

Annual Report 2011



Transforming Norwich

Making Norwich a Fine Community



Report from the Chair Madeline Light

This report not only contains updates on the various initiatives that have come out of Transforming Norwich in recent years but also highlights the way Transforming Norwich is seen by others as an umbrella organization or a means of communication with the church in Norwich.

Celebrate is now operating independently but is still supported by Transforming Norwich, Food Bank is going from strength to strength and Call to Prayer have expanded the way in which they are serving the churches by taking on responsibility and establishing a House of Prayer. Network Norwich continues to do what its title suggests, keeping us in touch with each other in a unique and expert way made possible by technology.

The organizers of the new Prayer for Revival event are wanting to partner with as many Christians as possible and so at the outset linked with Transforming Norwich. This initiative has emerged from Unite who also have responsibility for the Global Day of Prayer and Ministers' lunches. In a similar way both Surrey Chapel and "More than Gold" organizers contacted Transforming Norwich when arranging events in the city as a way of engaging with as many churches as possible as efficiently as possible.

All these express our vision and values that have been reworked this year.

Vision; To unite Christians to serve the community through prayer and action.

Values; To seek to express Kingdom values such as; Unity, Justice and Love.

There is so much we can do, so many opportunities. Jonathan Oleyede exhorted us to seek God and be active. We shall continue to try to do both in this coming year.

This year Celebrate became a registered charity and appointed trustees. This was only possible because of the support of Transforming Norwich along with our other sponsors, the Christian Conference Trust (Belsey Bridge), and YMCA Norfolk

This year there are again ministries new and old, sharing the space and creating together an exciting demonstration of the diverse range of Christian ministries who work 24/7 in our city and county. On Millennium Plain we shall showcase some groups for their first public appearance and some long established Christian musicians and bands. St Peter Mancroft church will open for prayer throughout our event. All of these can be found in the excellent Good News - Celebrate edition, newspaper so ably edited by Keith Morris.

Norwich Foodbank also became a charity in October 2010 and began to give out parcels containing three days worth of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food to local people in crisis who had been referred to them by front line care professionals.

Seven months on and we are sometimes feeding 140 people a month from five Distribution Centres situated at All Saints Centre, Octagon Cafe St Peter Mancroft, Oak Grove Chapel, New Hope Christian Centre and Mile Cross Methodist Church. The food is being donated by individuals, supermarkets, churches, schools and other organisations.. You can keep up to date with this project via the website at www.norwichfoodbank.co.uk



Call to Prayer **Jill Gower**

Following lengthy negotiations with Norwich Historic Churches Trust, Call to Prayer received the keys of the Fishergate Centre in early January 2011. There followed a period of refurbishment managed by Lorie Lane-Rogers and a great team of volunteers. Thus the House of Prayer came into being, to much rejoicing in the faithfulness of God.

An inaugural meeting took place in February with Jane Holloway, Director of the World Prayer Centre in Birmingham speaking to leaders and many supporters from the city and county.

A further civic opening service took place in March, when the Bishop of Norwich addressed a large gathering, giving his blessing to the endeavour, and the Lord Mayor gave a welcoming speech on behalf of the city.

Trevor Pimlott, representing church leaders, spoke words of encouragement & prayed.

Fundamental to the vision for the House of Prayer is to build an altar of prayer to the Lord. The ways we are developing include; providing prayer stations, developing a daily rhythm of prayer, hosting regular prayer gatherings, joining the GDOP initiative for our nation and co-ordinating 44 Lighthouses of Prayer to respond to requests from local ministries. In the future it is hoped that the vestry will be used for 24/7 prayer.

Call to Prayer over recent years, long before it had a building, has been supporting the churches with teaching about prayer. This year there have been two conferences, one in July, The Hebrew Roots Conference in the Tabernacle at Ashill, the other the Kingdom Destiny Conference in March. We

hosted Jonathan Oloyede, who exhorted two gatherings to greater unity and prayerfulness. On Thursday mornings in term-time there is Bible teaching and ministry, with meditative prayer on Mondays 1-2pm. A three-session programme of teaching on prayer is offered to church home groups, either at their own location or in the House of Prayer. A Prayer School, takes place on Fridays in term-time as a six-week course.

