



Lois achieves her life long skydive dream

Brave Norwich grandmother **Lois Wiltshire** has jumped out of a plane at 1,300 feet to fulfil her life-long dream and raise funds for Age UK Norwich. **Jenny Seal** reports.

Lois' husband Mike, a former Financial Times journalist and President of Norwich Full Gospel Businessmen (FGB), gave his blessing for the skydive shortly before he died last November.

Lois, who is in her 60s, lives in Bowthorpe and is on the Church Council of Bowthorpe Church where she leads The Oaks Friday Friendship Group for those with dementia and their carers.

Skydiving has long been a dream for Lois. However, she was the main carer for her husband Mike, a journalist who wrote for the Good News for Norfolk newspaper and other Christian publications as well as the FT for over 20 years. He was also a key figure in the development of Operation Mobilisation.

Mike struggled with heart problems for many years and was reticent for Lois to do a skydive while he was ill and she was caring for him.

"When Mike was in hospital for the final time last November," Lois said, "he told me to do all the things I wanted to do but hadn't done because of caring for him."

Early this year, Lois found out that Age UK Norwich were recruiting volunteers to do a sponsored skydive for the charity. Already an Age UK Norwich Volunteer for Neighbourhoods and Communities, Lois said: "I saw this as my opportunity to fulfil my wish – and Mike's for me."

On Saturday, June 15, at the Beccles Skydive Centre, Lois finally took the plunge. "I was very excited," she said. "I did not go up



Lois Wiltshire before and after her charity skydive at Beccles Skydive Centre.

in the plane straight away, so had the opportunity to watch the other skydivers land.

"The scariest part was tumbling headfirst out of the plane at 120 miles an hour at an altitude of about 1,300 ft. When the parachute was inflated there was a jolt but

after that it was 'plane sailing'.

"I loved every second as we gradually floated down to the ground – I didn't want the skydive to end and can't wait for the next one!"

"Age UK are such an inspirational and hard-working charity,"

she said. "Any donations would be gratefully received for this good cause."

To date Lois has raised over £330 for Age UK by taking her first skydive. You can still sponsor her at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lois-wiltshire

Norfolk plea over unjust prisons terms

A group of prominent Norfolk Christians with a keen interest in criminal justice have been inspired by a Norwich judge to urge MPs and the Government to intervene on behalf of 2,400 prisoners, imprisoned unjustly under the now abolished Imprisonment for Public Protection sentencing.

■ The Bishop of Lynn and others from Norfolk's Ecumenical Criminal Justice Forum have launched a campaign demanding action for prisoners held under the now defunct Imprisonment for Public Protection sentences.

At a meeting in June, the Ecumenical Criminal Justice Forum heard from Norwich Judge His Honour Stephen Holt about his concerns for those prisoners held under Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences.



The Bishop of Lynn.

Rev Canon Chris Copsey, who co-ordinates the Ecumenical Forum, which meets quarterly at Bishop's House, said: "He gave a powerful account of the effect on prisoners under such sentences and the, as he sees it, obvious injustice that some prisoners are currently subjected to. Such was the strength of feeling among those present at the meeting that we have resolved as a group to try to do something about the present situation."

IPP sentencing was intended to protect the public by indeterminately holding prisoners who were deemed too dangerous to be released when their original sentence had

■ Story continues on page four

GOOD NEWS

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Share a meal and you share life

■ Have you ever had a meal that's been so amazing, you've never forgotten it?

I can think of a few, but the funny thing is – it wasn't really the food I ate that made it so memorable, it was the people I shared the table with. I'm thinking of a crazy, joyous lunch in my back garden with some visiting Christians from India.

And the last time my wife and I had supper at home with our two sons, now all grown up and moved away. And the time I sipped a cup of tea and nibbled a biscuit with someone I loved, knowing it was the last time I'd see them.

Sharing food and drink with others isn't just about getting in the calories, nor is it completely about the flavours of the meal and the skill of the cook – although they are important as well.

Sharing a table and eating together is about sharing life. And that idea of 'sharing' makes me think about the solidarity I have with

Rev Edward Carter, Vicar at St Peter Mancroft Church



others, as well as a sense of fairness, and of the amazing blessings that God's creation includes.

When Moses and the Israelites escaped from Egypt and began their journey through the wilderness, almost the first thing that happened was God's gift of the manna from heaven. It was that food which bound the people together and sustained them. The descrip-

tion of how they were to collect this gift of food makes it very clear that there shouldn't be any unfairness. Each person and family was to have just what they needed.

And when Jesus spoke about this manna from heaven he went on to say, 'I am the bread of life'. He placed himself – and he placed a meal – right at the heart of the relationship between God and human beings.

Harvest thanksgiving makes me think about the food I eat day by day, and about taking a bag of tins and other tasty provisions to church, ready to send on to the Foodbank.

But Harvest thanksgiving also makes me stop and think about the 'bread of life', and about the way Jesus sustains me. You see, Jesus doesn't really feed individuals as separate people – he feeds people who've gathered at a table, to share life together, and to share life with God.

Now that's a meal which is so amazing I hope I never forget it!

A story of love and war

In August the team behind the Good News for Norfolk newspaper completed their first Life Story commission, an engaging and entertaining memoir 'Love, War and Tortoises' that captures the highs and lows of 88-year old **Daphne Dennis** from Norwich.

Earlier this year, the team behind the long-standing newspaper and the Network Norfolk website launched Life Stories, a new initiative helping people turn their memories into a well written, professionally printed paperback booklet.

The first Life Story, 'Love, War and Tortoises: A Short Biography of Daphne Ruth Dennis,' came back from the printers in August.

In around 10,000 words, it tells the life story of Daphne Dennis from Thorpe St Andrew, capturing her humour, her love of people and animals, and significant episodes that have shaped her life.

Talking about the booklet, Daphne, who attends St Francis Church in Heartsease, said: "I'm ever so pleased with what you did. It's ideal for me – just what I wanted."

Growing up amidst a tight-knit family in Norwich's Sussex Street, Daphne's story tells of the devastation caused by the bombings of 1942 which destroyed her school and led to her evacuation to Lincolnshire. She recalls leaving a school she passionately disliked, finding work at the EDP and interviewing celebrities such as Val Doonican.

She recounts the joys and

Daphne Dennis in her Norwich garden with the Life Story book and dog Ruby.



anguishes of motherhood and a lifelong love of animals that led to a sanctuary for neglected tortoises.

