



## Report from Chairman

### Transforming Norwich Annual General Meeting – July 2016

Following the last Annual General meeting in 2015 Transforming Norwich took the opportunity to rebrand to focus us for the future using the tagline 'Equip, Encourage, Empower'. Regular activities and events have been delivered through 2015/16, and the work of Transforming Norwich this past year has been summarised below.

Transforming Norwich aspires to help equip, encourage, and empower by:

- Facilitating and encouraging the process of churches in Norwich growing together in worship, witness, service and evangelism.
- Assisting and encouraging churches in a variety of areas including evangelism and social action.
- Being a voice for all the churches and provide an effective communication network.

#### Ministers Together Lunches

At the outset of the year, in line with the overall rebrand, we changed the name of the monthly Ministers meetings to 'Ministers Together Lunches' focusing on the importance of being together. 30 to 40 Ministers attend these Lunches on a regular basis.

Trevor Pimlott shares; *"Ministers Together is a valuable time for all Ministers and Parra Church leaders who daily face the challenges and the responsibilities of leading in today's generation. It is a much needed time to be refreshed, strengthened and encouraged in building relationships, demonstrating unity and love for each other over a lunch and an informal time together. It is our privilege to host this very special time and we hope that every Minister will feel welcome to come. Ministers Together is hosted at a different venue the first Wednesday of every month except the month of August"*.



# TRANSFORMING NORWICH

EQUIP, ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER



At the monthly meetings we have heard from key note national and local speakers including;

- Nigel Sykes, Warwick Business School – November 2015
- Cllr Alan Waters, Norwich City Council – December 2015
- Jane Holloway, World Prayer Centre – January 2016
- Rev Catherine Hutton, Superintendent Methodist Church – February 2016
- Dr Jonathan Oloyede, National Day of Prayer – April 2016
- Rev Ian Dyble, St Thomas Norwich – May 2016
- Pastor Dominic De Souza, One Church – June 2016
- Pastor Jon Norman, SOUL Church – July 2016

Speakers for 2016/17 will include Bishop David Carr, Steve Uppal, David Adams, Toby Skipper and James Aladiran.

*“Having arrived only relatively recently in the city, we have valued the opportunity that Transforming Norwich has provided to network with other church leaders beyond our own immediate sphere. Amidst the busyness of local church ministry, we have found the Ministers' Together Lunches a helpful catalyst in establishing relationships with fellow colleagues in the region. It's been great to have a space in which we can mutually encourage one another and also be ministered to as leaders. We hope that increasingly local church leaders will view Transforming Norwich as a vital and necessary forum to pray and strategise together as "elders of the city", working together to see the Kingdom of God established in our locality.”*

Pastors Dominic & Catherine De Souza, One Church

## Prayer

Transforming Norwich organised the **Global Day of Prayer** at Norwich Cathedral where over 500 people gathered to join millions of Christians across the world praying together in May 2016.

We also have regular prayer events, including **Transforming the Atmosphere** which meets monthly at House of Prayer, and **REVIVE** monthly prayer meetings, as well as specific events – e.g. Prayer Vigil for Refugee Crisis. These times have provided the opportunity to come together to pray specifically for the City and County.



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Transforming Norwich also established a **monthly prayer calendar** in April, uniting Churches/Ministries to pray on particular day for church/community/ministry and to pray for Norwich in line with John 17v20-21 and the Lord's Prayer. Each day is currently filled by a Church/Ministry and on some days ministries have partnered together to pray.

*"John Wesley said "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer". Every significant move of God comes out of His people praying and crying out to Him. The Lord wants us to be totally dependent on Him, and as Jesus said in John 15 unless we are connected to Him we can do nothing that is worthwhile in the Kingdom. I have been so encouraged this year at the increase of prayer. The Global Day of Prayer in the Cathedral was so encouraging. It is an exciting time we are living in, and to see so many churches and ministries taking responsibility to each own a day in the month to cover in prayer for a move of God to come to this region is truly wonderful. Prayer is spending time with God and seeking Him for His agenda, rather than asking Him to bless ours."*

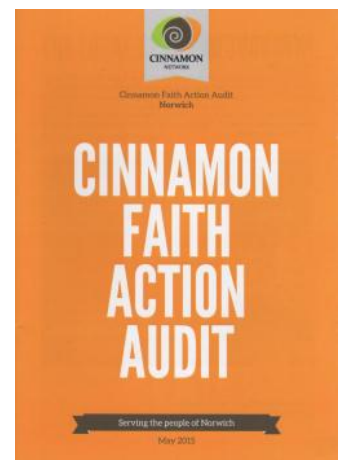
Jill Gower – Director of Call to Prayer, Norwich

## Mission and Social

Transforming Norwich continues to give support to both **Celebrate** (annual event which takes place in Norwich and Kings Lynn to celebrate, demonstrate and communicate the work of the Norfolk Christian Community), and also **Network Norfolk** (which provides a communication platform for churches, ministries and organisations to share about their work across the County).

Transforming Norwich supported and facilitated the '**Cinnamon Faith Audit**' – celebrating the work of the Christian Faith community in the City. The Cinnamon Faith Audit received responses from 43 Norwich based faith groups who together reported running 388 social action projects for the benefit of over 85,000 people. The Norwich report was launched in December 2015 at the Ministers Together Lunch where Norwich City Council Leader Cllr Alan Waters welcomed the report, and he said the report "is a mirror reflection of what we at the City Council aspire to do".

Phil Thorne, local co-ordinator of the survey and pastor at Alive Church, said: "The results celebrate the immense variety of work impacting groups of all ages and situations from all faiths and none and will increase the working relationships with our local authorities.



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## **Alistair and Marie Petrie from Partnership Ministers**

visited Norwich in June 2016 and during the week Transforming Norwich organised a series of events including a two-day conference, prayer events, worship events and Service of Unity. Alistair and Marie Petrie said that they sensed that a shift had occurred since last year – that the city felt more open and that the atmosphere had changed positively. The whole week was supported in prayer by their worldwide intercessors team, confirming that Norwich was on God’s agenda as being an important place where transformation of the whole culture could take place. They felt that many indications of coming transformation are already here. The theme for the week was teaching the local church how to pray for the city in a focussed and intentional way, through prayer walking, personal intimacy with God and corporately as the church in Norwich.



Alistair Petrie attended and shared at the Norwich Full Gospel Meeting as part of his visit. Barrie Lawrence shares *“Alistair was engaging and as he spoke of miraculous changes in communities following a turning to God faith rose within the restaurant. One lady said “my knees are healed” and another man outside the room got saved, was prayed for deliverance from a nicotine addiction, and got rid of his cigarettes. A truly kingdom evening.”*

## **Chairman’s summary**

When I took on the role of Chair at the last AGM in 2015 I shared about the five ways in which I believed God would increase our saltiness in the city – through presence, through partnership, through our preaching, through our praying and through our practical service together. In the past year we have seen these areas continue to grow in the City and County and the depth of unity continued to be strengthened across churches and ministries. Thank you for the support you have given to Transforming Norwich over the past year both as individuals and as churches/ministries. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in this next season.

John 17 v 20-21 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me”.

Danny Doran-Smith  
Chair of Transforming Norwich