Celebrating the Feasts of Israel as a method of teaching has for the first time included

Tabernacles on 23 September at St Luke's church, with an appropriately festooned booth, and a hot meal. 60 people met for Passover in the House of Prayer and plans are in hand for marking more of the Feasts in an appropriate way in due course. A fellowship meal on

Friday evenings, Shabbat, with teaching on our Hebrew roots is available to all.

The House of Prayer is open and manned on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the first Saturday each month for anyone to come in and pray, receive prayer or use the well-stocked lending library.

Our growing team of volunteers now numbers 24, bringing diverse and often hitherto little used giftings, which astonish and bless us all! They have been able to offer prayer support to many events in the city and county during the year. We continue to look to our wonderful God for His guidance and provision, in preparation for whatever way He chooses to use this ministry for the furtherance of His Kingdom and the glory of His Name.



Jill Gower and Jane Holloway

Christian Aid says water is the best medicine

Christian Aid in Norwich received a big boost this year through a new partnership with Sierra Leone in West Africa.

The European Union is blessing the venture by quadrupling donations for this project.

Local volunteers and staff are building on their successful partnership with Burkina Faso, for which the city raised £18,000 between February 2009 and December 2010.

Norwich has a link with Sierra Leone through Frances Middleton, from Chapelfied Road Church. Frances took the initiative to visit the West African country and had a chance to see some of Christian Aid's work.

Christian Aid is tackling the challenge in Sierra Leone head-on by selecting the area of the country – Pujehun - with the worst water supply – one where less than half of the population have access to safe drinking water.

The project is also tackling hunger. It is starting in the hungriest district of Sierra Leone – in Bonthe, where 40% of children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Christian Aid in Norwich is a testimony to the strength of the body of Christ working together. New members of the Christian Aid commission in Norwich are– Ruth McGinley, from St Paul's Hellesdon, Charlotte Armah, from Trinity URC, and Hannah Bassi, from Today's Lifestyle Church. During the year Yaa Mensah from Kings Community Church, did a great job helping to organise nine supporter meetings across the area in the lead-up to Christian Aid Week and Janine van Tonder and Heidi Parker from Norwich Central Baptist Church organised a stand at UEA throughout the week. Meanwhile Lydia Munyi from Kings Community Church has been actively recruiting a team for a sponsored canoe event in support of the Sierra Leone appeal.

Anyone wishing to support the appeal is welcome to contact the local coordinator, Eldred Willey, on 01603 620051, ewilley@christian-aid.org





Norwich Youth for Christ Gospel Choir at Witard Road Baptist Church participating in the Service for Christian Unity



The Good Friday walk of reconciliation



Norfolk Christian website provides communication channels

The last 12 months have been marked by steady progress for the Network Norwich & Norfolk Christian community news website, which first launched almost six years ago through an initiative developed with founding partner Transforming Norwich.

Now an accepted part of the local Christian community, it has become the top communication channel for anyone wanting to reach that audience with news, events and key messages.

The now twice-weekly e-mail newsletter has 2300 subscribers and over 10,000 different people visit the site every month. Established partner sites are produced for Transforming Norwich, Norwich Central Churches Together, Norwich FGBMFI, Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk, Norwich Foodbank, Norfolk Street Pastors, Norwich Area URC, Good Work and Dreams & Visions.

New partner sites are under development for the Norfolk Christian Football League and Norfolk Christian Youthworkers.

An online shop for the Norwich Christian Resource Centre and a successful online ticketing facility have been developed.

Particularly popular facilities offered include a jobs vacancy advertising service and the recently launched volunteer link-up pages as well as church and Christian project directories.

The website is run by editors Keith Morris and Helen Baldry,

with a cast of dozens of new and established writers from right across the Christian community contributing regularly.

The primary aim is to act as a first port of call for anybody wanting information or news about the Norwich and Norfolk Christian community and to be a two-way channel of communication and connection for that community.