Writing has always been one of Daphne's talents and pastimes, and over the years she had chronicled many of her memories in both poetry and narrative. Life Stories ghost writer, Jenny Seal, took these writings, along with additional stories recounted during their conversations, to create a unique and

captivating life story.

Jenny said: "Working with Daphne to produce this short biography has been so enjoyable. I have learnt a lot about Norwich during the war, how to care for tortoises and the power of memory. Daphne has lived a full life, and the good-humoured way she writes and talks will engage readers of any age."

The Life Stories team can capture

your story through a series of one-to-one interviews, resulting in multiple copies of a professionally edited A5 paperback book with a glossy colour picture cover, back and centre pages.

To find out more about this biography-writing service visit www.lifestories.org.uk, email Keith at web@networknorwich.co.uk or call 07712 787762.

Couple celebrate 'in sickness and health'

When Tom and Amy Stevenson made their wedding vows to one another a year ago, the words 'in sickness and in health' could not have been more poignant. **Sandie Shirley reports.**

The courageous couple, who celebrated their first wedding anniversary on September 1, undertook a journey of faith, hope and prayer when Tom was diagnosed with a grade four aggressive brain tumour just after he proposed to Amy. But despite everything they continued to make plans for their wedding reception at Norwich Cathedral.

Together, with their church, they stood defiant against the odds believing and trusting God would heal.

Tom explains: After gruelling treatment and lots of prayer, doctors gave the 'all clear' although they fully expected the tumour to have grown again.

"It was a big miracle," continues the Wymondham maintenance man who underwent a seven-hour operation, 30 sessions of radiotherapy and six months of chemotherapy in 2017 while his fiancé was often at his side.

In addition, the couple sought prayer from a Christian team from Andrew Womack Ministries. "Since then the colour came back into my cheeks, I became more lively and I was healed," says Tom.

Amy bought her wedding dress before the hospital scans revealed that the tumour had gone. "I was trusting God that he had put us together for a reason and we set the date because if God really wanted us to get married Tom would be well."

We lived in hope and faith and had our wedding day as a positive focus amid the difficulties she explained.

"When the day came, it was incredible. I felt so loved by friends and family and I could not stop smiling. People were so generous with their time and they were so excited that we were getting married," says Tom.

"Saying the vows – in sickness and in health – was so real because having gone through what we did, they meant a lot," explained Amy.

For Tom, it was the second time that he battled with health issues. "When I was three, my parents went through a



Tom and Amy Stevenson on their wedding day last year.

worrying time when I had a non-cancerous tumour at the back of the left eye to the bottom of the brain stem and an operation removed 80 per cent of the growth. I went through a lot, but I do not remember because I was so young," says Tom.

In April 2017, Tom had a black-out and while awaiting an investigative MRI scan, he suffered a seizure and

collapsed and was taken to hospital.

"Tests revealed a tumour on the right side of my brain. At first, I was shocked and angry because I had just proposed to Amy, but my faith has been enlarged and I am fully committed to Jesus who healed me," he said.

Although Tom still has an MRI scan every three months, he says: "I am not

defined by what happened and together we are looking to the future."

Says Amy: "We have learnt how precious life is and we want to make the most of our time together making precious memories.

"When you are tested like we were, and God has done the impossible there is not really anything he cannot do."

Churches urged to help tackle addiction

■ Norfolk Christian police officer Marie Reavey who leads the national initiative Faith and Police Together, believes God is calling the church to step up and tackle the issue of addiction and is putting together a toolkit to help.

Acting Inspector Marie said she is developing a toolkit to encourage and empower churches to get more involved in tackling addiction.

Marie said: "I believe God is calling the church to step up and start to tackle the issue of addiction which is so often not considered when social action is being looked into. Yet it is probably one of the most significant factors to the poverty and breakdown within our society."

In February a round-table conversation in Norwich with churches, faith groups and police hosted by Redeeming Our Communities, a founding member of Faith and Police Together, highlighted addiction as the second biggest issue in the city.

In a letter to Norfolk churches Marie asks others to join with her in praying for churches to see the need and get equipped to help tackle addiction.

She detailed a powerful vision she received in 2016 whilst praying for a prolific offender, an IV heroin addict. She said: "God gave me a vision (still to be fulfilled). He showed me him and his partner both following Jesus, set free from addictions and the associated issues that go with it. He got a job and for the first time in his life was paying taxes instead of claiming benefits. Social services gave their children back and they were functioning well as a family with the support of the church, so well that Social services withdrew their support from the family completely.

"As a result [in the vision] he was no longer committing crime which meant that there were fewer victims of crime and the knock-on effect of that on the victims. There was reduced demand on the police service, the criminal justice system, the prison service, the probation service, the NHS and social services. Even the education system benefited as their children were now in a stable home and were encouraged to go to school and were receiving support at home and from the wider church family. Then God said to me imagine the impact there would be if ten families were transformed like this."

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Unjust prisons plea

■ Story continued from page one

been served. However, it led to these prisoners being held far longer than their Tariffs, often because of a lack of resources to adequately assess their suitability for release.

In 2012 IPP sentences were abolished. The decision was not applied retroactively and those IPP sentences given out before 2012 remained in place. There are still 2,400 prisoners held under IPP sentences.

The Bishop of Lynn, Rev Canon Chris Copsey and Chair of the Ecumenical Criminal Justice Forum Paddy Seligman OBE have signed a letter to MPs, Ministers and those involved in prison sentencing demanding action.

The letter details the plight of the prisoners, saying "The majority were over the Tariff set by the courts. Many of these prisoners were given fairly short Tariffs and are unable to achieve the Rehabilitation courses and Accredited Offender Behaviour Programmes set out in their Prison Sentence Plans. Therefore, through no fault of their own, and largely because the Prison Service does not have the capacity or resources to put on the required courses, prisoners are unable to satisfy the criteria for release."

The letter continues: "It is considered that urgent action must take place for the IPP Prisoners because it is manifestly unfair to keep prisoners in custody over their Tariff if they have complied with all the requirements for release."

The letter outlines four recommendations including the simple solution of converting IPP sentences to determinate sentences and providing a firm release date, as well as assigning additional resources for Parole Boards to provide assessments and consider cases.

"We feel this should have been addressed ten years ago but the issue is yet to be resolved," the ECJF letter concludes.

Do faith, politics and business mix?

Breckland district councillor and cabinet member **Gordon Bambridge**, who is a Christian and a businessman, believes there is no issue at all mixing faith, politics and business. He spoke to **Kevin Gotts**.

■ Why did you get involved in politics?

