is something done by someone else, maybe a local vicar or a dedicated missionary who ventures overseas. In this scenario, our Christian duty could be fulfilled whenever we prayed or gave generous donations, leaving us to do very little in practical terms.

However, Jesus didn't call his followers to be comfortable. He called us to take up our cross, that is to walk as someone condemned to death, and follow him. (Mt 16:24). Matthew's Gospel recalls Jesus urging his servants to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and hospitality to the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit prisoners.

This is potentially difficult stuff. Then, as now, feeding the hungry or visiting prisoners could be seen by the authorities as either relatively harmless acts of charity, which could defuse tensions, or as dangerous political actions that highlight injustice and incite discontent.

Dom Hélder Pessoa Câmara, a former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Olinda and Recife in Brazil, is reputed to have said:

“If I give bread to the poor, they call me a saint, if I ask why the poor have no bread, they call me a communist.”

Providing bread for the hungry can, in some situations, get you arrested. Dom Hélder – unlike Archbishop Romero of El Salvador, Archbishop Luwum of Uganda and Archbishop Alberto Ramento of the Philippines – did not get murdered by the state for working with the poor, but he was certainly not beloved by the authorities.

My second point is that God's mission is not solely for the specialists, clergy and dedicated missionaries; it is for every Christian.

In the first century, Jesus' call to a new way of life was spread by ordinary people from every walk of life: fisherfolk, tax collectors, travelling salespeople, tentmakers, lepers and widows. Nothing has changed. Mission is still everybody's duty.

Thirdly, there is a sense in which mission is carried out by refugees and for refugees. Mission is not for those who feel content or 'at home' in either their earthly body or their earthly situation. Jesus' followers were mostly refugees fleeing religious or political persecution. And, even today, we are mindful that much of mission involves engaging with people who are outsiders, perhaps because they have been ignored or persecuted or otherwise neglected.

Again, it is important to recognise that we are all inter-connected – decisions taken in Whitehall, Washington and North Korea can have global repercussions. And yet those who suffer the repercussions the most are those who are on the margins, those who lie outside the mainstream. It must therefore be the mission of every Christian to extend hospitality to the outsider and to educate themselves about how we might seek to influence political policy to help the outsider. If we don't do it, who will?

Again, none of this is new. Jesus himself was born in Bethlehem because an emperor, far away in Rome, sent an order for people to travel to their ancestral villages to be taxed (Luke 2:1). The first 'overseas missionary' happened to be an Ethiopian official visiting Jerusalem (Acts 8).

In March this year, USPG held its first Rethinking Mission Conference at Southwark Cathedral. Participants were invited to discuss mission from new perspectives, with guest speakers from across the world: the Revd Evelyn Bhajan from the Church of Pakistan; the Very Revd John Rogers from the Church in Barbados; the Revd Dr Canon Vincentia Kgabe from the Church in South Africa; and the Ven Archdeacon Dr John Perumbalath, Archdeacon of Barking.

In the presentation given by these speakers – three of which can be found on www.uspg.org.uk/news/rethinking3417 – we were invited to think about how women express their mission in Pakistan, about the challenges facing the church in post-Apartheid South Africa, about the way forward for the Church in the West Indies, and about how the church is called to deal with loneliness and isolation on council estates in the UK.



USPG also relaunched its online journal – also called *Rethinking Mission* www.rethinkingmission.org

The articles found here, like the talks at the conference, serve to challenge all Christians that we are all called to the one mission, God's mission, to redeem the one world in which we all live. The recurrent message is that there is no local or global mission or, rather, all mission is global and all mission is local.

The 17th century cleric John Donne, put it this way:

**No man is an island entire
of itself; every man
is a piece of the continent, a
part of the main;
if a clod be washed away by
the sea, Europe
is the less, as well as if a
promontory were, as
well as any manner of thy
friends or of thine
own were; any man's death
diminishes me,
because I am involved in
mankind.
And therefore never send to
know for whom
the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.**

(MEDITATION XVII, Devotions upon Emergent Occasions)



Evie Veron is Theological Adviser to USPG. Jamaican womanist theologian. Formerly Director for the Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies, Birmingham.

Engaging worldwide

Many people in the Diocese will be aware of our long-standing links with Luleå in Sweden and with Papua New Guinea. What may come as a surprise is the extent of further links recently uncovered. The Revd Canon Christopher Davies explains:

A survey by the Diocesan World Engagement Group has revealed that Benefices across the Diocese have active and well-established links with a further 51 countries.

It has been a wonderful experience to read the responses to the survey and learn how people at local level have immersed themselves in the lives of so many communities abroad, many of whom are in desperate circumstances.

It is particularly uplifting to learn how, over and over again, those involved at first-hand have said how blessed they have felt through their contacts and how much it has enriched their own faith and their understanding of the global church.

Limitations of space allow me to give only a snapshot of the enormously varied contacts that have been made and the life-changing projects which are being supported, but here are a few:

Debbie Reed has achieved great things with the support of St Nicholas, Blakeney and Blakeney Methodist Church. When asked on her 60th birthday if she wanted a party, Debbie said that she would rather "do some good" and so began her amazing link with a Cambodian orphanage where 75 per cent of the children have special needs. Supported by the churches and with a lot of fundraising, Debbie goes out each year for a month. Debbie saves all year so that



Debbie Reed in Cambodia

she can buy rice and clothing when she goes. When asked what a difference it had made to her faith Debbie responded:

“I feel I am meant to be there, whether helping them learn English or offering other practical help. The experience has boosted my faith.”

When the Mission Group at St Peter's Church, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft, received an unexpected legacy, rather than spend it locally they decided to sponsor six children through the charity Compassion. Sue Cummings says: "We chose to do this because the couple who left the legacy had no children of their own and were always helping children in their lifetime." The group

is currently sponsoring children in Ghana, Rwanda, Ecuador, Nicaragua and India.

Judith Pegden of the Glaven Valley Benefice has been three times in the past six years to visit Rwanda, where a group from the parish has helped to build two houses. They also take out vital water filters. Glaven Valley also has strong links with Ibba Girls School in South Sudan. The school, now in its fourth year, has up to 160 students from the age of 10.



What is clear from all the survey responses is the great blessing that those closely involved in these links have received. It would be great to hear from any other parishes which have yet to respond to our survey. We have a map on the Diocesan website showing all the links.

www.dioceseofnorwich.org/churches/society/world/

Please contact me if your church, or if you as an individual are engaging further afield.

cjdoldrectory@gmail.com



Members of Glaven Valley Benefice in Rwanda.

Further ideas...

on engaging with our worldwide community

MAKE CONNECTIONS



Change A Nation Tearfund & New Wine

– a 'Connected Church' initiative enabling churches in the UK to help equip

churches across Uganda to lead their communities out of extreme poverty - changing their nation one person at a time. Contact **020 8943 7972**, email churches@tearfund.org or see connected.tearfund.org

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



Christian Aid Community Partnership

– linking you to projects in some of the world's poorest communities. Donations are match funded by the European Union, meaning that for every pound you give, at least three more are donated. You receive resources packed with information about the country and the project to inspire and motivate your community and regular updates on the project. Contact **01603 620051**, email cpartnership@christian-aid.org or see christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/communitypartnership/

JOIN A CONVERSATION



Church Mission Society (CMS)

has launched a nationwide listening exercise to find out what Christians think 'mission is'. "We hope it will uncover some of the myths that have grown up around mission and identify the barriers that prevent people from



getting involved." You can join in right now by answering just a few questions in our short survey:

churchmissionsociety.org/mission-is



USPG – Re-thinking mission – an online journal to enable people around the world to engage,

on an equal footing, in dialogue about what it means to be involved in mission today. "The world is a fast-moving place, yet God's mission remains constant. It does, however, need to be proclaimed afresh in each generation and context. The greater our engagement with God's mission in different situations and with different people, the richer our understanding of it will be." See our main feature (pg 6). rethinkingmission.org

RESOURCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Recent research into the attitudes of young people shows that after their own personal concerns of family, exams and school, world issues of war and terrorism, poverty and homelessness are next on their list. In general, young people have been found to have stronger social and moral concerns than those who are older, which provides a real opportunity for engagement. Here are some ways to connect young people with overseas mission:



SoulAction

working alongside Tearfund, has grown out of the Soul Survivor youth festivals to

help young people do something about issues of injustice and poverty. Check out the Slum Survivor resource: spend a few days the way a billion spend a lifetime, living in a temporary shelter, eating a limited diet and facing tough challenges and choices. You can raise funds and awareness of the poverty and people that live in the world's slums. Find out more here: soulsurvivor.com/soulaction



Christian Aid Collective

is Christian Aid's youth initiative with a range of resources, ideas, blogs and

news. Check out the *Eat, Act, Pray initiative* – each month the focus is on different countries with recipes for you to cook the regions food, along with activities, discussion and prayer points for you to use while you eat. christianaidcollective.org



Urban Saints – Build Project

– provides a range of mission experiences which offer young people and families the opportunity to travel overseas to demonstrate God's power and love through building houses for the poor, being and bringing the good news of Jesus, and inspiring them to live a life of justice and generosity. urbansaints.org/build

Review



A selection of books on the theme of world engagement, reviewed by Steve Foyster.

Cycling Out of the Comfort Zone;

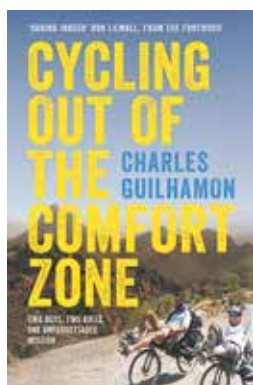
Two Boys, Two Bikes, One Unforgettable Mission

Charles Guilhamon

SPCK Publishing (2017)

£9.99

Revelation price £8.50



Just out of university, Charles Guilhamon and his friend Gabriel de Lepinau decide to take a year out to tour the world by bike. With a budget of just a few euros a day, their travels bring them out of their comfort zone and into contact with people living in isolated or persecuted Christian communities in Syria, Iraq, India, China, Tibet, Thailand, the Amazon, Senegal and Algeria.

With a delightfully ironic sense of humour, Guilhamon's vivid storytelling, intelligent analysis and authentic testimonies make for a hugely enjoyable read. In the best traditions of the travelogue, this is a true story well told, in this case of engaging with other global Christian communities.

Missing Jewel;

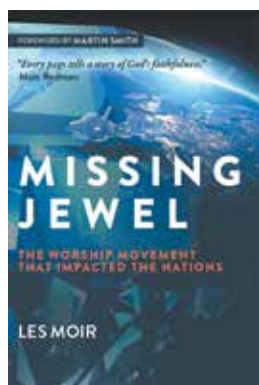
the Worship Movement that Impacted the Nations

Les Moir

David Cook Publications (2017)

£9.99

Revelation price £9.00



From encountering God in house churches to declaring his praise in stadia, contemporary worship has transformed the British church and spread across the world. Les Moir had a front row seat, recording, producing and playing on landmark albums, as well as shaping significant songs from such influential singer songwriters as Matt Redman, Tim Hughes and Graham Kendrick.

In 'Missing Jewel, Les uses his own experiences and inspiring first-hand accounts of many musicians, songwriters and church leaders to tell the story of a journey that continues to bless and exhilarate new generations of believers.

Forming Multicultural Partnerships:

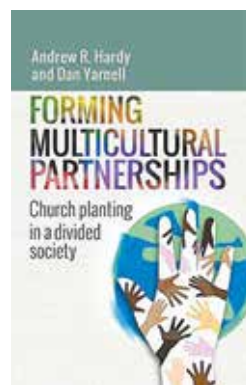
Church Planting in a Divided Society

Andy Hardy and Dan Yarnell

Instant Apostle (2015)

£14.99

Revelation price £12.00



For the church to be relevant it cannot be separated from a culturally and ethnically diverse Britain. There is a prophetic call for Christians to partner with other faiths to ensure that the heart of God will unite all nations.

Planting multi-ethnic churches and forming multicultural partnerships will enable God's kingdom to start emerging and having an impact on an often divided society. This book is full of practical applications and theological insights for church planters, church leaders and all involved in missional endeavours throughout the UK.

Compassion and the Mission of God:

Revealing the Invisible Kingdom

Rupen Das

Langham Global Library (2016)

£11.99

Revelation price £10.00



Rupen Das traces God's compassion as revealed in the Old and New Testaments, exploring the expression and impact it had in the witness of the early church, through both actions and teachings. Focusing on the church's responsibility to be compassionate, the author underlines the theological and missional questions central to this belief.

