



**Transforming
Norwich**

Making Norwich a Fine Community

June 2009

Annual report



Chairman's Report

Nicholas Vesey

This year we have been building on the work that John Betts undertook over the last four years, and I want to thank him for his unstinting support this year as our Development Officer.

By its nature, Churches Together in Greater Norwich is a collaborative affair, and I would also like to thank the whole 'executive' who have worked hard on behalf of us all.

One of the things John initiated was the 'Letter to the Church in Norwich'. Our attempt to listen to what God had to say to us as a church. Part of that letter spoke of the need to 'work together as one body', and that has influenced much of what we have attempted.

The 'Mission Fair' in January



brought many people together (see report inside), as has the work we have been doing to encourage ministers to pray together.

We were visited by John Oleyede, and in June Pete Greig will be coming to us from Holy Trinity Brompton.

Helping the homeless

We have produced, with the help of St Martin's Housing and The Salvation Army, a guide to helping people on the doorstep, which seemed to be well received.

Good Friday

At Easter we had the traditional march, but this time in silence as a mark of

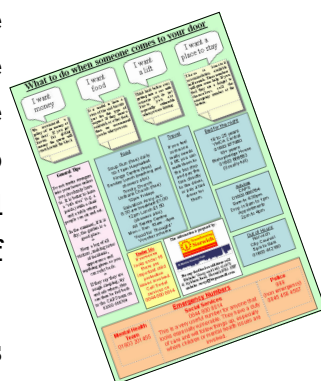
reconciliation. The street pastors leading us.

Graham Kendrick

In April we organised a very successful concert with Graham Kendrick. Over 600 people came and it was a great joy to see the Cathedral and the King's Centre working so closely together.

Working together

We are hoping that these initiatives will build and that next year we will all be working together even more closely.



Development Officer

John Betts

The fields are white unto harvest in Norwich. There is great scope and opportunity for advancing the Kingdom in many and varied ways.

Community Action Fair

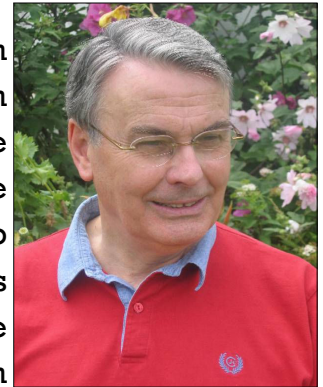
This year has seen action on several fronts. The major one has been the preparation for this year's Church Community Action Fair, "What we do when it's not Sunday." Two days in the Forum 11th & 12th June 2009, with displays from numerous Christian ministries and a Civic Reception on the Thursday evening. There has been a great response to this initiative from both the Christian Organisations and the churches. To put such an event on takes a years work behind the scenes but the result should prove to be worthwhile. I wish to express my appreciation of our sponsors YMCA Norfolk.



Planning

Two other areas have received attention during the year. In a time when many churches are finding difficulty in obtaining planning permission for new buildings and development of existing buildings it seemed good to a number of us to talk together and consider a corporate approach. City Hall increas-

ingly talks of working in partnership with the faith community, and we are happy about this. We are confident that we can help move many of the city's objectives forward. We are working towards a high



level meeting with City Hall in order to explore together our mutual problem with a view to finding a way forward from the present impasse.

Foodbank

The other area is the Foodbank initiative. Foodbank is a national charity working in some 30 cities, towns and villages in the UK. There already exists in Norwich a need for this ministry which is only likely to grow through this year and beyond. A small group of people is coming together to work on the project and I hope that by the time you read this report we will be another step or two down the road to launching the Norwich Foodbank. Two of the key aspects of this charity, which strongly appeals to me are that firstly the food is raised from the whole community and secondly it is distributed by the church. If you have not heard of this ministry please read the articles on www.networknorwich.co.uk

This is a great time for the Kingdom of God to advance in many diverse ways. It is time to enable Transforming Norwich to grow into all that it could be, as we work together to reach our city for the Lord and see **Norwich become a fine community.**

Prayer Initiatives

Jill Gower

Adopt a Week of Prayer for Norwich

The idea for Adopt a Week originated with a local church leader who suggested that a real push of prayer could be promoted by encouraging individual churches or groups of several churches in one area to undertake a week of prayer. In the fullness of time every week of the year should be covered in this way, with the baton being passed on from one church to another, possibly in the form of a short report on the week. A variety of resources to cover all your needs and bring you inspiration are freely available on request. Two members of the Call to Prayer team will be assigned to give you as much or as little help as you need, for example, to run a Prayer School; take meetings or visit home groups. Adopt a Week raises the profile of prayer in the local church and encourages the whole church to pray

It was launched in October 2007 and by the end of 2008 fourteen churches had taken a week in which to concentrate on prayer, and particularly to focus on things outside their usual realm. Feedback was on the whole very positive. Churches have also said it was a help to them.