■ I had been a practicing Christian for just over 30 years when I decided to enter into local politics as a district councillor. There were all sorts of reasons given to me not to do this. Almost everyone was advising against, and yet I felt a real calling to go into this strange world we call politics. I can honestly say it was one of the best things outside of faith I have ever done. My only regret is I left it a bit late.

■ Is there any conflict as a politician in also being a businessman?

■ Would that all politicians had some real-life experience. I was in commerce, trading goods from all over the world into retail and wholesale outlets in the South East England. From a standing start I had built and lost a business and was acting for other larger concerns across the UK. Even in local politics it is useful to have had real world experience. I have passed retirement age but am still active in business helping others plus I am starting a small online e-commerce website trading in coins.

■ You are a regular lay preacher, so how does this fit in?

■ Licensed in the Church of England, I regularly spoke in many denominations, plus my role in FGB Norwich. I found that the experiences gained in politics, not least the network of contacts made from the highest in the land to the most troubled and challenged people, helped in my work within the church.

It is also evident that the opposite is true. I am not the best evangelist in the world, but my role in church life has enabled me to witness in a small way across East Anglia, and in Westminster.

As others in any form of public life will confirm, talking about my faith openly is difficult. I counter this by a clear statement of my faith on all my social media – blog, Facebook, Twitter etc. This means that so often it is others who raise faith matters with me.

■ What time commitment does the role take?

■ It does take a big time commitment. When I started out politically in 2003, I shared this with fellow Christians, and we all made a commitment. To be an effective back bench rural district councillor takes an average minimum of 10 hours per week, some daytime, some evenings, some actual work, some reading, some telephone and a lot, nowadays, of internet. If you can-



Breckland district councillor Gordon Bambridge.

not give that then do not do it. But the reward more than compensates for the commitment.

Now, 16 years on, I am a senior member with cabinet responsibility. I usually spend about 30 hours a week on council business. My portfolio is planning, which is one of the biggest on any council. It also includes infrastructure for the district, and strategic housing, but this fits well with my lifestyle and I believe I am doing a good job.

■ Which political party do you think is the most Christian?

■ I believe there are Christians in most political parties. I am a Christian and believe that the Conservative Party and its principles most closely match my evangelical Christian stance. Over the years I have met Labour, Liberal and UKIP Christians. By that I mean those politicians who practice their faith. Conservatives are generally an extremely moral party and within my group, I always have the ability to

act on conscience and what we call ward matters rather than follow a whip.

■ How does being a man of faith help with decisions about people?

■ From day one of being a councillor you do start to make decisions which affect people's lives. It may be matters on planning, of housing, of benefits. So, we do have to assess situations sometimes with applicants from both sides of an argument.

As a church leader and a businessman, long before I became a politician, I was used to doing this. As you are promoted in politics you do tend to make more decisions which affect people's lives directly. I find that to do this, being scrupulously honest is always the very best way.

Never say you can do what you cannot, and always follow up on every promise.

Mostly I feel that I can help to improve people's lives.

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Couple's climate concern

Norwich church members, **Jim and Sue Green**, are motivated by their Christian faith to actively engage in the current climate breakdown protest movement. **Helen Baldry** reports.

Sue and Jim's concern started in the 1980s when they started supporting Tear Fund. More recently volunteering at the Tear Fund cafe at New Wine sharpened their awareness of the impact of climate change on the poor. Sue's view was: "How can I not do something about this?"

The couple, who live in Thorpe St Andrew, have also been supporters of Green Christian and also the growing group Christian Climate Action (CCA). Over the last year the number of people on the mailing list has risen from about 50 to 350. With this group they have taken part in small scale action, for example holding a vigil at fracking sites and performing a sketch outside the Church of England's HQ in Westminster to highlight its continued investment in fossil fuels. CCA start all action in prayer, explained Jim: "It's most definitely about Jesus and is grounded in prayer, honesty and reality."

They have undertaken training with Extinction Rebellion (XR), an international activist group that uses non-violent methods to persuade those in power to take action on environment issues. The foundation of the movement is on telling the truth about climate change – a message that seems to be getting through. Christian Aid commissioned a poll which found that 71% of people thought that climate change was more important than Brexit issues, rising to 77% among church-going Christians.

Jim said: "People venture into something like this because they care. Often at actions you get talking and you discover it's the first time those around you have done anything like it."

People from all walks of life take part in the protests and Jim and Sue have had opportunities to share their faith because they are frequently asked why they do it. The experience of a rally can be fun and participants use creative ways of expressing their concerns. Recalling a critical mass cycle ride, Sue said: "I felt empowered, realising that I have a voice."

She sometimes admits that she feels grief, when another negative report is publicised. However, in June parlia-

ment decided to set up a Citizens Assembly on climate breakdown. Increasingly the situation is referred to in the media as a 'climate emergency'.

For Jim and Sue, their involvement is an act of obedience; they are not just doing it for the outcome, because that is not guaranteed, but also for the process. They believe it is the right thing to do and is a responsibility as a disciple of Jesus.

The couple have made lifestyle changes. Sue said: "We are all complicit in the situation and are responsible for adding to the problem. However, there is plenty we can do to tread more lightly on the earth, including considering the transport we use, eating a more plant-based diet and ensuring our homes are more energy efficient. None of us does enough, but what we do individually is important. It's about who we are."

Although XR protests are always peaceful and respectful, it is part of the strategy to take action which leaves people open to arrest. Each time, Jim carefully considers his role and how far he is prepared to go. He said: "There is no pressure on you. You don't have to do anything you don't want to do, and any-

way supporting, non-arrestable roles are vital. You have to be able to justify

what you're doing."

Jim took part in recent arrestable action organised by XR at Westminster called 'The Blood of Our Children' where each of 40 participants poured a bucket of fake blood on the road at Whitehall, symbolic of the risk to future generations, and of the people who suffer in the world right now due to climate change.

Jim said: "I found it really emotional, God was challenging me. Was it the right thing to do? I've always known doing nothing is the wrong thing to do."

Recently Sue and Jim hosted an event at St Francis Church, at which there was an Extinction Rebellion (XR) presentation. Sue said: "This was because we are passionate about Christians engaging with what we feel is the most pressing issue of our time. We are delighted that, partly as a result of this, there is a growing connection between XR and St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich."

On September 18, from 7 – 9pm, XR will be presenting 'Heading For Extinction - and what to do about it' at St Peter Mancroft Church. Also, at the XR Car Free Sunday action in Norwich city centre on September 22, Rev Fiona Howarth of St Peter Mancroft will be leading a Christian presence and witness, along with Rev Heather Cracknell.