Culminating with how compassion is lived out by God's people, he examines the concepts of transformation and the demonstration of the kingdom of God in today's world. *Compassion and the Mission of God* provides an excellent biblical and theological foundation for any reader involved or interested in the ministries of social justice, relief, development and most importantly, compassion.

Burkina Faso and Norwich: a community partnership

Photos © Christian Aid/Andrew Testa

Three years ago, under the umbrella of the Norwich Christian Aid group, different churches joined together to form a 'community partnership' with local communities in the north of Burkina Faso. Alan Rix, Chairperson of the group, explains:

Burkina Faso is one of the world's poorest countries. Almost half of its 16 million inhabitants live below the poverty line. Burkina Faso was severely affected by the drought and food shortages that have affected West Africa and left millions of people seriously short of food.

The partnership scheme is match-funded by the EU and so for every £1 we raised, another £3 was given to the work. We also learnt a lot about healthy development work.

It was important to help people to become independent and not be dependant on us. We didn't need to be the 'heroes' – we simply wanted to do



what was best for the people. It became clear that they could be best helped in this context by funding resources like drought resistant seeds, proper tools and training which could be sourced locally.

We also learnt that there were excellent locals with expertise to help – the Church organisation ODE. People could do so much themselves – they don't always need others to fly in to 'rescue' them and we shouldn't underestimate them or their capabilities. As our commitment to this group is ending, the local government is continuing the scheme – another good example of development in that it becomes locally resourced.

We received reports about how the scheme was going both from Christian Aid, which monitored and facilitated the work, but also from local people. Perhaps Abibou Kanyala's words, who lives in Ouaguisi with her five children, will illustrate what I am saying.

"Life in our village is characterized by poverty, inadequate food and many other needs. But the garden has considerably reduced our difficulties – that's the good news here! To be part of this work I was involved at the beginning when we cleared the site. I received several training sessions, different seeds and materials and tools to work and ongoing support from ODE.

"Before I was making and selling peanut meal. I could gain maximum 2 500 FCFA, if not less. It is a very difficult job. Now, as well as my family being able to eat vegetables all year, even in different seasons, I can sell them and earn much more. This money allows me to



contribute to the expenses of my family, such as the tuition of my two children who are still in school. With that money, I could buy a bike, kitchen utensils, a sheep and chickens to raise."

Abibou's life and many others in Burkina Faso have been changed. Our lives have been changed too in that we have learnt much. At heart, we are not so different from our brothers and sisters wherever we live on this earth. We all have needs and we can share our resources and knowledge so that everyone can live a reasonable and secure life with shelter, food, drink and human rights. We just need to do this well and in a way which gives people dignity and empowerment.

**christian
aid**

East Harling & Ave

– sharing life lessons

By Barbara Bryant

The Revd Lynn Fry and her husband Tony spent eight months in Papua New Guinea as guests of the Anglican Church and returned there last Autumn to continue their work in the theological college in Popendetta. The relationships that have been formed between their home benefice in East Harling and the Binandere tribe as a result are strong and each community has developed an appreciation of a different culture. The Binandere tribe live in the last village up the navigable River Mamba, and before independence they had an airstrip and a bush track – both now closed. Education and health care are very limited.

The East Harling gardening group was inspired by hearing about the tribe managing subsistence farming: rotating their crops and using organic methods to preserve the natural environment, in a region where the impact of climate change is all too evident. Tony appealed for any spare hoe-heads to be donated and someone paid for the shipping costs to get them out to the students and staff at the college. "You have no idea how much they value the knowledge that people from the other side of the world are thinking about them and wanting to help," said Lynn about delivering the hoe-heads.

When they were last in PNG in 2015, Lynn was godmother to Baby "Lynn Fry" and sent back a photo of the baptism taking place in St Andrews Church in Ave, with a plastic washing up bowl as a font. This inspired some of the members of East Harling congregation to commission the enamellist and jeweller Sheila McDonald to produce a small bowl, light and easily transportable, that could be used for future baptism services.

"Sheila is a fellow of the Goldsmiths Company and, luckily for us, lives and works in East Harling," explains local church member Sue Wall. "The bowl was commissioned as a gift from St Peter & St Paul's in East Harling. It is made of a brass alloy referred to as gilding metal, which is a good base for enamel work; it has inscribed round the rim "Ave the Land of the Gospel" and is decorated with an enamel picture of an angel in the base.

"The design of the angel was inspired partly by the medieval painted angels in



Angel baptism bowl created by Sheila McDonald

the clerestory windows at St Peter & St Paul, and partly by the pictures of the PNG ladies in their full tribal headdresses. "Lynn and Tony took it with them on their return to Ave and were delighted to report: "The baptism bowl was used straight away to baptise Tony's namesake!"

Sue says that they have benefited from the ongoing support to the Binandere community and the theological college as much as the recipients of the gifts have. "With the letters and photos, it feels like a real relationship has built between us. We receive by witnessing what a kind and caring community they are. We have much to learn."

Writing home, Lynn agrees: "Far from losing anything by coming here, we gain much more. When we left this Western way of life, we found ourselves, and God waiting for us. The paradox is when we choose for ourselves we become smaller and more inward-looking. When we choose for others and for God we grow. And that is a good feeling."



Lynn with goddaughter Lynn!







Luleå twins: Thetford and Holmsund

By The Revd Helen Jary

Have you ever thought about twinning your parish with a similar parish in Sweden? Despite being a member of the Luleå Link Group, a committee which oversees our link with Luleå Diocese in Northern Sweden, it hadn't really occurred to me either! However, after a group from Bureå visited our Deanery, we were asked if we'd be interested in twinning with Holmsund Parish, another parish in the Diocese of Luleå.

The first group from Holmsund came to visit us in March of 2013 and, from the outset, it was clear that a link would not only be helpful in terms of learning and support, but that it'd be a lot of fun too! During that four-day visit, our Swedish friends had an intensive introduction to Thetford and the Diocese of Norwich; meeting many members of our congregations; seeing the sights of Thetford; eating fish and chips; watching an episode of *Dad's Army* (partly filmed in Thetford, in case you're wondering!); enjoying a cream tea; and participating in worship at three of the churches in our Team Ministry. During their visit we also spent time talking and praying about the ways that we would hope to benefit from twinning our Parishes.

Following the initial visit of our friends from Holmsund, a Twinning Agreement was then established. The agreement includes our intention to support each other in the following ways:

-  **Praying for each other, both corporately and individually**
-  **Sharing information so that our prayers can be purposeful**
-  **Getting to know each other, maintaining communication links**
-  **Sharing ideas, being open and learning from each other**
-  **Sensitively offering advice and feedback to each other**
-  **Encouraging visits between the churches**

The overall aim is to help each other discern God's will for His church in a secular world, and through discussion and deepening relationships, to be better equipped to share the good news more widely in our communities.

Since our link was established we have continued to welcome Holmsund groups to Thetford and, in return, we have visited them as well. The Holmsund visits are usually theme-based now; for example, we have hosted the Parish Deacons and also groups of young leaders.

Holmsund Parish is very different to Thetford. For example, whilst in Holmsund, they took us on snow scooters out onto a frozen lake, where we fished through holes in the ice and then had a barbecue! So the environment is very different, but the people have many similarities. The most enriching thing has been the firm friendships that we have made. They have enriched our life, and our worship, and have been a real source of joy and inspiration.

You may be wondering how this works out economically. Due to the tax that the Church of Sweden receives which, although voluntary, is still paid by many Swedes, Swedish parishes generally have a much greater income than parishes here. The Swedes are aware of this situation and so, as we have hosted groups from Holmsund, they have made gifts towards our expenses and these have enabled us to set up a Twinning Fund.

There are other parishes in Luleå Diocese who would be interested in connecting with a parish in our Diocese. If you'd like to find out more, please contact the Luleå Link Group or get in touch with me by email revhelenjary@gmail.com or phone 01842 755769.



Holmsund Young Leaders at Cloverfield Church



Visit of Holmsund Young Leaders





Changing a nation one person at a time

By Henry and Eostre Caswell

Stoke Holy Cross Church is a small rural church in South Norfolk. When our vicar, Rob Baker, initially introduced the idea of twinning with a rural church in Uganda, through the New Wine and Tearfund *Change a Nation* initiative, we felt it gave us a fantastic opportunity to be directly connected to a Ugandan village and help to change peoples' lives. The thinking and praying behind this was that the money would be used to fund a person to work with the church to train people using biblical principles, not only to believe in Jesus with their heads, but to be 'whole life disciples' – making use of the skills and resources God had given them to bless the whole community.

Three years ago, we started sponsoring Pastor Robert and his congregation at the Okunguro Church; we committed ourselves to raising £3,000 a year for three years. This seemed like a huge mountain

to climb in the beginning but by breaking it into three amounts of £1,000 a year, it seemed much more achievable. £1,000 was committed by the PCC from the church's income (as we already donated money to charities); we felt that £1,000 could be raised by individuals giving monthly amounts of around £15 a month, with the final £1,000 to be achieved by fundraising.

The aim was always for the whole church community to be involved. Our children wrote letters to the children in Okunguro. We made display boards about Okunguro and regularly updated everyone on how we were doing. We often had tables of craft goods, cards and jam for sale in the church and one homegroup's members committed to giving £1 each time they met.

Through our various efforts we raised the first two years' target and then, towards the end of 2016, we put in a really big effort to raise the final amount of money needed by holding a Christmas craft fair

“We were inspired by the participatory approach. Looking at the gifts God has given me: the provision and ability that I can use for the benefit of my family or community; for my fellow-man. That approach could be well-applied in Stoke Holy Cross, were our community as open to faith as they are in Uganda! ”

and coffee morning. Cakes were baked by people of all ages, crafts made by others and the event was well attended by young and old. It was very much a joint effort by the whole church community and raised over £600, which was widely celebrated. Shortly after this, Tearfund told us we had completed our task.

We were inspired by the participatory approach. Looking at the gifts God has given me: the provision and ability that I can use for the benefit of my family or community; for my fellow-man. That approach could be well-applied in Stoke Holy Cross, were our community as open to faith as they are in Uganda!

Playing a part in changing lives in a rural village in Uganda has been a huge encouragement to us all. Although this project has come to an end, we shall certainly be continuing to look to support other initiatives beyond our borders.





Pat Atkinson

Known as “Patamma” (Pat Mother) to those she works with in the Dhalit communities of southern India, Pat remembers one significant day out of the many over the more than 50 visits she has made while establishing The Vidiyal Trust.

The interest in leprosy began when at the age of nine I heard a missionary speaking in my church about her work with the Mission to Lepers. I was moved by what she said so I wrote to my local Bishop (of Bath and Wells), who was very encouraging! However, for a myriad of reasons it was over 40 years until I could really experience the complexities of the disease and the stoicism of those who suffer.

Five years ago one of the elders in our street shelter home asked if we could take her to a leprosy colony to visit relatives. We have isolated cases of leprosy among our street elders.



We arrived to a traditional welcome, but people stayed a distance from our group – me in particular, until I moved forward and hugged one of the ladies. That was it! There was real surprise that touching and hugging was acceptable, as even those with mild disfigurement will be shunned on the streets.

I was shocked to see makeshift attempts at replacing limbs with table legs. Worse was the fact that many of their wounds were infected. We sent for antiseptics and bandages, and spent the afternoon trying to clean some of the wounds. They were struggling in many ways (affected by severe drought in our area), clearly they were malnourished. Later that day I was taken to meet Sousai, who had lost a leg and had pulmonary issues relating to his leprosy. He asked me to pray with him, and said that he had been praying for “years” for help for his people.

So we have supported the colony ever since and as a result have also been granted access to the nearby government home where there are 300 or more patients. Sousai died two weeks after we met, knowing that we were there to care for his people. It is a privilege beyond words to love and care for them, wonderful people who never complain in spite of their suffering and disabilities.

Other days are spent in our shelter home for over 100 street elders, our tuition centre for 120 children and with our work with the Regional Cancer Centre where we have responsibility for two ambulances taking palliative care to poor rural areas. We also care for 50 children with cancer living in isolated Dhalit villages. The day with Sousai will always be special. I thank God for him and the privilege of being able to care for his people in Jesus’ name.