The growing success and influence of the site would not have been possible without the original backing of the vision by founding partner Transforming Norwich and its continued support, for which the website team are very grateful.

Keith Morris
Communications Officer
www.networknorwich.co.uk



400 years of the King James Bible **Derek Haylock**

To mark the 400th anniversary of its publication in 1611, a public reading of the King James Bible took place in the foyer of the Millennium Library in the Forum in Norwich. The reading began at 12 noon on Sunday 10 April, and concluded on the dot at 4 pm on Sunday 17 April, with the reading having continued for a total of about 72 hours.

The public reading was initiated and supported by Surrey Chapel Free Church and organized by one of its elders, Dr Derek Haylock. An invitation was sent out to leaders of local churches of all kinds to nominate individuals in their churches who might be approached to take part in the reading.

Transforming Norwich played a key role in enabling the invitation to participate in the event to be circulated to a wide range of churches. The invitation was also circulated to Anglican churches by the Diocese of Norwich, and by Surrey Chapel to churches in the local gospel partnership. Additional publicity was provided by the Network Norwich website, the local press and Radio Norfolk. Members of the Library staff, particularly Catherine Wymer, the Locality Manager, were outstanding in their support and their recognition of the King James Bible as a significant and influential work of literature.

In the event, 74 readers took part, with their ages ranging from 12 to 82 years. Readers were drawn from over 20 different churches.

Typically two readers shared a slot of 1–2 hours, reading a couple of chapters alternately. Readers attended a one-hour briefing, run by Derek Haylock. This assured a degree of consistency over the pace of reading and other practicalities. In the event readers kept to the schedule, with only a few minor adjustments necessary to ensure that we reached the required finishing point before the Library closed.



Derek Haylock, Martin Walton and Bishop Graham

During the time of the reading, the footfall through the entrance into the foyer was a remarkable 25,000, reflecting the fact that this is the busiest library in the country. The majority of people passing the reading appeared indifferent, but a good number took an interest and talked to the steward about what was going on.

The readings started with Derek Haylock reading a brief section of the Preface and then the Bishop of Norwich and 14-year-old Martin Walton from Surrey Chapel sharing the opening chapters of Genesis. The peak audience (over 50) was for the last hour on the final Sunday afternoon, as Archdeacon Jan MacFarlane and Pastor Tom Chapman read the thrilling closing chapters of Revelation.

All the readers expressed their gratitude for being able to take part in what we all felt was a historic and powerful event.

Receipts and Payments Account 1.4.10 to 31.03.11

<u>BANK & CASH BALANCES 1.4.10</u>		£	£
Barclays Current Account			7206.84
Standard Life 10-day Notice Account			3411.95
Development Officer Petty Cash Float			100.00
			<u>10718.79</u>
Receipts			
Members Subscriptions 2009/10 - Churches (43)	1855.00		
Members Subscriptions 2009/10 - Organisations (12)	600.00		
Members Subscriptions 2009/10 - Individuals (2)	20.00		
Interest	30.61		
Labels	20.00		
Celebrate 2010	2635.00		
Total Income			<u>5160.61</u>
Total Resources			<u>15879.40</u>
LESS			
Payments			
Printing, Postage, Stationery, Telephone	514.89		
Celebrate 2010	9431.33		
Donation to Celebrate from TN	1000.00		
AGM 2010	70.00		
Computer	257.45		
Administrator	455.00		
Network Norwich	600.00		
Travelling/Car Parking/Entertaining	43.89		
City Centre Partnership Management Fee	50.00		
Donation to Medical Expenses for Overseas Pastor	500.00		
Contribution to John Bell Event	500.00		
Contribution to Jane Holloway Event	119.00		
Independent Examiner's Report	90.00		
Total Expenditure			<u>13631.56</u>
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31.03.2011			<u><u>2247.84</u></u>
Represented by:			
Barclays Current Account			55.28
Standard Life 10-day Notice Account			2192.56
Development Officer Petty Cash Float			0.00
			<u><u>2247.84</u></u>