For more details see:

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Queen's honour for Janet

In her four decades of living in the small South Norfolk village of Brockdish, Churchwarden **Janet Croxson** has made a big contribution, which has been recognised by the Queen. **Jenny Seal** reports.

On October 7, in recognition of her dedicated service to the local community, Janet, a Churchwarden of St Peter and St Paul's Church, will be presented with a British Empire Medal awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Husband Peter Croxson describes his wife Janet as the "gel that holds the community together". "She won't say it," he says, "so I will!"

Janet's many roles serving the pretty village of Brockdish speak for themselves.

As well as being Churchwarden, Jan is also the Chair of Brockdish Village Hall where she recently raised funds for a village defibrillator. She is Chair of the Village Magazine, that keeps each of the 265 households updated with local happenings and, until 2016, Jan was a Governor of Brockdish Primary School, which had to close that year due to lack of numbers. She also coordinates the Open the Book team, going into Harleston Primary Academy each week to share Bible stories.

Janet, 75, was nominated for a Queen's honour in recognition of her 'services to the community in Brockdish', by her husband Peter and two others, including Rev Nigel Tuffnell, Rector of the Benefice of Redenhall with Scole.

"It's lovely to be recognized and appreciated for what you do," said Jan, "but let's be honest, if I didn't enjoy doing it and want to do it, I wouldn't be doing it. I think there is something in you [she points upwards] that makes you feel it's your role. It becomes a way of life. I don't think it's that special."

"It's special to people in the village," interjects her husband Peter gently.

Originally from Kent, Jan moved



to her cottage in Brockdish just over 40 years ago from Canada where she lived for 12 years with her first husband. "I was told after 30 years of living here that I was now of the village!" she jokes. "I was no longer an in-comer!"

'Close to the southern border of Norfolk, Brockdish is a historic, rural village – almost a fifth of its houses are listed buildings. "We've got no shop", said Jan, "we've got the pub which is quite a hub, the church and the village hall."

It was in the early 1990s that Jan rediscovered her faith and started going to St Peter and St Paul's, the medieval church that stands apart from the village. It was here that Jan got the urge to do something special for the community.

"One Sunday I was just sitting there when all of a sudden, I thought this church needs a flower festival," she said. "That was the first big thing that I did. I didn't know how to go about it. It was a big learning curve. But that was the start of it all and I've been doing it for the church ever since. It brings the community together. I absolutely love it."

Ever since Jan has been motivated to make the church a welcoming and open place. "If anyone moves into the village," she said, "I make a point of writing a 'welcome to your new home and village' card, on behalf of the church. It's the same with births, deaths or marriages."

"We want people to know that the church is here, and they are welcome to come regardless of whether they are Christian or whatever – the door is open, please come in. It's just a little reaching out. If we can draw people in, it's so important."

"And our congregation is getting bigger," she said with delight. "We're in double figures now! Percentage-wise, considering the size of the population and how many come to church, we're as good as Harleston as a town, so we're quite chuffed."

As churchwarden, Jan has put together a rota to ensure the church is open every day from dawn to dusk. "Our church is rather special," she said. "Every window is stained glass. It dates back to the 11th century. There is a great sense of peace. It's very welcoming. We're very proud of that. A lot of people who

do the Angles Way call in and there are always lovely comments in the visitors' book."

In 2016, Jan invited Baroness Elaine Murphy, a fellow resident of Brockdish, to write a history of the church. "She did a fantastic job and we've got a wonderful church guide," said Jan. This month, for the first time, Baroness Murphy will give a guided tour of the church.

Presently, as her husband recovers from an operation, Jan is using the time to book next year's calendar of community fundraising events for the church's upkeep and parish share. "We do regular quizzes and we usually have about 100 people," she said. "Because Peter's not able to get out, I've been sat here planning three concerts next year and six quiz nights, and possibly an Open Gardens."

Janet endeavours to keep the cost of the concerts low so the whole village can enjoy them. She said, "Whenever there's an event, there are always Jan's Jams for sale. Peter helps me. We make lots of jams and lots of marmalades and that helps us buy refreshments for the concerts. So we manage to keep the

prices down which encourages people to come. I feel my role is helping to keep the community as a community."

In May, the letter arrived telling her she was to be awarded a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, a month before the public announcement.

"I just started crying, I was just so overwhelmed," she said. "It was a big secret and, of course, they ask you not to tell anybody. So, I couldn't tell anybody for a month and I just wanted to tell my children."

On the night before the Queen's official birthday, Janet and her husband Peter were babysitting their granddaughter at their daughter's house. "In the morning when it was finally official," Janet said, "I went into my daughter's room and woke her up to show her the letter – it was 6 o'clock in the morning!"

On October 7, the Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, Lady Dannatt, will present Janet with her British Empire Medal at the Great Hospital. "We get afternoon tea and next year we will be invited to go to a garden party," she said. "So that's all rather lovely."

Town Pastors in the pink at Latitude Festival

Pink sheep and pink Festival Pastors are two of the best-known elements of the popular Latitude music and arts festival which took place at Henham Park in Suffolk at the end of July. **Keith Morris** reports.

While the 40,000 festival-goers were entertained by George Ezra, Imelda May and the Stereophonics, teams of Christian Festival Pastors such as Richard from Lowestoft and Anne from Ipswich were going around the huge campsite giving a helping hand and a cheerful word to campers.

Dressed in their own distinctive pink high-vis jackets and armed with a tent peg mallet, Love Hearts, chocolate bars, saline wipes and flasks of water, the popular Festival Pastors patrol the vast campsite in pairs helping people put up tents, find lost friends and provide a friendly face.

In the hour I spent with them, Richard and Anne certainly made their mark. They cheered up bored security staff, helped families who had just arrived put up their tents, advised them where to pitch their tents and gave out chocolates and Love Hearts to children.

Meanwhile, other Pastors helped after an incident when a young festival-goer was very ill after possibly being given a spiked drink. They were able to comfort her



Festival Pastors Richard and Anne in action at Latitude.

distressed friend.

Festival Pastors are there to help people and look out for those who may find themselves in a vulnerable situation. Patrols go on from 8am all day and up to 3 or 4am in the morning.

All are Christian volunteers from the Town Pastors charity which provides teams to regularly patrol the weekend night-time streets of towns across Suffolk and Norfolk, such as Lowestoft, Felixstowe, Ipswich,

Leiston, Dereham and Haverhill.