It has taken 27 years to reach this point, the majority of our support coming from Norfolk churches and individuals. We are a Christian charity working in a predominantly Hindu area, showing God’s love unconditionally to his people regardless of caste or religion. Touching people – literally touch and love them – where they are, joining in their pains and joys, becoming part of their lives and communities. Matthew 25:40. For Jesus.

www.vidiyaltrust.com



Who is my Neighbour?

Supporting refugees and asylum seekers in our Diocese



One of Tim Rogers' roles is making short films that celebrate what churches across the Diocese are doing to promote the gospel and show God's love. Here he describes the experience of making his first film of this kind.

Who is my Neighbour? is a film that celebrates what churches in Norwich are doing to help refugees and asylum seekers. The making of this film began with a meeting with Carrie Sant of City Saints in the refectory of Norwich Cathedral. It ended with me realizing that this wasn't just a film about churches 'doing their bit'. It was, and is, much more than that. The direction the film was to go in would see me filming a Church in action. I would be filming what it means to really love our neighbour.

Norwich is what's known as a 'dispersal city', which is essentially a place to where asylum seekers go while their application for asylum is processed. People who go through this system are housed by the local council, are given weekly cash

support worth £37 (with extra funding for dependents), but not initially given the entitlement to work. There are currently 140 beds in the city. In 2015, the UK received 32,414 asylum applications.

After outlining a possible premise of the film, Carrie pointed me in the direction of Rosie Sexton and Brigid Everett, two people who, along with Carrie, had recognised the fact that many asylum seekers and other foreign nationals in Norwich are facing problems and difficulties that seem almost impossible to overcome.

Rosie had set up two groups called English+ and Conversation Café at Holy Trinity Church, St Luke's and St Thomas' Churches in Norwich, whilst Brigid had begun an International Friendship Group at St Matthew's Church in Thorpe Hamlet. These are groups that have been set up with the aim of bridging the language barrier as well as providing an avenue to help asylum seekers and refugees integrate with the community around them. Through various churches in Norwich, there was now a large group of people offering their time, skills and money to resource lessons and opportunities for English conversations for people who really need it.

"I started the English classes," says Rosie, "to help people fit in, to learn English, to reduce isolation and to create a sense of community. When someone comes to Britain for the first time and can't speak the language, it can be very difficult to find support, make friends and feel that they belong. So although our groups offer the immediate benefit of learning English, they also address the problems of a lack of friendship, a lack of community and a lack of opportunity for getting into work."

Carrie also introduced me to Hala Marie, who had been one of the first people to attend English+ and who is now running her own charity as well as studying in further education. I would later find out that Hala believes that without the help of English+ and the work of Rosie Sexton, she would not be able to provide help through her charity Hala's House2Home.

I also met teachers Ian and Lauren, who both volunteer at the English+ group and Conversation Café. Through planned lessons and providing resources and materials, they are able to work with groups and individuals to provide practical and much-needed help. These were just two of the many other volunteers that were helping to support this initiative.

It was very important to remember that whilst I wanted to capture footage of the classes and groups, these were people who had faced and whose families were continuing to face difficulties and struggles that most of us are unable to grasp. However, Salah, a Muslim from Egypt, was prepared to share his story.

It was a struggle having to flee his native country and then move through Europe and on to the UK; he initially moved from city to city (something that Salah called 'horrible days') and eventually came to Norwich where he was able to find groups such as English+ where he could begin to improve his situation. Ian, a tutor from UEA, was ideally placed to develop what Salah already knew.

"I am only looking for security," he explained, "and freedom, which I lost in my country. I leave my family. I leave my friends. I leave everything. I lost everything. But this is life – if you have principles, aims and you want to achieve, you have to sacrifice many things."

Freedom, Salah explained, is something you only really notice once it's been taken away.

The language lessons and courses that churches are providing are for people who had been forced to give up everything in their home country and flee to a different country. I was filming Christians welcoming those that felt isolated, feeding those who were hungry, and loving those who needed compassion.

The Revd William Warren, then Curate of Holy Trinity Norwich, said:



“There is a call for us as Christians to be involved in making a difference in the world. We are called to go out and show love to those who are in need and this is a small way in which you can do that.”

William explained that running courses like English+ has been brilliant to enable local people to come in to the church to make use of the building, as well as making relationships and connections with the local community.

Having spent quite some time speaking to people from these groups, filming the lessons and activities that were taking

place – and also enjoying some delicious food along the way, made by Raz and Karima – it was time to pack up the cameras and edit the footage into a short film to celebrate the work that was taking place. This was to prove to be the most challenging part of this process as there was so much valuable information that could have been in the final film.

What started out as a conversation in the Cathedral eventually became something I hope shows how people in our Diocese are shining their light before others. It demonstrates how some people are, as Rosie puts it, “walking alongside those” who have come to the UK. Hopefully, it will also encourage other Christians and churches to think about how they too can help the people in their communities; how they can meet their need, how they can show love, how they can truly be what Jesus commands us to be: a loving neighbour.



This film can be viewed online here:
youtu.be/ApRVGe23YgA
Do please share it widely!

If you want to learn more about City Saints and find out how you could help you can go to their Facebook page, City Saints in Action, or call Sophie Clark on 07729 394223 or sophie8clark@yahoo.com

Faith, hope and justice in a broken world

By Wendy Bryant

Have you seen the YouTube video *What has Aid ever done for Anyone?* that has been doing the rounds recently? When a random collection of people travelling to a demonstration against UK Aid stop to ask this question, they rapidly realise that in fact Aid has done quite a lot, including eradicating diseases, providing sanitation and clean water, ensuring education, and so on.

Financial giving where there is real need, however unfashionable, does serve a purpose, and indeed is essential for world development.

With the scale of poverty, war, suffering and injustice which constantly face us on our screens and in our newspapers, we can easily feel overwhelmed by the little that we feel we can do, especially if we are met with a less than enthusiastic welcome from our neighbours when we attempt to do our bit, such as when we collect for Christian Aid Week.

The visit of Dr Rowan Williams to Norwich Cathedral just before this year's Christian Aid Week was an opportunity for us to think more deeply about all these concerns.

Norwich Cathedral supports Christian Aid through house-to-house collections and a Soup Lunch in Christian Aid Week, and occasionally other fundraising events, and so was delighted to host Dr Williams for this special occasion. He had been asked to reflect on the themes of faith, hope and justice in a broken world, to help us to engage with the challenges of making meaning of our faith and the Christian hope in the context of what is happening in the world around us.

Rowan Williams, who is Chair of the Board of Trustees of Christian Aid, and former Archbishop of Canterbury, suggested that we need charity as well as justice; that both need to be part of our response to our broken world and to God's generosity. He said that justice

is closely connected with wisdom in the Old Testament – it is about a proper alignment with God's world, a conscious giving of ourselves to the stream of God's action in the world.

Our faith enables us to be real, and to recognise that God is at work in the world, whatever we may do to ignore or even frustrate his plans. Dr Williams went on to say that the activities we carry out for Christian Aid are sacramental, and carry the energy of God's purpose to make connections between rich and poor, privileged and disadvantaged.

He also told us a little of some new developments for Christian Aid – some partner organisations have reached a level of maturity such that they are seeking to be more independent of the central organisation. Christian Aid is having to think about how it can empower them to do this while still being there to support them if things don't quite go to plan.

This kind of development may feel challenging, but in a sense is what our giving is ultimately about – when individuals and societies who have been living with poverty and disadvantage for so long, but have over time, and with the right kind of help, been empowered to stand on their own two feet, it is a moment to rejoice and truly see God at work in the world.

To find out more visit our website www.christianaid.org.uk or contact local office on 01603 620051



**NORWICH**
CATHEDRAL



Prayer Calendar

July 2017

BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)
The Methodist Church: District Chairman, Julian Purchasehouse.
Diocese of Osun North East (Nigeria): Bishop Humphery Olumakaibe.

ST ANDREW (NORWICH) Clergy: Martin Young, William Warren.

The ministry of our police chaplains.

The Dioceses of Otukpo, Owerri and Owo (Nigeria): Bishops David Bello, Cyril Okorocho and James Oladunjoye.

ST GILES (NORWICH) Clergy: Darren Thornton.

For all prison chaplains across our region and the prison communities they serve.

The Diocese of Oxford (England): Bishop Steven Croft and Suffragan Bishops, Alan Wilson, Colin Fletcher and Andrew Proud.

ST HELEN (NORWICH) Clergy: Barry Oake. Bishop's Staff meeting today.

The Dioceses of Oyo and Pankshin (Nigeria): Bishops Williams Aladekugbe and Olumuyiwa Ajayi.

ST PETER MANCROFT (NORWICH) Clergy: Robert Avery, Fiona Haworth,

Graham Kirk-Spriggs. Readers: Gill Persicke, John Pountain.

Chaplain to Norwich International Airport, Keith Rengert.

Diocese of Pacong (Sudan): Bishop Joseph Maker Atot.

ST STEPHEN (NORWICH) Clergy: Madeline Light, Matthew Hutton, Alex Irving.
Readers: Peter Carroll, Anne Murphy.

Diocesan Urban Officer and Church Urban Fund Link, Peter Howard.

Diocese of Peru: Bishop Jorge Luis Aguilar and Suffragan Bishops, Juan Carlos Revilla and Eulogio Alejandro Mesco.

THORPE HAMLET (NORWICH) Clergy: Patrick Jordan. Reader: Irene Beckett.
Diocesan Communications and Marketing Manager, Gordon Darley.

Dioceses of Phulbani and Patna (India): Bishops Bijay Nayak and Philip Marandih.

BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)
United Reform Church: Eastern Synod Moderator, Paul Whittle.

The Dioceses of Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh (The Episcopal Church of USA):
Bishops Daniel Gutierrez and Dorsey McConnell.

THORPE ST ANDREW (NORWICH) Clergy: James Stewart.

Norwich Cathedral: its mission and ministry.

Diocese of Polynesia (Aotearoa New Zealand & Polynesia): Archbishop Winston Halapua and Bishops Apimeleki Nadoki Qiliho and Apimeleki Qiliho.

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

Sat 1

OULTON BROAD Clergy: Ian Bentley, Margaret Barnes, Sarah Quantrell, Josephine Fowler, Marilyn Zipfel. Readers: Ann Sivyer, Jill Hunting, Harold Waterman.

For those being ordained in the Cathedral today and the parishes they will serve.
Diocese of Ogoni (Niger Delta, Nigeria): Bishop Solomon Gberegbara.

Sun 2

BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN)
Pray that our Mission Strategy 2021 may be an effective tool as we seek renewal and fresh inspiration for proclaiming the good news across this diocese. Pray too for those being confirmed in Dersingham today.

The Dioceses of Ogori-Magongo and Ohaji / Egbema (Nigeria): Bishops Festus Davies and Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku.

Mon 3

OULTON ST MICHAEL Clergy: Robin Pritchard, Carol Pritchard. Readers: Jackie Makower, Jill Pirrie, Debbie Allsop.

St Thomas

Our Archdeacons: John Ashe, Steven Betts and Karen Hutchinson.

Diocese of Ohio (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Mark Hollingsworth.

Tue 4

PAKEFIELD Clergy: Robert Baker. Reader: Trudie Jackson.

The Bishop's Officer for Continuing Ministerial Development, Keith James, and his assistant, Lesley Lofts.

The Dioceses of Oji River and Okene (Nigeria): Archbishop Amos Amankechinelo Madu and Bishop Emmanuel Bayo Ajulo.

Wed 5

SOMERLEYTON: Ashby, Blundeston, Fritton, Herringfleet, Lound, Somerleyton.
For Glen Brooks to be licensed and installed as Priest-in-Charge of this benefice tomorrow evening. Blundeston CofE VC Primary School.

The Norwich and Area Branch of the Guild of Vergers and all vergers in our Cathedral and parish churches.

Diocese of Oke-Ogun (Ibadan, Nigeria): Bishop Solomon Amusan.

Thu 6

DEANERY OF LYNN Rural Dean: James Nash. Lay Chair: Helen Steele.

The five Reader Subwardens around this diocese and their work of supporting our Readers. Today's Prayer Pilgrimage around Redenhall Deanery.

Diocese of Oke-Osun (Ibadan, Nigeria): Bishop Abraham Akinlalu.

