

A circular portrait of a man with reddish-brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a grey shirt, and a striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background of the portrait is green grass.

TIM'S GAME

**In loving memory
of Tim Stapleford
1961 - 2016**

October 15th 2016

Kick off 10am

The FDC, Norwich

Holy Trinity Vs. Rest of the League



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You are welcome to join us for

Morning worship: Sunday 10:15

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Delighted to support the Norfolk

Christian Football League

and Jenny Lind Project

In memory of Tim



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We are a friendly and active church that seeks to be a light for Christ in the city.

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Welcome to the Tim Stapleford Memorial Football Match, played in honour of an amazing role model and inspirational man. Money raised today will go to the Jenny Lind Park Young People's Work, a project Tim worked tirelessly at and which has seen individual lives changed dramatically and a community changed. Any donations, small or large would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to all the sponsors of this event and all who have made the day possible. Enjoy the game!

Tim gave me opportunities to do what I loved and gave me the confidence I needed to believe I could be a Christian female football coach. His passion and commitment to helping others and his love of sport inspired me to dream big. Like so many others who had the pleasure of being a part of his life I am so thankful I had the opportunity to get to know Tim, he has been a huge part of making me who I am today and I will always remember him as a God-trusting, people-loving, life-changing man. ***Phebe Wells***

I worked with Tim for five years on the Jenny Lind project. He was a fantastic man who had many hilarious eccentricities and brilliant quirks that could fill whole books if we went through all the stories so I will limit it to just one. We were in the process of getting planning permission for a building for which Tim had tasked me and Tom Woods to fill in the required forms. We were checking over the forms in the pub before the meeting and someone (it was Tom) accidentally spilt a whole pint of cider over the only copy we had. At the time myself and Tom were freaking out, these were the only forms we had. Tim was surely going to go spare - we had no forms and no time to sort new ones, we simply weren't going to get the planning permission. We took the forms to Tim and explained, he briefly looked over them checked everything was correct and just claimed that it would all be fine and that there was no need to worry. We made it to the meeting and handed over the forms. The lady was unimpressed by the forms to say the least. About to reject our application and tell us we needed to come back before the deadline with better forms, Tim steps in. He launches into a 20 minute speech about the wonderful things that this building would do for the area and the great way that it would affect young peoples lives right here right now. And after that the lady from the council not only accepted our application but gave us discounted rent rates and an extension to complete the forms. And that is how I remember Tim most of all. A man of such passion and drive that nothing could stand in the way of. Not planning permission. Not red tape. Not even a cider-soaked form. It didn't matter what was in his way because Tim had such unbelievable positive energy he would smash through it and drag us all along with him to the other side. He was the best person I knew and he will forever be my mentor and the man that has made me who I am today. ***Will Morris***

Tim's key role in Norfolk Christian Football League

Quite simply, the Norfolk Christian League would not be where it is today without Tim Stapleford. Over a period of over 30 years Tim was involved as a player, manager and visionary within the league set up.

In the 1980s and 1990s Tim played for and managed Holy Trinity. As a player he was an energetic midfielder who got the best out of those around him and this transferred into his management style as well.

He was also keen to involve local young people and in the 1990s set up Heigham Eagles, a team affiliated with Dereham Road Baptist Church drawing from young people who regularly played football in Eaton Park and linking them with Christians from the church. The team kept going for several years and many players still have positive memories of Tim's leadership.

Tim was perhaps best known for his key role in the development of the Norfolk Christian Football League, and especially its Youth League, which started in 1995 because of Tim's vision and passion. Many children in churches found it difficult to play competitive football as it took place on a Sunday morning. The youth league, played on a Saturday morning, provided that opportunity and it now comprises almost 30 teams and around 300 players.

Tim was involved in the league for almost 30 years and fulfilled almost every possible role as league chairman, vice chairman, referee, team manager and player for Holy Trinity. In 2012 he was awarded the league's Sam Hollinger Trophy for his long service. In 2012 Tim was also nominated to be one of the Olympic Torch bearers.