Volunteers working with the Festival Pastors, who have been serving the festival since 2011, also staff an inviting café offering the best-value drinks and the friendliest staff on site.

An art installation and working artist could also be found there alongside live Christian music from professional musicians Bean Baker and Jon Kendall.

As well as the 73-strong on-site

team, the pastors' work is supported by a 24-hour prayer operation across the whole country to pray for the festival and in particular for the work of the Town Pastors.

Co-ordinating the team, and the massive effort required to produce such a service, is general manager Major Barry Willson, from Norwich.

Barry said: "My role takes off in January when we are in contact with Festival Republic regarding the possibility of forming a team to work

at Latitude in the summer.

"They invite us to work alongside them and in return they provide resources like the marquee, water, electricity and wristbands for the team.

"The operation costs us to the tune of around £8,000 a year. This comes from the café income, donations and some Police funds," said Barry, who is also finance director of Town Pastors. It is a relatively expensive operation for us for a short period of time but we think it is worth every penny.

"We are part of the welfare team on site and our role is to keep people at the festival as safe as we can alongside the security and other staff here. The pastors will do anything they can to help people, put up tents, give out chocolates and safety messages.

"Incidents dealt with in the past include domestic violence and a bereavement when a young mother died and her young children were cared for on site. We also have conversations starting in the café with young Christians and others who are trying to work out their life paths, for example."

Barry, who also has a number of other major voluntary roles including co-ordinating the Norwich Soup Run and the Salvation Army Tins and Toys Appeal, is stepping back after the event and it will be his last year on site after eight years, two of which he worked as café manager, and the last three he served as general manager. He will still be involved behind the scenes.

www.festivalpastors.org.uk

Survivor talks about Rwandan genocide

■ Rwandan genocide survivor Illuminée Nganemariya will talk about her experience in Rwanda during the genocide in 1994 and her subsequent life in Norwich at an event on October 23.

The evening marks 25 years since the genocide and is part of Black History Month. Illuminée will be in conversation with Paul Dickson, who assisted her to write her book 'Miracle in Kigali'.

How does it feel to wake up every morning for more than three months facing the prospect that you and your newborn baby are likely to be brutally murdered that day?

This was the experience of Illuminée, a young Tutsi bride. By a seeming miracle, she and her son Roger survived the 1994 attempt by Rwanda's Hutu extremists to wipe their Tutsi neighbours from the face of the earth.

Illuminée existed for 100 days in the living hell of Kigali, Rwanda's capital, after watching her husband be dragged away to be killed by friends who had celebrated their wedding with them a month earlier.

She embarked on a horrific journey through the genocide, with her baby strapped to her back – their survival was a miracle.

Illuminée and Roger moved to the UK in September 1996 and have built a new life in Norwich.

A new anniversary edition of Miracle In Kigali has been published and it updates Illuminée and Roger's story, including Roger's developing film and TV acting career. He was most recently seen as Dadir Hassan in the BBC drama Informer

The free event takes place from 5.30-7pm at Revelation, St Michael-at-Plea Church, Redwell Street, Norwich.

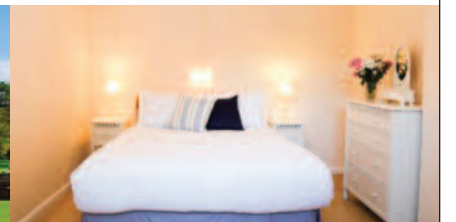
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A 10-strong team, all from **Hope Community Church Wymondham**, has helped shine out a message of hope and faith at a thriving Christian school in the Czech Republic.

Sandie Shirley reports.



Fun and games at the Noë school in the Czech Republic.



The Hope team including Elisabeth Louis (far right) and husband Steve (front).

Faith mission at Czech school

Children's worker, Elisabeth Louis, helped mount a life-changing prayer and gospel mission at a city school in Pardubice, 60 miles east of Prague in June. It also paved the way for a possible educational and cultural exchange with a Wymondham primary school after

one of its teachers joined the trip in June and pupils exchanged letters.

Some members of the team have been building relationships and sharing their faith with staff and children at Noë (pronounced 'Noah') Christian Elementary School for the last three years after a combined Rela-

tional Mission trip by Norfolk churches in 2017 and 2018. This summer, two older students from Noë travelled to England for the Christian Newday festival at the Norfolk Showground.

Less than 30 years since the Czech Republic emerged from Communism, there is a growing openness to the gospel and Noë school is building on its strong Christian foundation through prayer and commitment.

"It is a very significant place in the city; it is seen as a school of light with the heart of Jesus," says Elisabeth.

Birthing with prayer and hard work, it opened nine years ago with support from various established churches in Pardubice. The school began with a class of six-year-olds and a new class has been added annually; now there are 170 pupils up to the age of 15-years and a waiting list.

"For various reasons members from other Norfolk Relational Mission churches could not visit the school this year and a trip looked doubtful but in answer to prayer, a self-financing team of children's workers from Hope Community Church Wymondham, including a 15-year-old member, managed to continue the work that occurs in the

closing week of the summer term," said Elisabeth.

"We are not strangers anymore and the children remember our names so we could start where we left off," added Elisabeth who recalls being greeted by a little girl wearing a Union Jack.

As with previous years, the remit was to help the children with their English while engaging them in Bible teaching activities as team members shared their faith. It meant preparing and leading assemblies and classes with Bible stories, using games, craft activities and testimonies as well as sharing their work with parents at the final school assembly.

"Each morning we would meet to pray with staff despite our different languages, which did not matter. The head teacher told us not to hold back with prayer, so we were able to pray specifically for older children when they had concerns in their young lives or had family members who were sick.

"For the first time we were also able to pray God's blessing and guidance over the older children before they left the school to move onto the next stage of their education; it was the highlight for me," said Elisabeth.

Friendships deepened as team members – some new and some who

had been two or three times before – stayed in dormitories above the school. They lived, worked, worshipped and prayed together during an imaginative programme that included hosting a bumper traditional English tea with 200 scones (brought from the UK along with tea) and jam as part of an outside presentation to parents, family and friends in sweltering temperatures nearing 40°C.

"There were also opportunities outside school hours to hear encouraging stories from the staff, so we prayed with them and for them for what they are seeking to do in Pardubice," said Elisabeth.

Contact continues throughout the year with teachers, especially Czech-born Michelle Foster who, together with her English husband Pete, helped issue an invitation to the Norfolk Relational Mission churches to build on and encourage the work at the school and the supportive work of the Oaks church which the couple help oversee.