Fri 7

GAYTON, GRIMSTON, MASSINGHAM AND DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY:

Ashwicken with Leziate, Bawsey and Mintyn, Congham, East Walton, Gayton, Gayton Thorpe, Great Massingham, Grimston, Harpley, Little Massingham, Roydon. Clergy: Jane Holmes, Judith Pollard. Readers: Joy Smith, Helen Steele. Ashwicken CofE VA Primary School and Gayton, Great Massingham and Harpley CofE VC Primary Schools.

For all church musicians - organists, choirs and music groups.
Diocese of Okigwe (Owerri, Nigeria): Bishop Edward Osuegbu.

Sat 8

GAYWOOD Clergy: Julie Boyd, Karlene Kerr. Reader: Daphne Sampson.

The Diocesan Liturgical Committee chaired by Charles Read.
The Dioceses of Okigwe North and Okigwe South (Owerri, Nigeria): Bishops Godson Ukanwa and David Onuoha.

Sun 9

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

On this Sea Sunday, pray for all whose livelihoods are bound up with our Norfolk coast line and the North Sea. Pray too for the Deanery of Södra (Southern Lapland) in our link diocese of Luleå and its Rural Dean, Kent Nordin.

Diocese of Okinawa (Japan): Bishop David Eisho Uehara.

Mon 10

KING'S LYNN GROUP (SOUTH LYNN) Clergy: Adrian Ling, Paul Norwood. St Michael's CofE Academy (King's Lynn) and Whitefriars CofE Primary Academy (King's Lynn)

The ministry of our retired clergy and Readers.
The Dioceses of Oklahoma and Olympia (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishops Edward Konieczny and Gregory Rickel.

Tue 11

KING'S LYNN GROUP (ST JOHN) Clergy: Becca Rogers. Readers: Joyce Pitcher, David Osborne, Nigel Singleterry.

Fresh Expressions Facilitator, Sally Gaze, and all fresh expressions of Church across our Diocese.
The Dioceses of Okrika and Oleh (Nigeria): Bishops Tubokosemie Atere and John Uswoma Aruakpor.

Wed 12

KING'S LYNN ST MARGARET WITH ST NICHOLAS Clergy: Christopher Ivory, Laura Baker, Becca Rogers.

Norfolk and Waveney Churches Together and all Local Ecumenical Partnerships across the Diocese.
Diocese of Olo (Sudan): Bishop Tandema Andrew.

Thu 13

MIDDLEWINCH: East Winch with West Blinney, Middleton, North Runcton, West Winch and Setchey. Clergy: Riaz Mubarak. Readers: Helen Steele, John Turner, Middleton CofE Primary Academy.

The Chaplain for Deaf People, Barry Oake, and Reader, Jennifer Aldridge.
Diocese of Omu-Aran (Nigeria): Bishop Philip Adeyemo.

Fri 14

ROUGHAM, WEASENHAM & WELLINGHAM as they become part of the

Launditch and Upper Nar Team Ministry in the Deanery of Dereham in Mifflord. Clergy: Heather Butcher, Julia Hemp. Weasenhams CofE Primary Academy. Social, Community & Environmental Concerns Coordinator, Chris Copsey. The Dioceses of On the Lake and On the Niger (Nigeria): Bishops Chijioke Oti and Owen Chidozie Nwokolo.

Sat 15

THE CHURCH IN THE WOOTTONS Clergy: James Nash, Linda Ashby, Daniel Tansey.

For the County Ecumenical Officer, Catherine Howe, and all the Denominational Ecumenical Officers of Norfolk and Waveney Churches Together.
Diocese of Ondo (Nigeria): Bishops George Lasebikan and Christopher Tayo Omotunde.

Sun 16

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

The Roman Catholic Church, the Diocese of East Anglia and Bishop Alan Hopes. Diocese of Ontario (Canada): Bishops George Lindsey Bruce and Michael Oulton.

Mon 17

DEANERY OF NORWICH EAST Rural Dean: Darren Thornton. Lay Chair: Bridgid Everitt.

All those being confirmed in Weybourne tonight.
Diocese of Ottawa (Canada): Bishop John Holand Chapman. Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces, Peter Robert Coffin.

Tue 18

COLEGATE ST GEORGE (NORWICH) The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Reader: Catherine Waddams.

Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser, Sue Brice, Assistant Adviser, Sian Griffiths, and all who work to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
Diocese of Oregon (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Michael Hanley.

Wed 19

HEARTSEASE (NORWICH) Clergy: Heather Cracknell. Readers: David Lechmere, Angela Stewart. The Open Academy.

The ministry of our Industrial and Workplace Chaplains.
Diocese of Orlu (Nigeria): Archbishop Bennett Okoro.

Thu 20

LAKENHAM GROUP (ST MARK) Clergy: Erik West-Lindell. Readers: Alan Huggins, Richard Fincham, Paulette Yallop.

All healthcare chaplains across our diocese.
Diocese of Oru (Owerri, Nigeria): Bishop Geoffrey Chukwunenye.

Fri 21

LAKENHAM GROUP (ST ALBAN) Clergy: Ian Dyble, David Lloyd, Joanna Payne. All who support those with mental health issues.

Diocese of Osaka (Japan): Bishop Andrew Haruhisa Iso.

Sat 22

LAKENHAM GROUP (ST JOHN & TUCKSWOOD) Clergy: Rosemary Rayner, Kate Belcher, the PCC and Churchwardens during the vacancy.

The chaplain for DeafBlind People, Heather Wright.
Diocese of Osun (Nigeria): Bishop James Afolabi Popoola.

St Mary
Magdalene

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Norwich

Prayer Calendar

August 2017

Fri 25	HEIGHAM HOLY TRINITY (NORWICH) The Churchwardens and PCC as the vacancy draws to an end and for Richard James as he prepares to take up his new role as Rector. Readers: Jonathan Mason, Nigel Parfitt, Elizabeth Scott. The ministry of the Bishop's Deliverance Team. Diocese of Rumonge (Burundi): Bishop Pedaculi Birakengana.
Sat 26	HEIGHAM ST BARNABAS WITH ST BARTHOLOMEW (NORWICH) Clergy: Ian Dyble. For the fostering of new vocations across our diocese, to ministries both lay and ordained. Diocese of Rupert's Land (Canada): Bishop Donald David Phillips.
Sun 27	BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN) The Salvation Army: Commanders of the Anglia Division, Derek and Susan Jones. Diocese of Ruvuma (Tanzania): Bishop Maternus Kapinga.
Mon 28	HEIGHAM ST THOMAS (NORWICH) Clergy: Ian Dyble, David Lloyd, Edward Land, Joanna Payne. Norwich Cathedral: its mission and ministry. Diocese of Ruwenzori (Uganda): Bishops Reuben Kisembo and Jackson Nzerebende.
Tue 29	DEANERY OF REDENHALL Rural Dean: Nigel Tuffnell. Lay Chair: Frank Allen. Chaplain to those bereaved by suicide, Christopher Wood, and all affected by suicide in any way. Diocese of Sabah (South East Asia): Bishops Melter Jiki Tais and John Yeo.
Wed 30	DICKLEBURGH AND THE PULHAMS: Dickleburgh, Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary, Rushall, Starston, Thelveton. Clergy: John Adlam, Paul Schwier. Readers: Gale Hodgkinson, Margaret Adlam. Dickleburgh and Pulham CofE VC Primary Schools. For the Cathedral's three Ecumenical Canons, David Paul, Julian Purchasehouse and Jon Norman. Diocese of Sabongidda-Ora (Nigeria): Bishop John Akao.
Thu 31	DISS TEAM MINISTRY: Bressingham, Diss, Fersfield, North Lopham, Roydon, South Lopham. Clergy: Tony Billett, Maggie Swayze, Wendy Evans. Readers: Richard Hewitt, David Summers, Sue Drake, Angela Gardner, Jayne Hinds. Diss CofE VC Junior School, St Andrew's CofE VA Primary School (Lopham). For all in our region who work with refugees and asylum seekers. Diocese of Saldanha Bay (Southern Africa): Bishop Raphael Hess.

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

Tue 1	TIMBERHILL (NORWICH) Clergy: Christopher Wood. For all on holiday in our region this summer and all involved in the tourist industry. Diocese of Port Elizabeth (Southern Africa): Bishop Nceba Nopece.
Wed 2	ST GEORGE TOMBLAND (NORWICH) Clergy: John Minns. Reader: Kevin Mitchelson. Bishop's Press Officer, Katherine Limbach, and all Christians working in the media. The Dioceses of Popondota and Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea): Bishops Lindsley Ihove and Denny Bray Guka.
Thu 3	TROWSE (NORWICH) Clergy: Janice Scott, Rosemary Braby. Barbara Bryant, editor of The Magazine, and all magazine editors and webmasters. Diocese of Port Sudan (Northern Sudan): Bishop Abdu Elnur Kodi.
Fri 4	DEANERY OF NORWICH NORTH Rural Dean: Simon Stokes. Lay Chair: Stella Noons. The Mothers' Union: Diocesan President, Marguerite Phillips and Chaplain, Simon Lawrence. Diocese of Portsmouth (England): Bishop Christopher Foster.
Sat 5	DRAYTON Clergy: David Wells. Drayton CofE VC Junior School. Burning Bush Barn and Wendy Shaw's ministry, nurturing spirituality through art. For Open Churches Week beginning today, for the many who will visit churches across our diocese and for all who will welcome them. Diocese of Pretoria (Southern Africa): Bishop Johannes Seoka.
Sun 6	BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN) Pray that our Mission Strategy 2021 may be an effective tool as we seek renewal and fresh inspiration for proclaiming the good news across this diocese. Pray too for those being confirmed in Swafeld today. Diocese of Puerto Rico (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Wilfrido Ramos Orench.
Mon 7	HELLESDON Clergy: Louise Alder. Reader: Coryn Stanforth. Our Archdeacons: John Ashe, Steven Betts and Karen Hutchinson. Diocese of Pune (North India): Bishop Andrew Rathod.

Tue 8	HORSFORD: Felthorpe, Hovingham, Horford. Clergy: Margaret McPhee, Garry Goodman, Penelope Goodman. Readers: Marjorie Marshall, Richard McPhee, Derek Muspratt. Horford CoFe VA Primary School. The Julian Centre in Norwich. The Dioceses of Qu'Appelle and Quebec (Canada): Bishops Robert Hardwick and Bruce Myers.
Wed 9	HORSHAM ST FAITH: Croxtwick, Horsham St Faith, Spixworth as they prepare for vacancy and start the process of looking for a new incumbent. Clergy: Keith Rengert, as he prepares to take up a new role. Reader: Jo Mash. St Faiths CoFe VC Primary School (Horsham). The Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham and Kevin Smith, Shrine Administrator. Diocese of Rajasthan (North India): Bishop Warris Masih.
Thu 10	MILE CROSS (NORWICH) Clergy: Martin Hartley, Ruth Lambert. Reader: William Jacobs The Society of St Margaret at Walsingham, its ministry of healing and hospitality. Diocese of Rayalseema (South India): Bishop B D Prasada Rao.
Fri 11	NEW CATTON CHRIST CHURCH (NORWICH) The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy and those who support them, particularly Wendy Saunders. The Community of All Hallows, Ditchingham as the retirement of Warden, David Spicer, draws near. Diocese of Recife (Brazil): Bishop João Cancio Peixoto.
Sat 12	NEW CATTON ST LUKE (NORWICH) Clergy: David Austin. Lay Worker: Carrie Sant The Society of St Luke (Sheringham) and Superior, Andrew Lane. Diocese of Reljaf (Sudan): Bishop Enock Tombe.
Sun 13	BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN) Pray for the Deanery of Umeå in our link diocese of Luleå and its Rural Dean, Lisa Tegby. Trinity 9 Diocese of Remo (Nigeria): Bishop Michael Fape.
Mon 14	OLD CATTON Clergy: Andrew Parsons. Old Catton CoFe VC Junior School. The ministry of our retired clergy and Readers. Diocese of Renk (Sudan): Bishop Joseph Garang Atem.
Tue 15	SPROWSTON Clergy: Simon Stokes, Melanie Hider, Dean Akrill, Philip Harvey. Readers: Andrew Dickie, Penny Rennie, Stephanie Grand, Andrew Hudson. The ministry of all District Scout Chaplains. Diocese of Rhode Island (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Nicholas Knisely.
Wed 16	ST MARY MAGDALENE (NORWICH) Clergy: Marc Palmer, Joan Spencer. Air Training Corps and Sea Cadet Chaplains across the Diocese. Diocese of Rift Valley (Tanzania): Bishop John Daudi Lupaa.