Recently Transforming Norwich has re-launched the campaign in order to increase participation across the churches to adopt a week of prayer.

Global Day of Prayer and Ministers Praying Together

The Ministers have been praying together for four years now, and it has been a time of sow-

ing seeds. In that time a great sense of unity has developed among a small group of



leaders which has been very real and strong. The group is now in great anticipation of how it develops. People are beginning to get what its all about and there is definitely more interest. **Jonathan Oleyede** suggested encouraging new leaders in by getting them to host and lead a session. This has been followed up and a variety of churchmanship have offered to host and to lead the session in their own particular tradition. We would always love to see more leaders attending and committing regularly.

The Global Day of Prayer continues to gain momentum each year and this year we have the endorsement of both Bishop Graham and Bishop Michael who are encouraging their churches to attend that evening. We have invited many different leaders who are not part of the core group, to lead sessions this year and are confident that more people will come than last year. It has been very significant for us here in Norfolk to join in with what is taking place amongst millions of Christians all over the world.

Norwich World Mission Fair

Eldred Willey

There was a peaceful buzz at St Luke's on Tuesday January 20 as more than 100 people gathered for the Norwich Mission Fair organised by Transforming Norwich and Christian Aid.

Speaker

The speaker, Mark Sutcliffe (pictured below), is



now based at Bridge Church in Bolton, but as one of the many outstanding graduates of Norfolk YMCA he has become a familiar figure in Norfolk. It was, as he said, "a significant occasion". No one, it seems, could remember when such a variety of Norfolk churches had come together to share what they were doing.

Displays

Kings, Proclaimers, Surrey Chapel, Cornerstone, New Hope, Norwich Central Baptist Church, Fountain of Life, Norwich Family Life Church, St Paul's, St Luke's: all brought displays to show how they were helping to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Those were the words with which Mark Sutcliffe thought the Lord would greet the Church in Nor-

wich. It was, he said, a contrast to some places he went, where the word might just be "Well?"

See the Lord

Mark placed a seven-page speech on the lectern but didn't use it. Instead he became caught up in a different message from Hebrews: "Strive for peace...without which no one will see the Lord." If we want to see the Lord, he said, we will have to make every effort to find peace with one another. He began by inviting people to give each other the sign of peace and ended by asking them to proclaim peace over the city and the planet.

Mission

More than half of those who came had already served in mission overseas. For those waiting for the next assignment, Mark had a word of encouragement. Don't worry if it's gone dark at the theatre, he said. It's just God changing the scenes, preparing for the next act.





For those who had not gone overseas, he gave a challenge to consider a short trip, or else decide how to support those who were going.

Gospel Choir

The gently swaying, lilting Gospel choir, Freedom Voices, provided the perfect updraft to lift the start of the evening. Between songs Colin Howell and Miriam Light brought some beautifully edited and astonishing clips of themselves teaching AIDS orphans in Mozambique to surf the waves of the Indian Ocean.

Mark had prayed that there would be “the maximum advancement of the kingdom”...and that, it seems, is what he got.

The pictures show Nomazwi from Mfuleni township in South Africa receiving a Bible and a new house from Christian volunteers and Jon Norman from Norwich sharing the Gospel at Pollsmoor High Security Prison, Cape Town.

Money 4 Mission Biddy Collyer

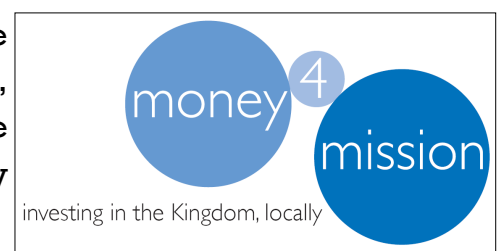
Since the last Transforming Norwich AGM, the financial climate has dramatically changed. Many charities are facing an increasing demand for their services, combined with a reduction of their income. It is therefore vital that the Christian community faces up to this challenge by continuing and indeed, extending their support for the many Christian social action and ministry charities that do such an excellent job in our county.

Timely

So it is timely that, following my presentation last year when I suggested how we could raise money for our Christian charities in Norfolk through having one centrally administered fund, a small group have now produced a leaflet called “Investing in the Kingdom, locally.” The idea is that such a fund will encourage and empower local Christian organisations to create long term sustainable projects. One person was so motivated by the idea of Money 4 Mission, that they immediately started giving monthly into the fund.

Dreams and Visions

Rather than set up another charity to oversee the collection of monies, we have decided that “Dreams and Visions” will be the fund holder. However the administration of the Fund will be undertaken by an independent panel representative of Christian denominations. Once the panel has been chosen and we have a Patron, the fund will be officially launched.



City Church Dialogue

John Drake

CITY DIALOGUE - Meeting together

Monday September 15th 2008

Leaders of churches and faith-based organisations in Norwich opened a dialogue with Norwich City Council Chief Executive Laura McGillivray at City Hall.

Over 30 leaders met with Laura at the Transforming Norwich City Council Dialogue meeting, organised by YMCA Norfolk Chief Executive Officer John Drake in the Council Chamber.

STEPHEN TIMMS, MP



Friday 28th
November
2008

Faith leaders from across Norwich and Norfolk met with senior government minister Stephen

Timms MP (pictured) and City Council leader Steve Morhew to talk about engaging the faith community and local government.

The Rt Hon Stephen Timms is MP for East Ham and a Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He is also the first ever Labour Party Vice Chair for Faith Groups, and is presently working with different faith communities across the country.

He told the audience: "Many people say that faith and politics don't mix. But I believe that

faith is the basis of many people's lives and politics and is an essential part of their identity. The values of faith are key to making politics and society work. Faith for me is the key to my politics. To the surprise of many, faith is flourishing in today's Britain and its influence is growing.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

16th February 2009 and 16 March 2009
(lunch)

Following on from a previous meeting in November at which the leader of the Council said: "we want to engage with community groups and faith groups are right at the top of our agenda," the Transforming Norwich Dialogue group met on Monday February 16th within the Council Chamber of Norwich City Hall and welcomed a visit from members of the new Community Engagement Team employed by Norwich City Council.

Caritas Charles, The Community Engagement Officer for Mile Cross, Catton Grove and Fiddlewood gave a presentation detailing the aims, purposes and aspirations of the Team along with his colleague Lydia Martin.

The White Paper *Communities in control: real people real power 2008* aims to pass

power into the hands of local communities, generate vibrant local democracy and give real control over local decisions to a wider pool of active citizens. Norwich City Council has responded by setting a sustainable community strategy with a vision “to make Norwich a world-class city within which to live, work, learn and visit”.

VISIT OF MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

March 23 2009

Representatives of Norwich Christian social action charities have met with government minister Sadiq Khan MP (pictured) to talk with him about engaging faith communities in the delivery of public services.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Communities and Local Government visited Norwich on



March 23 and included a visit to look around the newly-opened Norwich Central YMCA.

The visit also included a meeting with representatives from YMCA Norfolk, the Magdalene Group, Pregnancy Crisis Norfolk and Norfolk Street Pastors.

The Under Secretary is keen to hear from faith groups how they are delivering ser-

vices of benefit to the public and how the government could help them to do that more effectively.

“Faith is a key issue to the government,” said Sadiq. “We recognise that faith groups can reach parts of the community which just cannot be reached by other agencies and they make a vital contribution. The amount of voluntary work the faith communities are undertaking means that if we give them public money, we will get out far more than we put it - it is a no-brainer.

“Faith plays an important part in people’s lives whether they be Christians, Muslims or Buddhists. In the midst of the uncertainties of the global economic crisis, people will look to where they can find certainty. Faith communities can help to provide that. Not just through their messages but through their practical experience and expertise at delivering or signposting services and by giving a sense of hope and optimism for a better future.”



Finance Report

John Easton



Receipts and Payments Account 1.4.08 to 31.3.09

BANK BALANCES 1.4.08

	£	£
Barclays Current Account		880
Standard Life 10-day Notice Account		3273
		<hr/> 4153

Receipts

Members Subscriptions 2007/8 - Churches (1)	35	
Members Subscriptions 2008/9 - Churches (44)	1860	
Members Subscriptions 2008/9 - Organisations (12)	600	
Individual membership subscription 2008/9	10	
Interest	102	
AGM 2008	500	
Church Community Action Fair 2009	350	
Sale of Computer Labels	30	
	<hr/>	3487
		<hr/> 7640

Payments

AGM 2008	747	
AGM 2009	564	
Computer System	825	
Office Expenses	174	
Printing, Postage, Stationery, Telephone	491	
Church Community Action Fair 2009 - Leaflets	73	
Donations	261	
Entertaining/Working Lunch	67	
Travelling/Car Parking	39	
	<hr/>	3241
Cash at Bank 31.3.09		<hr/> 4399

Represented by:

Barclays Current Account	974
Standard Life 10-day Notice Account	3375
Development Officer Petty Cash Float	50
	<hr/> 4399

Membership Report

67 Invoices for the year 2008/9 were issued to 53 churches, 13 organisations and 1 individual.

Membership fees paid:

Churches (one payment received in 2009/10)	45
Organisations	12
Individual	1
Total Membership for 2008/9	<hr/> 58