"They have connected and gathered with Christians and non-Christians in the city and accompanied two older pupils to England for the Newday event which is held at the Norfolk Showground each year," said Elisabeth.

REVELATION

Poetry Evening Sep 27

Inspired by Relationship, Spirituality and Prayer
Charlotte Carter, Brian Thorne & Steve Foyster read selections from their own poetry.

7.30 - 9pm

£10 incl fork buffet

Miracle in Kigali Oct 23

Illuminee Nganemariya in conversation with Paul Dickson, 25 years on from the Rwandan genocide.

An event for Black History month.

5.30 - 7pm

Free event



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Global role for retired Rev

A spiritual jolt during a conference in 2016 compelled retired church minister from Thorpe St Andrew, **Rev David Adams**, to take on a new development role for the global mission organisation World Outreach International. **Jenny Seal** reports.

As UK Development Director for World Outreach, David Adams sees a pressing need to take Christianity to unreached people now. "Mission is becoming more difficult," he said. "We need to do all we can now because we don't know what freedoms will be taken away."

Rev David Adams (71) retired in 2014 from Norwich's Witard Road Baptist Church, where he was well-known for his passionate preaching.

He and his wife, Sandra, who have six children, were born and lived most of their lives in Thorpe. Yet David's path to becoming an advocate of World Outreach has been global.

It began in 1977 when David and his young family moved to Dallas, Texas so that he could study theology. Working as part of a scholarship scheme, he became friends with a fellow international student, Kitbok Ryntathaing from North-East India.

"Kitbok used to say to me, 'one of these days you'll come and visit my land,'" David said. "And in my heart, I was saying, 'not on your life'. I didn't like the heat, I didn't like curry, I was from Norwich in the 1970s. The Lord had to do a real work on me. It took from then until 1991".

After he did visit in 1991, David began to punctuate his Norwich ministry with regular trips to India. Kitbok was, by then, a mission partner of World Outreach and asked David to join the team to train local ministers in North-East India in Christian leadership.

The visits were intense. David would lead back-to-back seminars for a week in one place and then travel to a new location, often in a very poor rural district, to repeat the same seminars with another group of Christian leaders. Hundreds of local pastors would travel great distances to be there, hungry for the teaching.

"People were so poor that they didn't have money to go to Bible College. It was very practical teaching to help them establish and run and see a church expand."

On some of these visits David also had the privilege of preaching the Gospel in places for the first time. On one visit in 1995, Kitbok asked David to accompany him to a village deep in the Garo Hills of the Indian state of Meghalaya.

"They had never had anybody preach the Gospel to them," said David. "So, we went there, and I preached on the side of the hill, outside one of their huts. There were no microphones, I just had to shout. I preached from John 3:16. I gave an altar call and prayed. I never heard a thing for months. I had to ask Kitbok, 'what happened in that village?' He said, 'There's a church there now'. We never really know what effect we have on people."

When David retired from Witard Road he was visited by the International Director of World Outreach, John Elliott, who came to Norwich to ask David whether he'd consider becoming a UK Board Member for the mission agency. David agreed. "It became a journey of frustration," he said. "The board was very administratively focused. For the first three



years, all I'm doing is looking at figures."

"Then in 2016, John Elliott encouraged me to come to the World Summit in Chiang Mai in Thailand," said David. "Early on in the conference, someone read Matthew 24:14 which says, 'And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.'"

"The thing that struck me was that Jesus can't come back until all nations or people groups have had an opportunity to respond to the Gospel. So, I thought, 'what am I doing about that?' And the answer was, 'Precious little'. I said, 'I'm going to say I don't want to be on the board to shuffle bits of paper. I want to be proactive'."

"I went to the board, and they said, 'we've been waiting for somebody to say that for years!' The next thing I know they are calling me the UK Development Director for World Outreach!"

David has taken on this new role with characteristic enthusiasm. "I will do whatever I can to do what I can," he said. And, so as well as mission trips to Macedonia, Thailand and India, he also regularly travels to UK churches to speak and takes part in Mission Roadshows at universities.

World Outreach has a focus on presenting the Gospel to unreached people groups around the world, which includes an estimated 3 billion people. David said: "World Outreach is currently working in 149 unreached people groups in 70 countries around the world with over 250 expat missionaries. It might take years to present the Gospel because you have to build a relationship. And you may have to help the people economically before you earn the right to share the Gospel."

David takes pride in the lean budget that World Outreach runs on. His role is voluntary,

and every missionary must raise their funding. "It's amazing," he said. "Worldwide there are only a handful of paid staff. In the UK if we get a gift that isn't Gift Aided the whole amount goes to the mission field. If it is Gift Aided, we take 5% of just the Gift Aid as an admin fee, and the rest goes to the mission field."

Having seen the impact of recent political changes in India first-hand, David is acutely aware of the threats to mission. In March he was in India and due to preach at three evangelistic meetings in Assam. "On the preceding Monday," he said, "we got a message to say that some of the Hindu people had seen posters put up by the Christians advertising it. They went to the authorities, who withdrew permission. So, I never went to that particular area."

"The last Sunday I was there I preached in a church that had been established in a Hindu community. They had endured no end of persecution and problems. But the first thing you see is the smiling face of the pastor of the church, full of joy. They suffer physically, get abused and attacked and yet they carry on."

"A third of the missionaries with World Outreach now have to work under pseudonyms because of the dangers and for their security," David said. "What that says to me is that while there is the opportunity to go, go – because it could be withdrawn at any time."

David would be happy to speak to churches and groups about World Outreach. You can email him at david.adams@world-outreach.com www.world-outreach.com/gb

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Steph's mission to empower lives

Thetford church pastor and mother of three **Steph Williams** helps women live connected and empowered lives – a mission that even saved one woman's life. **Sandie Shirley reports.**

Steph's desire is to encourage mostly Christian women in their workplace, community and family through gifted songwriters and speakers sharing their compelling stories and heartfelt missions for God at the annual 'Flourish' conference.

Steph – along with her team, will host the fifth 'Flourish' event on October 19 that includes guest artist Philippa Hanna at The Apex in Bury St Edmunds to share a message to 'Rise Up'.

"We aim to relate and be 'real' and one woman wanted me to know that attendance in the past stopped her from committing suicide – it is amazing that God could use the conference to do that," said Steph.

"'Flourish' is about sharing encouraging stories, to gain the tools for everyday life, so we are better able to do what God has called us to. It is easy to slip into the busyness of life but it's important that we take the time to remember what we were made for and who we were made by," she says.