Thu 17	TAVERHAM WITH RINGLAND Clergy: Paul Seabrook, Phil Charlesworth. Lay Worker: Rachel Seabrook. Reader: Jane Dryden. Taverham CoFe VC Junior School The Bishops' PAs and secretaries: Coralie Nichols, Graham Cossey, Ann Whittet, Alison Hovesen and Marie Kuczak. Bishops's Chaplain, Susanna Gunner. Diocese of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil): Bishop Filadelfo Oliveira Neto.
Fri 18	DEANERY OF NORWICH SOUTH Rural Dean: Ian Dyble. Lay Chair: John Glauert. All PCC secretaries and parish administrators. Diocese of Rio Grande (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Michael Vono.
Sat 19	BOWTHORPE (NORWICH) Clergy: Mark Elvin. Cloverhill CoFe VA Infant School & Nursery (Bowthorpe), St Michael's CoFe VA Junior School (Bowthorpe). The Archdeacons' PAs: Coralie Nichols, Graham Cossey and Alison Steward. Diocese of Perth (Western Australia): Archbishop Roger Herft and Bishops Kate Wilmot, Tom Wilmot and Jeremy James. Diocese of Riverina (New South Wales, Australia): Bishop Rob Gillion.
Sun 20	BISHOPS GRAHAM (NORWICH), ALAN (THETFORD) AND JONATHAN (LYNN) For the Baptist Church and Beth Powney, Regional Minister designate, as she prepares for her new role. Diocese of Rochester (The Episcopal Church of USA): Bishop Prince Singh. Diocese of Rochester (England): Bishop James Langstaff. Trinity 10
Mon 21	COSTESSEY Clergy: Nicholas Parry. Reader: Derek Hilton. Diocesan Chancellor, Ruth Arlow and Deputy Chancellor, John Morgans. Diocese of Rockhampton (Queensland, Australia): Bishop David Robinson.
Tue 22	EARLHAM Clergy: Andrew Woodman. Lay Worker: Danny Doran-Smith Diocesan Registrar, Stuart Jones, and Registry Clerk, Louise Farrow. Diocese of Rokon (Sudan): Bishop Francis Loyo Mori.
Wed 23	EATON CHRIST CHURCH (NORWICH) Clergy: Patrick Richmond. Readers: John Harrison, Bridget Archer, Alistair Bolt. On this International Day for remembering the abolition of the Slave Trade, pray for all involved in the fight against human trafficking and slavery today. The Dioceses of Rorya and Ruaha (Tanzania): Bishops John Adiemu and Joseph Mgomil.
Thu 24	EATON ST ANDREW (NORWICH) Clergy: Phil Rodd. Readers: Neil Rout, Andrea Woods. Diocesan Counsellor, Jane Keeton. Diocese of Rumbek (Sudan): Bishop Alapayo Manyang Kuctiel. St Bartholomew

Lampedusa Cross at King's Lynn Minster

By The Revd Laura Baker



As I elevated the bread and wine above the Lampedusa Cross, which was placed on the altar in front of me, I was struck by the very real death represented in the cross and the elements and, at the same time, by the hope we have from Christ.

For a week in Spring, this cross was displayed in King's Lynn Minster; it's one of the crosses made by a carpenter on the island of Lampedusa from the wood of shipwrecked boats that were carrying refugees from Eritrea and Somalia. 311 refugees were drowned en route from Libya to Europe and the island's inhabitants helped to save the lives of 155 others.

After meeting some of the survivors, Eritrean Christians, in the church on Lampedusa, Mr Tuccio, the island's

carpenter, was moved by their plight to use his skills to fashion each of them a cross from the wreckage of the boat as a reflection on their salvation from the sea and hope for the future.

Churches Together in King's Lynn organised the cross to be borrowed from Cafod in Cambridge and it was on display in the week leading up to the Churches Together talk on refugees by the CEO of Refugee Council, Maurice Wren. We also held a special Holy Communion service one lunchtime.

Those who took part during the week shared their feelings:

"It's very moving," said Hilary Scase. "When I look at it and think about all it represents – the agony at Lampedusa and the agony of Christ on the cross – it makes me want to cry. I feel very solemn."

“It is very moving to see the Lampedusa cross knowing that through one act of kindness crosses like this were given to survivors of that dreadful boat disaster in 2013 as a sign of hope for the future. May our love and prayers help all refugees to that better future.”

Sue Brinton.



Our Parish and the World – Open Churches Week 2017

By Katherine Limbach

Over the centuries, Norfolk and Waveney have had strong connections worldwide through trade, conflict, migration and tourism. In our churches and churchyards there are stories waiting to be told; revealing how our ancestors travelled the world and how others came to the UK.

Just some of the many ongoing links and friendships are featured in this edition. They bring parishes together with people leading very different lives in far-away places.

Woodbastwick, for example, serves a village of only 100 people, but has past and present links to at least three other continents. And the Diocese has links with Papua New Guinea and the Diocese of Luleå in Sweden.

Each parish has unique stories to share with visitors and locals alike and this year's Open Churches Week (Saturday 5 – Sunday 13 August) aims to celebrate these connections to the wider world through its theme: 'Our Parish and the World'.

If you haven't started planning for this year's Open Churches Week here are just some ideas to help you start:

- Do the anniversaries of anyone commemorated on your local war memorial fall this year?
- Create prayer stations focusing on countries connected to the parish or benefice
- Hold talks and tours and invite history groups, schools and uniformed groups
- Create eye-catching displays for visitors to learn more
- Hold an international food evening and serve food from countries connected to your parish.

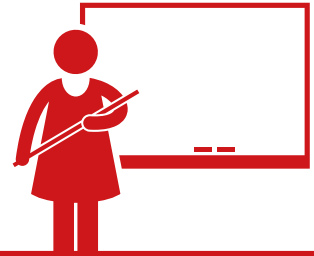
Once you have your ideas remember to add them to the Diocesan website: www.dioceseofnorwich.org/news/events/addevent/





From China to Cawston – lessons in Mandarin

In September 2016 Cawston Church of England Primary Academy started an international project using a weekly Skype link with a language school in China. Headteacher, Kay Swann, shares their story:



The contact with the organisation 'My Education Group' came through our Modern Foreign Languages Leader. As the school was looking to develop an international link to help towards achieving our International School Award from the British Council; we initially trialled a link for six weeks last summer with our Year 5 class. The children really enjoyed it, but as the Year 4, 5 and 6 classes learn French and Spanish in preparation for high school, we decided to take out a subscription for a full year with our Year 3 Class.

Mandarin is a major world language and more schools are opting to offer it as a language option. Linking in this way also offered an opportunity to develop aspects of cultural learning and understanding, which was an exciting prospect.

Since September the Year 3 class has benefited from a weekly live Mandarin lesson with a Chinese teacher based at the language school in Beijing.

The whole class participates in an interactive lesson over Skype lasting



25 minutes. The children have been learning basic Mandarin language greetings and vocabulary; they greet the teacher who recaps things learnt from the previous lesson and then progresses to new material. The children are actively involved in speaking the four tones of the verbal language; counting using a zero to ten rap, simple conversational greetings, ordering meals from a restaurant and learning animal names.

The Mandarin teacher is able to ask questions to which the children can respond, she also updates our pupils each session about an aspect of Chinese culture including the Great Wall of China, Food, Map of China, the Terracotta Army and the capital city. At the end of the session she tells them about the topic for the following lesson so they can do their own research before the next week.

The children reinforce and practise their language skills with Chinese symbols and vocabulary displayed in

their classroom and the cultural learning has extended into other classwork through storytelling, celebration of the Chinese New Year and other national holidays, and willow-pattern artwork. The pupils have also been sharing their new language skills with those in other year groups by displaying Mandarin words on the school language board and teaching other classes Mandarin greetings.

The Year 3 class teacher, Miss Adams, comments that, "The pupils are able to see live pictures from China and are exposed to a diverse culture. They are learning respect and tolerance in this first-hand experience of a major world language and culture."

It's been an exciting and innovative way for the children to learn and connect with the world in a way that is largely outside their normal realm of experience. Hopefully it will be a memorable learning experience for them and they will continue to be able to build on the skills and knowledge they are acquiring in the future.



Learn, Grow, Serve:

investing in the next

generation of leaders



By **Anna Walker**, Children Youth & Families Administrator



The Children, Youth & Families Team at the Diocese is committed to supporting young people and we were delighted that in April nine young people completed the first Diocesan-run 'Growing Young Leaders' course.

The course, produced by CPAS, explores leadership from a Christian perspective. Since September the young people have attended a monthly evening session – accompanied by pizza! – as well as the annual Soulshaper residential weekend at the Horstead Centre, during which they helped to lead activities and discussions, and one full team day in January.

To help them reflect on and apply their learning in their own situations the young people are supported throughout the course by mentors from their local church. They have also been given opportunities to get

involved in other activities: several of them contributed to the youth-focused edition of *The Magazine* (May/June edition).

Holly attended the course and reflected: "It's been so much fun and I have met some amazing people. It's made me feel a lot closer to God and I feel I could go and lead a small group of people because I have grown in self-confidence."

Jonathan Richardson, Children, Youth & Families Development Officer, who led the course, said: "I have been really encouraged by the commitment and growth of the young people. The combination of getting people together from different churches, enabling them to serve in a variety of situations and ensuring they reflect with a mentor from the local church has been really effective. I am looking forward to seeing this group of young people grow and impact the church more in the future."



There is a Discovery Session on **Tuesday 18 July**, 6.30–8pm for leaders and young people to find out more about the next GYL course starting in September. Book online here: www.dioceseofnorwich.org/event?id=8588

Across the Ages

– Sharing Communion

By **The Revd David Owen**,
Rector, Chet Valley Benefice

How do you include children in your church? For some churches this means offering a separate programme while the adults enjoy the 'regular' worship. For others (mainly smaller rural churches) it can mean a more integrated approach. In the Chet Valley Benefice, like many other churches, we admit baptised youngsters to communion before confirmation, and in November 2015 we prepared and admitted a group of 10 children from across the benefice.

Churches that admit children to communion before confirmation are given an obligation to nurture them, enabling them to take a step forward in understanding and growing their own faith. Some of our youngsters began to help lead worship either at "Xtra!", a weekly weekday act of worship timed to take place at the end of the school day, or at informal Sunday services. They were always keen to take part!

But admission to Communion clearly means that youngsters are on the same footing as other members of the congregation who receive the bread and wine at regular services. When the benefice was assembling its list of Eucharistic Assistants in November 2016, the PCCs were delighted that Bishop Alan gave his permission for Clara Hayden to assist at Holy Communion.

Clara, who is now 11, has taken her turn as the lay Eucharistic Assistant at several services. She might come as a surprise to members of the congregation who don't know her, but her willingness to serve is an example that many could follow.



By Debbie House



After attending a Quiet Day in Norfolk with Father Korko Moses, a Jesuit priest, in 2015, I made the decision to go to his Christian ashram in Tamil Nadu, southern India. I decided to go to his ashram partly to work through my own chequered past with Indian spirituality, but mainly because I had had a taste of his powerful presence at that Quiet Day.

I hesitate to write 'powerful presence' – it's not very English, is it? I believe it's got nothing to do with his character or personality. On the three-week retreat with him earlier this year, I discovered a different emphasis on Christian scripture, tradition and practice that I think can enrich us in the West, as it has enriched Father Korko's own life and being.

Norwich Christian Meditation Centre has invited Fr Korko to lead a two-day speaker event on **18–19 August** at **St Luke's, Norwich**; between the retreats he is leading at Clare Priory in Suffolk, in Essex, and in Ireland. The intention is that we revisit our spiritual journey from another perspective – no yoga mats required!

Whether you are for, against, perplexed or intrigued, you are welcome to a retreat like no other.

07757 063066

debbiedhouse@gmail.com

www.dioceseofnorwich.org/event?id=9250



Lady Pippa Dannatt, Mrs Sue Johns and Mr Tim Sweeting were installed as Lay Canons at Norwich Cathedral at Cathedral Evensong in May.