Alan Barnes, NCFL Secretary

I first met Tim back in 2009 at the celebration service in Norwich Cathedral 25 years after Billy Graham's Mission England visit to Carrow Road. Tim spoke in that service about how he had been inspired to work towards establishing the Christian Youth League in 1995.

After meeting at that service, I met with Tim a few times and he introduced me to the Norfolk Christian League. Tim is responsible for me becoming involved in the league and I will always be thankful to him for that.

He was a man of vision, perception, integrity and compassion, but most of all he was a man of great faith. His legacy lives on and I feel both humble and proud to have known him. ***Bert Cadmore***

Tim was a true hero of faith in action. ***Nick Blanch***

On behalf of the Tuesday footballers, thank you - a truly courageous man who will be missed. ***Neil and Lesley***

Tim's passion in serving the Lord Jesus in the world of football was an inspiration to all. ***Pete Skivington***

A man of enthusiasm, vision and faith

I first met Tim 21 years ago when I took my son to play for Holy Trinity U12 in the very first youth game in the Christian youth league.

My first impressions were “Does he ever stop talking, how can he multi-task that well?” Erecting goals, speaking to me and telling the boys about the match, without hesitation, or stopping to breathe.

His enthusiasm and his vision for youth football and his attitude towards the lads was infectious, and I knew this is what I wanted to do at Witard Road, eventually.

Tim had a gift for delegation in his own way: I thought I would just be another parent encouraging my son to follow dad and play football. But two weeks into the season I found myself refereeing, how did that happen? Tim’s suggestion, without giving me an option to say no, so he could concentrate on coaching. At the beginning of the next season, Tim Batchelor and I were managing the team while Tim was off to expand the league encouraging other churches to take up the challenge of mission in football, again Tim’s suggestion and we couldn’t say no.

I know Tim has been an inspiration to many in the league, his approach to all situations, whether they be easy or immensely difficult was the same “I

can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me”, with God, all things were possible with Tim.

He was very supportive of me when I started youth football on the Heartsease estate, and saw the potential of community based football – and today we have used Sale Road for our five-a-side tournament for the last 16 years.

Without doubt, the expansion and continued success of the youth league is down to Tim’s vision and enthusiasm, his leading the way forward, never afraid to trial something new and his encouragement to all involved.

Gordon Ramsey is known for his one ‘F’ word, Tim has three, Faith, Family and Football, and all that Tim did achieve and all he attempted to achieve would not have been possible without the support of Sue and the family.

We know Tim spent many hours over many years giving his time and energy to several agencies in his desire to share his faith in Jesus with all who would listen. So on this day we give thanks for Tim and Sue and all that God has done and will continue to do through them in sharing their lives with us.

Mike Culwick, NCFL Chairman



It was a privilege to know and work alongside Tim. He was a man that always showed a great amount of empathy and wanted to engage with everyone, always seeing the best in people. **Sam Lewis**

Remembering a man of the future

Tim, when you came to the adult Cup Finals in May, visibly very ill, you asked about my son Andrew, who had been in one of your teams. The future was always on your mind.

As to the past, sharing committee meetings with you was often a challenge. In emails or discussions, you were never one to use a sentence when a page would do: you often seemed to have a passion inside you to explain. We could call it vision.

When you arranged a partnership with the YMCA to have Jess as our secretary, and save the league from folding, what a vision went with it. Now we may not have agreed on details, but that is not the point.

Without vision - direction, purpose, aspiration - the people perish. Being with you reminded us that we need to be looking forward. We still do.

You were very clear that the League was based around what it meant to follow Jesus, outside the confines of 'church'. Thank you, Tim for embodying the idea that whatever we did, it revolved around linking God with people.

Maybe the best outworking of this was your work at the Jenny Lind. A measurable decrease in anti-social behaviour? That is some achievement. No less impressive was your investment in youth: it is a great tribute to you that this event is being organised by a group of young people you invested in.

So today we are remembering you. Remembering is at the heart of Christian faith, as Jesus asked us to eat bread and drink wine 'in remembrance of me.' 'You brought Jesus to a lot of people, and you would want Jesus, who changed the world by investing in a group of young people, to be at the heart of anything we did for you.

Finally, when we met to plan this event, I said that if we went for October 15, I wouldn't be able to make it, as I was committed to a Climate Change training event in London. I am really sorry not to be here, but you were always pushing on, trying to invest in the future, trying to follow Jesus, and so am I. I think you'd be ok with that.

Jim Green, Vice Chairman NCFL

Tim was an absolute hero of mine from the moment I first played against him on the football field in the 1980s when I quickly realised that he would powerfully shoot for goal at any opportunity, including near the halfway line. Later in life our daughters became friends and more recently we worked together often when I working for the Church of England. Such an inspiration and hero. **Mark Heybourne**

In the early to mid 1990s I worked alongside Tim and others in the running of Dereham Road & Heigham Eagles football teams in the Norfolk Christian Football League. Tim's belief and leadership skills brought together people of different backgrounds and skills to make a friendly club, amongst whom he acted as a strong role model. I am grateful for that time spent with him. **Alan Cant**





The Norfolk Christian Youth League owed everything to his passion, commitment and organisational genius. The zeal with which he carried out his work was an example to us all. **David Taylor**

To Tim a great man of God and a dear friend for many years. You will be missed here but richly blessed with our Saviour and the Father you have faithfully followed. **Richard Ash-Lameer**

Tim was a fantastic man who was a massive help to me when I started at Brooke with the Adventurers. I always enjoyed my early morning starts with him at Bignold School.

The Christian League will really miss him, he had so much enthusiasm and passion for the League and all it stood for. He will be sorely missed by an enormous amount of people. **Rob Dixon**

With a handful of young people and a couple of volunteers around, Tim said a short prayer and then began to address the group; "Football is like a honey pot, drawing bees in". Within minutes of beginning to play, the buzz around Jenny Lind park was spectacular, we had a large group of around 40 young people playing football with others watching on intently. There was so much infectious energy and enthusiasm, banter flying around, smile and laughs aplenty, as well as amazing conversations being had on the sidelines.

Football is an amazing tool to engage with people, with it providing an instant connection with so many people and Tim used this tool to great effect. He built so many trusting relationships, brought a community together and was an amazing witness to Jesus' love through his servant hearted ways in so many different circles within the footballing world, as well outside of it. An inspiration of a man, a true role-model and life changer, Tim Stapleford will be dearly missed, but his legacy will burn on for a very long time.

Tom Woods

What an amazing saint! A man of faith and action who laboured for His Lord to improve and transform so many people's lives. May the Lord surround Sue and the children with love and comfort. My boys were greatly encouraged by Tim's constant witness through the Christian Football League. **Mark Taylor**



St Peter's Church, Brooke

part of the Brooke Benefice

We are delighted to support the Brooke Adventurers in the Norfolk Christian Football League.

St Peter's Church is a beautiful and ancient building at the heart of our village which we seek to use as a base in our mission to bring God's love to the whole community. Throughout the year we serve the community through our work at Brooke VC Primary School and Brooke House Residential Home, through our support of village organisations and by organising social events and loaning the Church Rooms for clubs and functions.

We are delighted to welcome members of the local community, and those from further afield, as they come to share in our weekly worship or to join us at important moments in their lives. The church is also open daily for all those who wish to visit and enjoy the peace and calm on offer. www.brooke.churchnet.co



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'Little Steps' Wednesday morning toddler group meets during term time 9 - 11:30am

Messy Church usually monthly on a Saturday morning from 11am - 1pm

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