Unafraid to break new ground, Steph has pursued a passionate adventure to reach women of all cul-

tures and ages with her team from Liberty Church. Keen to forge relationships with unchurched women has meant joining community initiatives, championing women and running a host of unique events as a 'stepping-stone' to church with future invitations to Easter, Christmas and Mother's Day services.

Being green can be challenging and hard work, Steph says. "Although I have a university degree in performing arts no amount of education can prepare me to talk clearly and with truth from the heart of God as his mouthpiece. It is all about honouring God and not me (or the team) – I am just one person who said yes to an idea he gave me."

Steph grew up in the church. She was a 19-year-old youth worker, at a women's conference when she believes she first heard God's prompting for a mission with women. She felt an unlikely candidate but 17 years later there's a growing ministry as she and co-pastor husband, Phil, dared to believe and trust.

The first 'Flourish' conference was held at Thetford's Carnegie Room in 2015. Two years later they booked the Apex at Bury St Edmunds, seating 500, and guest speaker was author and evangelist J John. Past guests have also included the Daughters of Davis, Ben Cooley from Hope for Justice and Arianna Walker, Executive Director of Mercy Ministries UK.

One of the keys to growth has been unity and networking with women from Thetford's churches and beyond to share ideas and encouragement.

And working with a planning team of 10, along with many volunteers from Liberty Church, begins more than a year in advance of every conference.

Reaching women outside the church has involved visits to an old people's home and the hospital premature baby unit with gifts while teenage mums have been invited to a huge baby shower. Women who have made a difference to Thetford have also been honoured including a fitness instructor who mounts an annual community event and a mother who raises cancer awareness after losing her young daughter to the disease.

Eleven years ago, a 'no preach' fun evening was launched for Christian women to invite their unchurched friends to – whether they were 16 or 96. Today 'Beautiful' runs three times a year (February, July and November) and there are more non-Christian attendees than Christians.

The diverse programme has included pampering, cream teas, jewellery sales, chocolate fountains and songs from the theatre. There is also news of church and social action programmes, a table quiz that encourages conversations and Steph may share a stirring five-minute thought or interview.

"Even if just one person walks out of 'Beautiful' and decides to return to church, we have done what we have set out to do," says Steph. The next 'Beautiful' event will be held at the Carnegie Room, Thetford on November 16, 7pm-9pm.

www.flourishconference.co.uk
www.libertycentre.org.uk

Thetford church pastor Steph Williams.



Record numbers attend Sheringham churches'

The BeachLife activity outreach for children and young people on Sheringham cliff top and beach at the end of August was another huge success, attracting around 300 children and young people, which is more than ever before. **Tony Rothe reports.**

■ This was the eighth successive summer that BeachLife has taken place, and each year the event has built on the success of the previous years. It is a joint venture by the churches in Sheringham, aimed at engaging with local youngsters as well as holidaymakers. Feedback from parents and children has been very positive and encouraging.

The activities each day included the "Beach Special", where all ages came together at the cliff-top marquee on The Leas for music, silly games, drama and challenges, and to introduce the day's theme, which this year was Epic Explorers. The gunge tank featured again this



year, with one of the leaders getting covered in slime each day.

The mornings also included the "Going Deeper" sessions where the children and young people split into age-groups to explore that day's theme in more depth before breaking

for lunch. There was also a pop-up café offering free teas and coffees to parents of the children who were attending.

The afternoons comprised a family tide fight, a beach sculpture of the BeachLife logo, the egg parachute challenge, outdoor games and

giant inflatables. The week was rounded off with a beach scavenger hunt on the Friday. Evening activities for young people included the return of the popular "Sheropoly" trail around the town and swimming at the local Splash pool.

Peter Skivington, from the organising team, said "We've had a fabulous week, with the opportunity to impact well over 300 young lives with the message that Jesus loves them and cares about them. That has to be worth celebrating. There are around 60 volunteers on the team, all working together as a great team to share the Good News with the youngsters in the glorious setting of the clifftops and beach in Sheringham."

Next year's outreach is expected to run during the last week of the summer holidays again, starting on September 1. Sheringham youngsters will not have to wait until next summer to continue the fun, however, as the team are already starting to plan an event on October 31, and another during February half-term.

Visit: www.sheringhambeachlife.co.uk
Also: www.facebook.com/sbeachlife/

The first minister of music

With over 70 recordings to his name, Norfolk musician **Roger Mayor** was the Church of England's first-ever Minister of Music and is used to leading crowds of over 10,000 people in worship. **Kevin Gotts** reports.

Roger, who now lives in a village near Norwich with wife Penny, is a well-known composer, music arranger, pianist and producer.

Originally from Cheshire, he recalls that 'my parents and grandparents prayed that I would grow up to be a servant of the Lord. I had started learning piano at the age of five, and by the age of 12 I felt God was calling me into my life's work of music ministry.'

Steeped in Christian worship music all his life, Roger received a classical music training in New York and London. Then, having studied at Capernwray Bible College in the early 1970s, he trained to be a teacher in London.

In 1977, Roger was called to full-time music ministry, initially on Merseyside and later in leading music for the international Keswick Convention, and many other national Christian events.

"After a year playing the piano at Keswick I was invited to bring about the transition to a contemporary worship band, leading up to 10,000 people in worship over three weeks' of meetings in the giant marquee," he said.



Roger Mayor at his piano in his Norfolk home.

In 1989 Roger served on the music committee and played at several venues for Dr Billy Graham's Mission '89 in London.

Of his many CDs, his album Gentle Touch won a coveted Album of the Year Award in 1996. In 2005, his hour-long choral work – Julian: Mystical Revelations – won critical acclaim when it was performed and recorded in front of a capacity

audience in Norwich Cathedral.

Through the various trials and challenges of life, and following a cancer diagnosis in 2011, Roger says: "The Lord impressed on me that whatever the question, 'Love is the answer' for all human relationships, especially in families and in the Church. For all of us, there's no situation that God's love cannot reach, or any reason to carry guilt like a heavy

load on our backs."

With the company he founded, SRS Music, he had a long and fruitful career combining his love of teaching with his studio music production and arranging skills. Roger produced over 70 recordings for numerous schools and colleges, as well as for relatively unknown solo artists who then went on to enjoy successful careers as singers or instrumentalists.

Latterly he founded a music ensemble in Norfolk called Bella Musica, whose members are all committed Christians with outstanding music careers. Roger is strongly aware of the power of music to bring the love and healing of the Gospel into the lives of many who are seeking love and wholeness.