Our prayers for their future ministry go to:

- ▶ The Revd Canon Heather Butcher appointed Priest-in-Charge of St Andrew's, Wellingham (to be part of the proposed Launditch and Upper Nar Team Ministry).
- ▶ The Revd Julia Hemp appointed Associate Priest of St Andrew's, Wellingham (to be part of the proposed Launditch and Upper Nar Team Ministry).
- ▶ The Revd Helen Rengert appointed Interim Associate Priest in the proposed Reepham and Wensum Valley Team Ministry.
- ▶ The Revd William Warren appointed Assistant Minister at St Andrew's, Norwich.
- ▶ The Revd Richard James appointed Rector of Heigham, Holy Trinity (Norwich).
- ▶ The Revd Adrian Bell appointed Interim Minister (part-time) to the Wayland Group Benefice: Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Merton, Stow Bedon and Thompson with Sturston and Tottington.
- ▶ The Revd Canon Andrew Beane appointed Priest-in-Charge (Team Rector Designate) of the parishes of Itteringham with Mannington, Little Barningham and Wickmere with Wolterton.
- ▶ The Revd Aidan Platten appointed Canon Precentor of Norwich Cathedral.
- ▶ Mrs Jane Rivett appointed Lay Canon Emeritus.
- ▶ Mrs Paddy Seligman appointed Lay Canon Emeritus.
- ▶ The Revd Canon Jeremy Haselock retiring on 21/09/17 as Canon Precentor and Vice Dean of Norwich Cathedral.
- ▶ The Revd Canon Margaret Dean and The Revd Tim Dean retiring on 31/08/17 as Priest-in-Charge and 31/07/17 as Associate Priest respectively, of Reepham, Salle, Wood Dalling, Thurning, Weston Longville, Alderford w Attlebridge, Great Witchingham w Little Witchingham and Lenwade, Swannington, Bylaugh, Elsing, Lynq and Sparham.

The following have had their Permission to Officiate granted:

The Revd Canon Mair McFadyen, The Revd Canon Patricia Atkinson,
The Revd Canon Phillip McFadyen, The Revd Gill Stevens

[illegible]

We are saddened to announce the deaths of:

- ◀ The Revd Richard Millard on 18/03/2017.
- ◀ Mr Ray Sanders, Reader of the Coastal Group Benefice on 19/05/2017.

Out & About

happenings across the Diocese

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

Songs of Praise with Pam Rhodes at Brundall

Pam Rhodes, the well-known journalist, writer and speaker hosted a Songs of Praise evening at the St Laurence Centre in Brundall, part of Yare Valley Churches. After a buffet enjoyed by all, Pam introduced favourite hymns and shared some of the stories behind them as well as talking about her life.



Go into all the world

St Mary's, Attleborough, celebrated Ascensiontide with a global flower festival. More than 1,000 colourful flowers in 34 vibrant displays with display titles including 'The New Jerusalem' and 'The Garden of Eden', took visitors on a tour of the world church: Malaysia, South Africa, France, China, Australia, India, Poland, Spain, Mexico and more.



Big Brekkie at Burning Bush Barn

A crowd of younger and older folk enjoyed breakfast at Burning Bush Barn in May, raising over £320 for Christian Aid. An enormous fruit box and sausages were donated by Green Pastures and Yare Valley Farm shops making a delicious meal although some just preferred the balloon and stickers!



The Pilgrim Federation of Church Schools Founding Day Service at Upper Sheringham

Following two hours of romping through the rhododendrons and exploring Sheringham Park, 250 pupils, staff, parents and governors from the Church Schools at Blakeney, Hindringham, Kelling and Walsingham attended the fourth Federation Founding Day Service held this year at All Saints Upper Sheringham. Year 6 pupils led the worship centred on 'Encouragement' with a dramatization of the Last Supper.



**FOCUS
ON**

The Yare Valley Churches

- Growing in faith to love and serve

By The Revd Peter Leech

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



Three into one

The Yare Valley Churches are situated just to the east of Norwich, along the A47 towards Great Yarmouth. Made 'famous' by the Postwick Hub, we are keen to demonstrate that there is more going on within the parish than roadworks!

This February the Parishes of Braydeston, Brundall and Postwick officially joined to become the parish of 'The Yare Valley Churches'. This resulted from many years of journeying together: we believed that we would truly be 'Stronger Together' and that this would release time and resources.

We became 'One Church, Three Worship Centres, Eight Congregations

– providing a place for everyone'.

We restructured the parish into more distinct areas, each of which is overseen by a PCC officer. It has helped us refocus our attention on reaching out into the community.

UP: our worship life and discipleship

None of our church buildings is large, so we realised very quickly that to grow, we would need to consider a different strategy. So we have grown in the diversity of what we offer – more congregations, each with a different worship style, providing something for everyone.

We've looked at the context of each of our worship centres and have found the special 'something' that each can offer. Braydeston, for example, is surrounded by agricultural land and so we embrace the special agricultural services: Rogation tide, Lammastide, Harvest. It is also a place where people of the community go to walk their dogs and so we hold an annual pet service – reaching out into the community. Gaye mentions:

“I come to Church to encounter God and I find that the traditional, well-loved and familiar format of the 9.45 morning service allows me to spend this hour with God, rather than worry what I should be doing next.”

Small groups have become an essential part of who we are. They provide a place where people can pray together, receive pastoral care, study the Bible and think through how what we learn can apply to our Christian lives.

We have four residential care homes within the parish and a team leads a worship service each month as we help the residents feel engaged with the church and with God.





IN: our buildings

As with most parishes in our Diocese, we are caring for three ancient buildings that are in need of constant attention. Our team, led by the Fabric Officer, works hard to ensure not only that the fabric of our churches is maintained, but also that they are suitable for use in the 21st century. We look at our buildings as assets and vehicles for mission and ministry. In 2016, the aged church room was refurbished and renamed 'The St Laurence Centre', and from there much of our outreach work takes place. We are looking at plans for the reordering of the church at Brundall to provide a more flexible space – as well as applying for grants to repair the Church roof at Postwick. The interior of Braydeston Church has been restored and many people comment on how lovely it is, and how well kept it is – a message about who we are and that our care for the buildings extends to our care for the people of the parish.

OUT: our missional activities

We have developed a 'cafe culture' of outreach across the Yare Valley Churches – all of which centre around cups of tea and coffee, home baking and relationship-building. One resident in Brundall commented that "There's so much going on in the church now".

With the help of a start-up grant from the Children, Youth and Families Department of the Diocese, we launched a Toddler Cafe, we run a Community Cafe once a week, Coffee break at the local community centre and Youth Cafes. Our youth cafe was recently awarded the Ambition Quality Assurance



Mark. For many parents and carers who have children with additional needs, it can feel a lonely journey, so we seek to support them through the monthly Time Out group.

We support our local schools through being on the chaplaincy team at our local secondary school, and an Open the Book Team delivers assemblies in the local primary school – along with our 'Pray and Bake' team which, each half-term, provides homemade cakes for the staff at our local primary and pre-schools as well as the commitment to pray for them.

Isolation has long been an issue, particularly for rural communities. Our popular Luncheon Club is for those living on their own and provides a place for conversation, company and an excellent two-course home-cooked, wholesome meal.

We recognised that dementia was a growing issue for many within our communities and three years ago we began our weekly Forget-Me-Not Cafe which seeks to support those on the dementia pathway and their carers. We became a Dementia-Friendly Church in 2016 and launched a special dementia-friendly service once a month, as well as ensuring our other services are accessible.

Val, a regular at the cafes comments: "Brundall is a wonderful place to live with the friendly cafes and lunch club as well as all the marvellous people who transport me to these events."

All this is made possible by countless hours of volunteer time. Sarah, one of our churchwardens, says: "The amount of different regular activities on offer to all age groups across the community from a Toddler Group, through to our Forget Me Not Café and everything in between, is amazing and they are all so appreciated and well attended."

We recognise too that supporting mission further afield is important and we engage with a number of organisations nationally and internationally which seek to show God's love to others in a variety of practical ways.

Our annual Harvest Barn Dance, Christmas Market and Summer event provide opportunities for the parish to work together and draw in people from the local community. The Christmas Market in 2016 featured a giant artificial ice rink – made possible by funding through the Broadland Youth Advisory Board.

We seek to make use of the support and expertise provided through the Diocese as well as a willingness to be used as a resourcing church for others across the Diocese.

Using our resources

Our Finance Team works tirelessly to release the resources for mission: Gift Aid, Stewardship campaigns, grants and through regular giving. We are also supported by The Friends of Postwick and The Friends of Brundall Churches. We are reminded that as we step out into God's call, he will also provide.

“We provide a spiritual home for everyone in our Parish; room to grow and change, to be held by the Spirit.”

PCC member Diana Buck



Christmas “done different”

By Barbara Bryant
& Katherine Limbach

Not Christmas in July?! Unashamedly, yes! Stories trickled in late last year of a number of parishes celebrating the Christmas season in new or different ways in their communities. We thought it would be inspiring to share just a few snapshots while there's still time to consider whether any of these might be adaptable to your locality. We know there are many more, so do please share yours too.



A Special Christmas Weekend in Watton

In just ten weeks from start of planning to completion, St Mary's held its first Christmas Festival in a heated marquee on the field next to the church in early December. On the Saturday a wide variety of community stalls, Santa's Grotto, hot food, refreshments, raffles, tombola, fancy

dress prizes plus a guest appearance from Olaf (the snowman from the film, Frozen) provided lots of free, family fun.

This was followed on the Sunday by "The stable at Bethlehem" – a nativity service with live animals, an invitation to come in costume and join in with the "choir of angels" and see a performance by the Christian Springs Dance company.

"It certainly was an extraordinary weekend!" remembers the Revd Deborah Hamilton-Grey, the event organiser. "The idea started as a coffee morning and a nativity service combined, but then grew like Topsy!"

"My husband, Michael, set up a Facebook page just for the event and that enabled connections to flourish along with the publicity. I walked up and down the high street and spoke with businesses about the event and in my first conversation at the local chippy, was unexpectedly offered a raffle prize. To thank them, we took photographs of them wearing Santa

hats and tinsel at their place of business and put them on the Facebook page before the event. Well it snowballed then and over 32 local business and groups got involved and some wonderful conversations opened up.

"On the weekend itself the event created exactly what it intended to do. It brought the community together and created lots of fun and fellowship culminating in a worshipful experience on Sunday. It was powerful and precious and communicated Jesus' birth in a new way.

"Many people said that they experienced something of the presence of God in a new way, they had been blessed and moved, and they hoped that we could have it again; we will need a bigger marquee as we had to turn people away!"

"It was a great event to build on in the future as St Mary's becomes more a part of the community in Watton and the barriers are broken down between the church and non-church communities and the relationship building goes on."

Taking Baby Jesus into the Community

Badersfield is a new community (ex- RAF Coltishall), with predominantly young families. The Community Church is slowly building community, and is exploring ways to connect with those who do not come to church. Again, social media became a useful outreach tool.

In 2015 they did their first Baby Jesus Project. "We painted 50 pebbles for Christmas, having been inspired by an artist who had anonymously distributed Jesus pebbles in Newquay," explains the Revd Deb Cousins. "We wanted children

to give Baby Jesus a home. Because so many were disappointed, last year at the end of November, a group of ladies committed to decorating 110 pebbles. We sent photos of the stones' progress through our Facebook page."

Very early on Sunday 18 December, they hid the babies, and a sprinkling of straw, into secret and obvious places for children to find. "The response was amazing with pictures of excited children holding their very own Jesus on Facebook. It was our way to touch people's hearts at a special time."



Evelyn found hers on our morning walk. A perfect memento for her first Christmas, and to teach her what Christmas is about when she is old enough to understand. Happy Christmas all!



I made a special home for Jesus and made some gifts for him!



Thank You!! Our Baby Jesus is safe and warm at home!! 😊 They loved finding him!!

Living out the gospel in Sheringham

Christmas is an exciting and busy time at St Peter's Church. Thousands of people have visited a series of Christmas Tree Festivals, a Christingle service for the Guiding Movement in North Norfolk and a special 'Light Service' with Macmillan Cancer Support, to care and pray for bereaved families and individuals.

Every year for two whole days, Sheringham Community Primary School children arrive for their Nativity

Plays along with hundreds of proud supporters. Fayres, festive coffee mornings, musical concerts, school teaching visits and a Christmas Dinner for the whole congregation sit alongside advent services and a Christmas Eve 'Nativity' when everybody is invited to dress up as a character from the story and take part.

"People ask us what's happening as soon as the New Year arrives," says the Revd Christian Heycocks. "So we've learnt to plan well in advance: Christmas Tree Festival planning starts in January!

"Our Christmas services and events are intended to provide the whole town with an opportunity to reflect upon how much God loves each and every one of us. As a church community we want to help everybody explore and encounter the wonderful story of Jesus' birth in both new and traditional ways.

"When the Church continuously 'puts itself out' for the community, people become inquisitive about why we are doing it and want to hear what we have to say. It's no good just reading the gospels, you have to live them."



Sheringham Christmas dinner



Sheringham nativity

Seeking the lost sheep in Diss

St Mary's Church, Diss, asked local children to help find "missing sheep" and get them back to the church in time for Christmas.

From the beginning of November to Christmas Eve, local shops put up posters in their windows, informing under-fives (and their older siblings) that a lost sheep has been found. All they had to do was ask the shopkeeper for the sheep and

return it to St Mary's at the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service.

"The sheep trail was popular with families and shopkeepers – they were delighted to join in," said the Revd Wendy Evans. "Our crib service was attended by many more parents and children."

Wendy felt that the event really strengthened the church's relationship with the local community. "Without a doubt, I'm better known in the town for it. Little children come up and say hello, and when I go into school more parents are happy to chat. My congregation are already knitting and making sheep for it so it seems they feel part of it too!

"As for the gospel – the relationship between the children and St Mary's hasn't always been a fruitful one and rarely did the two mix, but now we do and somehow, not only through this, and our presence in school, I trust that the Lord's love is experienced."



No room at the inn in Cawston

As well as the usual Carol Service and Christingle, in 2016 the people of Cawston Parish Church decided to take a fresh look at how to involve new people in the Christmas story. "Early in December, our usual monthly Messy Church was billed 'The Big Messy Crib Build', and new faces came along to help with the construction of our new crib scene. The promise of power tools helped to attract a different group of people!" explains the Revd Andrew Whitehead.

"Then, on the Sunday before Christmas, we invited people to dress up as their favourite nativity characters and join a walk through the village, remembering the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

"On the journey from the school to the church we stopped at our local pub, The Bell, where the landlady answered the door (in costume) to tell us there was 'no room in the inn'. In the end she showed mercy and invited us in, where we sang carols and enjoyed their hospitality, before moving on to the church to place the first crib figures in our new crib scene."





Resources

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



The Occasional Ceilidh Band

The wide potential of church music has been illustrated again in a North Norfolk benefice, where a ceilidh and barn-dance band has sprung up from the worship musicians of four churches in the Waterside area.

The new Occasional Ceilidh Band began as a pop-up worship band to cover whenever needed at any of the four churches in the Waterside Group. The members discovered they all had an interest in folk music and dance; they have now appeared at several church events, and have just released their first CD.

"Some Morris dancing has old Christian origins as part of the rush-bearing processions up to church," says the band. "Most folk festivals in the UK now include a Sunday service with Morris dancing in and around the local church, so traditional folk dancing does fit with Christian beliefs. A church ceilidh is an attractive outreach event ... and shows that Christians know how to have fun!"
Contact **01692 597120**



Neighbourhood Prayer Network

This nationwide network aims to see every street in the UK covered in Christian prayer. "We hope to encourage as many Christians as possible to not only pray, but get to know their neighbours. We live in times where with the click of a mouse, we can communicate half-way around the World, and yet most of us do not know our neighbours living on our own street." You can register your own street as an individual or as a church you can adopt an area. There are various resources available and this links with a number of well-established partner organisations such as Hope and 24/7 Prayer.
www.neighbourhoodprayer.net



Open Word

Take an adventure through the Bible to explore how God's story hangs together, in particular, to see how Jesus inhabits the Old Testament. This will be the second year of *Open Word*, compiled and taught by Matthew Hutton who is a curate at St Stephen's and who has a passion for engaging with and teaching the Bible. Running over 18 Monday evenings from 18 Sep 2017 – 25 Jun 2018 at St Stephen's, Norwich, NR2 1QP, the course is free and open to all, but must be booked in advance.

Contact details: **01508 520775**
mhutton@paston.co.uk



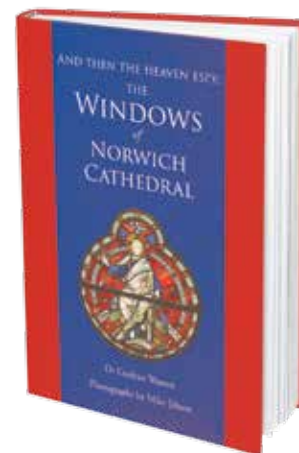
New A5 leaflet/booklet holders available

This A5 literature stand is great way to profile your copies of the *Exploring Norfolk Churches* booklets or other leaflets in your church. The holder is made of durable clear Perspex. It costs just £3 + postage & packing (which is usually an additional £2.50 or free if collected from Diocesan House in Easton).
<https://shop.dioceseofnorwich.org/collections/publications/products/a5-leaflet-holder>



The Windows of Norwich Cathedral

This new guide book seeks to shed light on the 64 windows in Norwich Cathedral, with colour illustrations by photographer Mike Dixon and text by Cathedral Librarian Dr Gudrun Warren. Integral to the windows are the stories of the people who commissioned the glass memorials to those they loved, helping to illuminate the profound impact of the Cathedral upon the people who are connected with it through work, worship and prayer. Cost: £12 + £4 p&p email: **jeremyw1970@gmail.com**





News in brief

Updates from across the Diocese

Churches feed 7,000 every month



New research has revealed that Christian groups and churches across Norfolk feed an incredible 7,000 people every month of the year, following the example and command of Jesus Christ to 'feed the hungry'.

The Norfolk Feeds 5,000 survey of Christian organisations and churches right across Norfolk, by the team behind the website Network Norfolk, has shone a light on scores of different groups who are engaged in nightly soup runs, weekly community meals, emergency food parcels and lots of other initiatives.

The research project is named after one of the well-known Bible miracles performed by Jesus – the feeding of the 5,000. Keith Morris, who helped to co-ordinate the research, said: "Christians do not have a monopoly on this kind of activity, but our

research shows that the church is more than pulling its weight.

"Collectively, the Christian community has come up with dozens of innovative and inspirational projects to meet the basic needs of vulnerable and sometimes desperate people in our towns and villages, through the simple activity of sharing a free meal with them or providing food for their families."

Of the 90 plus responses to the survey, Christian and church-led projects that involve hundreds of volunteers (some Christian and some not) reported that every month of the year an average total of around 7,020 people are either fed or provided with food to cook for themselves.

You can see the full results and project case studies on our website www.norfolkfeeds5000.co.uk



Blossom & Yarn Festival

The Blossom and Yarn Festival returns to the six Wayland villages of Caston, Griston, Great Hockham, Thompson, Stow Bedon and Breckles. This follows the great success of the 2015 event, which saw over 3,000 visitors to the villages over a four-day period. This time the theme is the Creation Story, which unfolds as a tour around the six churches with life-sized animals, plants and more.

"In the beginning a 10cm black knitted square was created. Quite soon they multiplied until thousands of multi-coloured ones joined them. These have been knitted by hundreds of lively volunteers, sometimes in a social monthly knit-in or at other times by people who live too far away from our little part of Norfolk to regularly join us, but still want to be involved. In fact, our most mature knitter lives in Lancashire and is a man!"

The festival runs from **7-10 July** and full details can be found at:

www.blossomandyarn.co.uk
07909 510718



South Creake lectures 2017



This popular lecture series returns again this autumn for their third series. Starting with Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, on Friday 8 September, Behold the Man will examine images of Christ in contemporary art and what they tell us about faith today. In her lecture on Friday 22 September, Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, will draw on her book *The Fight for Beauty*. This year there will be a third lecture

on Tuesday 31 October to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg. Dr Giles Waller, Research Associate, Faculty of Divinity and Cambridge Inter-faith Programme, will speak on *Luther*. All lectures start at 7pm and entry is free; full details: www.southcreake.org 07970 875052



AUTUMN 2016



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WHAT'S ON

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES EVENTS
are highlighted in red

LEARNING & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
are highlighted in green

Highlights of events and learning opportunities across the Diocese

July – September 2017

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

JULY

Blossom & Yarn - 7 Days

Friday 7 July - Monday 10 July

10am-5pm

Address: Across the six churches of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Stow Bedon & Thompson NR17 1BL
A spectacular festival in six medieval churches. Life size tableaux crafted from knitted squares, flowers and much more.

Admission: £6.

Contact: Lois Gill, 01953 488157, loisgill@btinternet.com



Preaching Workshop for Lay Ministers (AWAs and Readers)

Saturday 8 July

10am-3.30pm

Address: Easton House, Easton NR9 5ES.
We shall consider together the purposes of a homily and how to engage a congregation with a variety of approaches and preaching styles.

Admission: £10

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



NCCL: Divided by a common language? Gaining insight into belief

Saturday 8 July

10am-12.30pm

Address: Norwich Cathedral, The Close NR1 4DD
The points at which the categories of different religions fail to coincide can provide insight into our own beliefs.

Admission: £10

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



Trinity Trosh

Saturday 8 July

12pm

Address: Holy Trinity, Norwich NR13 6QH
A fundraising event, including a fruit, veg, cake and craft competition (with prizes). Lots of stalls, family games, a BBQ and refreshments.

Admission: Free

(Competition entries are £1 each)

Contact: Jenny Howard, 01603 721709, howardtony53@gmail.com

Summer Concert featuring Sine Nomine

Saturday 8 July

7.30pm

Address: St Andrew's, Farmingham Pigot NR14 7QH

A Summer Concert in a beautiful Victorian church featuring Sine Nomine, a Norwich choir, with a varied programme of music.

Admission: £10

Contact: Patricia Roberts, 01508 492571, proberts3103@gmail.com



A series of organ recitals at King's Lynn Minster

Every Tuesday from July to September

12.30pm

Address: King's Lynn Minster, King's Lynn PE30 5DL

Everyone is most welcome to come and enjoy a range of organ recitals by accomplished national and international organists and musicians, such as Frederico Andreoni from Montreal, David Dunnet of Norwich Cathedral and Carl Grainger of the Welsh Sinfonia.

Admission: Free

Contact: The Minster Office, 01553 767090, office@kingslynnminster.org



Little Snoring Flower Festival

Friday 14 July - Sunday 16 July

11am-4pm

Address: St Andrew's, Little Snoring NR21 0HZ

Stunning flower arrangements in the parish church.

Admission: Free

Contact: Linda Talbot, 07393 990459, linda.talbot@which.net



Felbrigg Church Flower Festival 'Television Programmes'

Saturday 15 July - Monday 17 July

10am-4pm daily

Address: St Margaret's, Felbrigg Park NR11 8PR

This must visit annual event has 'Television Programmes' for this year's theme. The church will be filled with breath-taking arrangements by a talented team of arrangers.

Admission: Free

Contact: June Clarke, 01263 761483, june@suffieldgreen.plus.com

Dixiemix Jazz Band

Saturday 15 July

7.30pm

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

East Anglia's hottest Dixieland Jazz Band return by popular demand for their annual visit.

Admission: £10

Contact: Paul Davies, 01493 843647, daviespaulp@gmail.com

Attleborough Summer Fete

Saturday 15 July

10am-2pm

Address: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Attleborough NR17 2AH

A fun and friendly day out at Attleborough's Summer Fete with refreshments all day, craft stalls and children's games.

Admission: Free

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

Colby St Giles Annual Open Day

Saturday 15 July

10am-5pm

Address: St Giles', Colby NR11 7EE

A chance to see a traditional village church with no services set in a very rural landscape.

Admission: Free

Contact: Roger Bumfrey, 01263 733520, r.bumfrey@btinternet.com

Cley 17 Art Festival: Godly Play Session

Saturday 15 July

10.30am-12pm

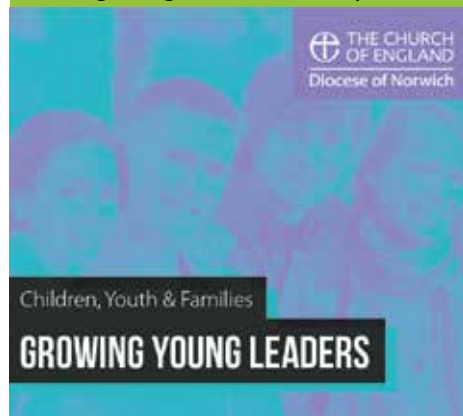
Address: St Margaret of Antioch's, Cley-next-the-Sea NR25 7TT

An invitation to children, parents, guardians, the young and not so young to come and explore the story of Creation in an imaginative and creative way.

Admission: Free - donations welcome.

Contact: The Revd Libby Dady, 01263 740686

'Growing Young Leaders' Discovery Session



Tuesday 18 July

6.30pm-8pm

Address: Diocesan House, Easton NR9 5ES

This is an opportunity for church leaders, youth leaders and young people to come and find out about the 'Growing Young Leaders' course - now in its second year.

Admission: Free

Contact: Anna Walker, 01603 882374, anna.walker@dioceseofnorwich.org

Jazz Train Picnic on Mid Norfolk Railway

Friday 21 July

7pm

Address: Dereham Station for ride to picnic at Hardingham Station NR19 1DF

Board at Dereham Station and travel on the Mid Norfolk Railway to Hardingham Station to listen to Bays River Jazz.

Admission: £15

Contact: Caroline Elliott, 01603 810544



NCCL: Religion in the life and work of Jan Vermeer



Saturday 22 July

10am-12.30pm

Address: Norwich Cathedral, The Close NR1 4DD

Join Dr Chris Joby for a tour through the paintings of one of the masters of the Dutch Golden Age, Jan Vermeer of Delft.

Admission: £10

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

Necton Church Festival, to include a Flower Festival

Saturday 22 July - Sunday 23 July

10am-5pm - Saturday; 12pm-5pm - Sunday

Address: All Saints, Swaffham PE37 8HE

The festival theme, "The Gospel Side of Elvis", is reflected in flowers and music. The day also includes an afternoon of Songs of Praise at 3.30pm, Sunday.

Admission: Free

Contact: Mandy Bennett, 01760 721261, theoldshop40@me.com



King's Lynn Minster Grand Summer Fete

Saturday 29 July

10am-1pm

Address: King's Lynn Minster, King's Lynn PE30 5DL

All welcome to come and enjoy the King's Lynn Minster Summer Fete.

Admission: Free

Contact: The Minster Office, 01553 767090, office@kingslynnminster.org

Newday Festival 2017

Monday 31 July - Saturday 5 August

Address: The Norfolk Showground, Norwich NR5 0TT

Newday is one of the largest Christian events for young people that takes place in the UK every year. Young from churches up and down the UK and Europe join together to learn about and worship God.

Admission: Various

Contact: Newday, 01273 840878, www.newdaygeneration.org/contact

AUGUST

Norfolk Open Churches Classic Car Run

Saturday 5 August

8am onwards

Address: Norwich Cathedral, The Close NR1 4DD

The 10th Classic Car Run visit takes place at the beginning of Open Churches Week, with a route that passes seven selected churches, all open so that you can visit and learn more about them.

Admission: Free

Contact: Richard Mitchell, norfolkopenchurchesrun@hotmail.com



CONTINUED ON PAGE 38 ►

Hevingham History

Saturday 5 August - Sunday 6 August
Saturday 12 August - Sunday 13 August

Saturday 10am-4pm; Sunday 12pm-4pm
Address: St Mary the Virgin and St Botolph's,
Hevingham NR10 5QU

Come and explore the history of the Church
and village, and also the history of our war
veterans.

Admission: Free

Contact: The Revd Margaret McPhee,
01603 893108, revmargaretmcphee@gmail.com

St George's Hindolveston Summer Fayre

Saturday 5 August

2pm

Address: St George's, Hindolveston NR20 5BS
A traditional summer Fayre in the charming
grounds of St George's exceptional church.

Admission: Free.

Contact: Jill Davison,
jill.davison@netcom.co.uk

St Benet's Abbey Annual Ecumenical Open Air Service

Sunday 6 August

3.30pm

Address: St Benet's Abbey, Horning NR12 8NJ
The annual St Benet's Abbey open air
service has become an established part of
the Norfolk calendar when the Abbot of St
Benet's, the Bishop of Norwich, arrives at
the Abbey site on the bough of a traditional
Norfolk Wherry.

Admission: Free

Contact: The Prior of St Benet's, 01692 631216,
draesmith2@btinternet.com



Serenading at Sixty

Saturday 12 August

11am

Address: Norwich Cathedral, The Close
NR1 4DD

Charles Timberlake invites you to join
him for an informal lunchtime piano
recital in celebration of his sixtieth
birthday.

Admission: Free

Contact: Charles Timberlake, 01329
845265, info@charlestimberlake.co.uk

Medieval wall paintings - tour of three churches with fine wall paintings

Saturday 12 August

2pm

Address: St Edmund's, Lingwood NR13 4EU
A visit of three churches in East Norfolk, south
of Acle, to view their fine wall paintings, as
well as the architecture of each, and their
interesting churchyards.

Admission: £11

Contact: Susan Rowe, 01603 715804,
hemblington@gmail.com

Afternoon Tea at All Saints, Threxton

Sunday 13 August

2pm-4pm

Address: All Saints, Threxton IP25 6LU
Visit this lovely round tower church, set
in the heart of the picturesque Breckland
countryside for some afternoon teas.

Admission: Free

Contact: Margaret Austin, 01953 881273,
margaretaustin713@btinternet.com



Unity with the Divine - Yoga and the Christian Journey into Contemplation

Friday 18 August - Saturday 19 August

10am-4.30pm

Address: St Luke's Church, Norwich NR3 2HF
Contemplation is simple, but not easy. The
teaching around yoga, which may not be
what you thought it was gives an outline
that Christians can follow towards a state of
abiding silent prayer.

Admission: £25 - £70

Contact: Debbie House, 07757 063066,
debbiedhouse@gmail.com

Integrate Camp 2017

Saturday 26 August - Sunday 3 September

Address: Sizewell Hall, Diss IP16 4TX

Integrate Camp is a camp specifically aimed
at supporting youth from smaller groups
with their leaders, or for those on the edge of
church.

Admission: £135

Contact: Integrate YFC, Diss United
Reformed Church, 01379 658796,
info@integrateyfc.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

Lewisham Town Concert Band

Saturday 2 September

7.30pm

Address: St Nicholas, Wells-next-the-Sea
NR23 1EQ

An exuberant mixture of musical styles in a
beautiful setting.

Admission: £10

Contact: Sarah Rich, 01328 711021



Hempstead Arts Exhibition and Sale 2017

Saturday 2 September - Sunday 3 September

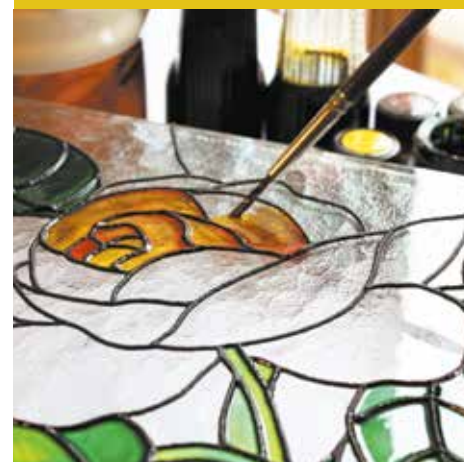
10am-5pm

Address: Hempstead Village Hall,
Hempstead, Holt NR25 6TL

An exhibition of paintings, prints,
stained glass, sculpture, and pottery,
all by Norfolk artists, and all for sale at
reasonable prices.

Admission: Free

Contact: Su Summers, 01263 710702,
su@linaria.co.uk



Developing a Dementia Friendly Church

Saturday 9 September

9.45am-3.30pm

Address: Norwich Cathedral, The Close
NR1 4DD

A practical workshop looking at what it
means to be a Dementia Friendly Christian
and Church.

Admission: £10

Contact: Lesley Lofts, 01603 880853,
lesley.lofts@dioceseofnorwich.org

The Bishop's Day of Celebration & Prayer

Saturday 14 October
10am – 4.30pm at Norwich Cathedral

A day for all the family

Join together for worship, celebration, prayer & activities

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

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



Children, Youth & Families

GROWING YOUNG LEADERS

The 'Growing Young Leaders - Youth Edition' course is designed for those in school years 10 and above.

The course explores leadership in all contexts, looking at the wisdom and encouragement in 1 and 2 Timothy from the New Testament.

Young people who are already in positions of leadership can hugely benefit from this course as can those who are not in any position of leadership yet, but have the potential to be.

The session will be held at Diocesan House, Easton, is free to attend and there is no obligation to join the course which starts on 16 September.

Discovery session:

Tuesday 18 July at 6.30pm; visit www.dioceseofnorwich.org/event?id=8588



How's your PCC doing? Focused, fun and fruitful? Or a little different to that?

Following the launch of a new resource to help PCCs function well, CPAS is running an event to clarify the purpose and place of PCCs, to explore some common dysfunctions, and to introduce material you can use to shape its life.

The evening is intended for all PCC members, so bring several car loads and come ready to enjoy a fun and informative evening.

Thursday 5 October

7.30pm - 9.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

St Andrew's, Eaton

41 Church Lane, Eaton, Norwich, NR4 6NW

Cost and booking:

Free to attend, but please book in advance at www.dioceseofnorwich.org/event?id=9335 or contact Paul Overend on 01603 882336

'MISSION-ORIENTED, CHRIST-FOCUSED, EXPERIENCE-GROUNDED, NOT-A-MOMENT-WASTED, UPBEAT AND PRACTICAL TRAINING EVENT FOR PCC MEMBERS. HOWEVER HEALTHY YOUR MEETINGS ARE, THEY'LL BE BETTER FOR ATTENDING PCC TONIGHT'.
PETER ACKROYD

RESOURCING YOUR PARISH

An exhibition and workshops for all involved in parish ministry

Monday 9 Oct

6pm – 9.30pm

Green Britain Centre, Swaffham

Following the success of the three events between March and May a new date has been added to the calendar.

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

Details of workshops are online.

Free to attend but please book in advance at:

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



Generous justice

I was in Pret a Manger in Norwich ordering a “Berry Blast” and I felt my stomach ache. For the price of one smoothie I could buy 40 packs of chlorinated water for the children I had sat with, prayed with and promised to help the day before in Sierra Leone.

I had just returned from a trip there in the week that the country had been declared “Ebola free” and witnessed first-hand the devastation of the virus to families, communities and some of the 13,000 Ebola orphans left behind.

The Greek word for compassion, *spagchnizomai*, means ‘to be moved in the inward part’ (to put it politely) and although I hadn’t expected the Pret Berry Blast to trigger a stomach churn (at least before consuming) I welcomed the belly blow as I handed over the loose change.

The day before I had met nine-year-old Gibbah, living in the slums of Freetown. We met at her small Catholic school on the way back to the airport. Remarkably, she had caught the Ebola virus and survived. It had taken its toll, leaving her blind in one eye and her other eye was failing. Her sight could be saved but she

couldn’t afford surgery. Gibbah’s father was critically ill in hospital due to a road accident and he could not pay to save his own life or hers. Gibbah’s mother had died months earlier of Ebola and her elderly grandmother was working in the fish market to try and scrape together a living for her family. And I needed to catch a flight home to an NHS I take for granted, a welfare system and my healthy young family.

Charity and charitable giving is often seen as an optional extra. But in Scripture, gifts to the poor are called “acts of righteousness,” as in Matthew 6:1-2. Should Gibbah hope for my “charity”? Not really. She should hope that I “do justice”. I should hope for God’s charity that I might be forgiven when I do not act justly (Micah 6:8).

The word justice (*mishpat* in the Hebrew) means to give someone what they are due. It is not just about punishment, it is also about protection, provision and care. In Scripture God aligns himself with those who cannot protect themselves or provide for themselves (Psalm 68:4-5). In Deuteronomy 15:4 God says: “There should be no poor among you”. This was a part of his manifesto for a just society.



“And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them,” it says of the early church in Acts 4:33,34. “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions were their own, but they shared everything they had.”

This is the grace of God at work: We loosen our grip on the possessions in our hold and embrace the call to love the people of God’s world. This is generous justice, an inescapable part of God’s mission.

The Revd David Lloyd is associate vicar at St Thomas, Norwich and a trustee of www.street-child.co.uk. He loves playing jazz, boating and spending time with his wife Anna and children Georgia and Zack and their mad dog Poppy.