His own diagnosis of Stage 4 cancer in 2011 has reinforced his desire to serve the Lord with gladness all the days of his life, and makes for a powerful testimony to God's gracious healing in his own life.

"I am passionate that my life and music must reflect the warmth and grace God has shown to me," he says.

Sometimes described as the "quiet man at the piano", he is softly spoken and carries in his heart and in his manner the quiet confidence of having walked with the Lord through the many storms that life brings.

"As God's hand has been upon me, so He has given me two hands to play the piano and keyboard in order to bring blessing, and two ears to listen to the needs of others," he said.

Roger and Penny have made their home in a village some eight miles from Norwich with their beloved golden retriever Charlie. The couple are involved in their village church community with Roger serving as an Authorised Worship Assistant, organist and keyboard player.

With his team of professional musicians he has presented several concerts of inspirational music in his home village and in churches around Norfolk, celebrating the inspirational diversity of music in its many forms.

Further information about Bella Musica and the availability of the group for concerts can be obtained from roger.mayor@btinternet.com www.rogermayor.com

Beachlife activity week



The Beachlife tide fight, above and huge beach logo, left. Photos by Gareth Gabriel Film and Photo <http://filmandphoto.com>

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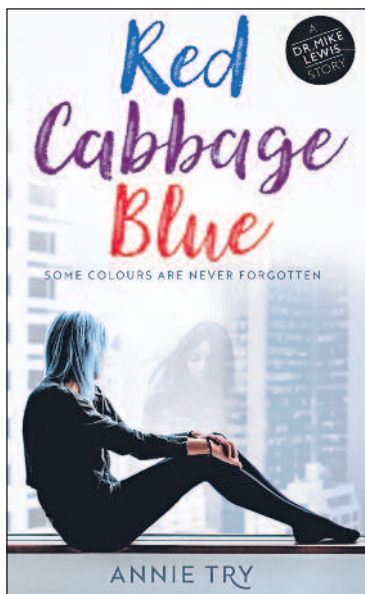
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Novel examines mental health

Retired clinical psychologist, **Angela Hobday**, from West Norfolk, has taken up the pen to bring a new awareness to mental health issues through her novels including the latest, *Red Cabbage Blue*, published by Instant Apostle on September 19. **Sandie Shirley** reports.



Angela Hobday with some of her books.

Angela was a clinical psychologist for 30 years before doing an MA in Creative Writing. She draws on her experience as a psychologist to portray fictional plots, characters and a medley of difficult

emotions and situations that bring drama and understanding.

She is also passionate about encouraging other writers who are Christians. She holds monthly meetings at her home near Downham

Market and is the current chair of the nationwide Association of Christian Writers (ACW).

She writes novels as Annie Try. Her debut, *Losing Face* (Roundfire Books) was published in 2011 while *Trying to Fly* and *Out of Silence* were published in 2017 (both by Instant Apostle) as part of the series about fictional psychologist, Mike Lewis.

"Each of the Dr Mike Lewis stories involves a mystery or dilemma to be solved," said Angela. "*Red Cabbage Blue* is the latest Dr Mike Lewis story and features the extraordinary life and discoveries of 22-year-old Bluedelle who eats, drinks, wears and lives surrounded by the colour blue."

Angela's fiction mirrors the difficult realities that can be experienced by mental health sufferers. Her powerful written messages breach a world of darkness and loss that includes topics such as facial disfigurement, adoption, life as an agoraphobic, unresolved grief, relationships and the challenges of a mute asylum seeker.

"As a clinical psychologist, I wanted to do something about how those with mental health problems are viewed by others. They are interesting people with their own lives, thoughts and ambitions and are so much more than their diagnosis. Many have to struggle to overcome adversity to do ordinary daily things and then they hold down a job or achieve great things on top of that."

She says: "Everybody has to find their own writing style and I like to use the first person so I can get under the skin of the character and believe in them as real people. Often the story just takes off if I have written a good character."

Losing Face takes the form of Word documents, interspersed with emails and features the accident and recovery of a young girl who sustains facial injuries and loss of an eye in a car crash. The story is set against a backdrop of friendship, relationships and challenged values.

Angela attended a psychology conference about visible differences, which was later followed by a seminar about children and adolescents. It revealed a gap in the market. "There were books written for boys with facial scarring but nothing for girls, so I ditched the book I was writing and had the plot for *Losing Face* by the time I had driven home," says Angela.

Writing was a childhood pastime. "While my sisters played the piano or painted pictures, I would write to relax. I later wrote professionally, as a psychologist, producing information sheets and articles and co-authoring four books in the Creative Therapy series."

She has found writing support through the Association of Christian Writers. It produces regular magazines with news updates as well as writers' days, competitions, manuscript criticism and prayer support. The nearest group in Cambridge was too far to travel so Angela set up a Norfolk ACW group, Brecks, Fens and Pens, at her home nearly ten years ago.

Those first tentative steps led to ACW committee roles as Groups' Co-ordinator and four years ago she became Chair as she continues to forge the charity's aim to encourage, equip and inspire writers who are Christians.

Throughout her latest role, the committee has helped launch a members' Facebook page and prayer space; heightened pastoral care needs and, with enhanced communication, has better equipped the committee to work together. The writers' days have also expanded to cover more of the country and the number of local groups has grown.

Says Angela: "Writers can be evangelists through their writing, so it is important they are continually seeking God's will, honing their skills and have encouragement to prepare their work for publication."

"Writing can be a lonely occupation, sometimes not knowing where our writing is going and if anyone will appreciate it. But when we look at our Norfolk group it is a real joy to see how people have blossomed and gained in confidence by meeting and supporting each other."

Angela's books can be purchased through Amazon or ordered through local bookshops.

www.christianwriters.org.uk

Do you have a heart for young people?

Why not become a Supported Lodgings or Nightstop host?

If you are willing to provide a young person in need with a room in your home and support them on their journey, we would love to hear from you.

YMCA Norfolk is looking for hosts for vulnerable young people and has both paid and volunteer opportunities, from just one night or up to two years.

You won't be alone in this, YMCA Norfolk will help by providing training and ongoing support.

To find out more please contact our friendly Supported Lodgings team:

YMCA Community Housing, 29-34 Anglia Square, Norwich, NR3 1DZ

E: community.housing@ymcanorfolk.org

T: 01603 662455

www.ymcanorfolk.org



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YMCA

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION