

GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK

Harvest 2011: FREE

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Norwich foodbank appeals for tonnes of food

■ Norwich Foodbank has launched a harvest appeal to raise six tonnes of food in just two months and revealed plans to set up distribution centres across Norfolk.

Manager of the Christian charity, Grant Habershon, revealed that the demand for the emergency food parcels is growing every month.

"In June we provided 253 local people with three days of emergency food and in July we fed 279 local people. Over 40% of these people were under 16. We have seen the demand for our services increase each month since we launched in October last year.

"In September 2011 we will open our sixth Distribution Centre around the Norwich area and soon we hope to announce centres being launched around Norfolk.

"None of this could have happened without the wonderful support we have received from local people who want to help their neighbours in need via our local Christian charity. However to keep pace with the demand and our plans we are now launching our 2011 Harvest Appeal to collect six tonnes of donated food in just two months," said Grant.

Foodbank is appealing for help from churches, schools, Cubs, Brownies and other organizations and supporters during September and October to organize Harvest food collections.

If you want more information on how to get involved visit www.norwichfoodbank.co.uk or contact Project Manager, Grant Habershon on 07955 920590.

"We resorted to borrowing a tin of soup from next door to feed our 18-month-old daughter. The problems came when my partner got ill and received no sick pay. It was snowing and we were struggling to afford food and heating. In the end the cupboards were bare. I don't know what we would have done without the foodbank."
Ann Marie.



Korean Rev is first for the East

■ AYLSHAM: Some 130 years after English missionaries helped take the Christian Gospel to Korea, the Rev Seung-Wook Jung based at Aylsham, has become the first-ever Korean Methodist minister to serve in East Anglia.

From September 1, Rev Seung-Wook Jung is the new minister at Aylsham Methodist Church and he comes to Norfolk with his wife Eun-Hee and their three children So Lee (10), So Yun (7) and Yunsang (4), pictured above.

Seung-Wook said: "I aim to serve the church through leading worship, administering the sacraments, pastoral care, enabling spiritual development and by seeking opportunities to engage with the community beyond the church."

He said he sees minister and congregation learning from each other and together seeking to discover where God is leading them. He hopes that people's personal relationship with God would be deepened by his ministry.

Seung-Wook attended Seoul Theological Seminary and Bristol Trinity College. He was ordained in 2008, and served the Korean Christian Fellowship in Chessington and has also been a local preacher in the Kingston-upon-Thames circuit of the Methodist Church.

He has studied at London Theological Seminary and Bristol Trinity College. He was ordained in 2008, and served the Korean Christian Fellowship in Chessington and has also been a local preacher in the Kingston-upon-Thames circuit of the Methodist Church.

North Norfolk Circuit Steward, Cedric Brown, said: "Having previously had a minister from America for a year we are really looking forward to the ministry of the Rev Jung who comes from further afield in South Korea and for a longer period. It is good to receive the insights of Christians from other cultures and experience and I am sure we have a great deal to learn from each other."

Church doubles up

■ NORWICH: A city church is so full every Sunday morning that it started running two separate services every week from the beginning of September. Eternity Norwich, based at Earlham Green Lane in Norwich, is repeating its Sunday morning service twice every week.

Having been at full capacity for some time now, the leadership, led by Pastors Paddy and Jennike Venner, decided that it was time to 'double in a day'. The two meetings, named Massive Xpress and Massive, will run at 9.30am and 11am respectively, with Children's Church and crèche facilities at the first meeting. The same message will be preached at both, and the worship, lead by the Eternity Band, will be as high-powered as ever.

Pastor Paddy said: "If it's true that a church will never grow beyond seven eighths of its building capacity, we believe this is the faith step required to create space for more people to engage with the House of God."

Thousands put faith into action

By HELEN BALDRY & AARON CURRAN

Thousands of young Christians put their faith into action in local communities across Norfolk during August as part of the Newday youth event, held once again at the Royal Norfolk Showground near Norwich.

Around 6,700 young people from across the UK and Europe attended Newday, organised by the New Frontiers group of churches. They enthusiastically enjoyed a packed programme of worship, games, teaching and concerts.

But there was also a social action dimension to the event.

Around 3,000 of the teenagers signed up to one of 25 social action initiatives around Norwich and throughout Norfolk. There were projects in Catton, Mile Cross, Hellesdon, Norwich city centre, Poringland, Attleborough and Great Yarmouth. Partnering with local New Frontiers and other churches, the youngsters painted fences, cleared gardens, washed cars and put on fun days and sports events for local people.

Sue Browne, Chair of the Catton Residents Association, summed up the mood around the Catton community after Newday:

"Everyone was over the moon with the work that was done in Catton. Residents are now taking more pride in the area where they live and the young people gave them that incentive"

Toby Skipper, from Kings Community Church Norwich, helped to organise the social action

initiatives: "Although Newday isn't politically motivated we see the social action projects as a great way to encourage people to make a real difference in their communities. The young people are voting with their feet and demonstrating that the church has a key role to play in helping tackle local issues."

Norwich North MP, Chloe Smith, said: "The New Day project is always impressive. To have thousands of youngsters volunteering to help out in north Norwich is valued and welcomed and they can achieve so much in their few days on the ground. I know that Catton and Mile Cross residents enjoy working alongside them and gain a lot in the community year-round from the project. It is an excellent example of the 'Big Society' in action."

Newday has been running for eight years, the last three in Norfolk, and has increased in scale and momentum each year.

Owen Hylton, who heads up pastoral care, said, "Newday gathers thousands of young people from a wide variety of backgrounds. They come from every type of area; rural villages, suburban housing estates and urban flats all together in one place."

"This event builds their faith and passion for Jesus. For many it is a totally new experience; they have never been anywhere like this before."

Owen said what is remarkable is the leaders' passion for Jesus which drives them to serve and lead. Numerous volunteers take time out from work to serve year after year. Since the event has been

■ Story continues on page 3



NEWS

Norwich & Norfolk Christian news at www.networknorfolk.co.uk

GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK

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■ Churches, Christian organisations and individuals from within Norwich and Norfolk are invited to send news, events and pictures which relate to the demonstration of the Gospel in social action, community care and evangelism generally.

This will not only encourage those Christians involved in similar activities but also inform leaders in other churches who are contemplating similar forms of outreach.

■ The deadline for material for the Christmas edition is Friday November 4. It will be available for distribution from Friday November 26.

■ While every care has been taken in compiling this publication and the statements contained within are believed to be correct, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies.

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We are all called to share Good News

■ Those of us who live in the Norfolk countryside will, in recent weeks, have noticed a significant change in colour: cereal crops, oat, wheat and barley, were recently a dark green, but changed over the weeks of the summer.

In Jesus' day cereals were harvested with scythe and sickle; in our day with combine harvesters. But in each case men were needed.

When Jesus said, "The harvest is ready", he was not thinking of wheat and barley. He was thinking of the spiritual harvest. Men and women were hungry for spiritual food.

If that was true in Jesus' day, it is certainly true in our own day, though most people do not recognise it. 95% of people in this nation are not Christians. The future for them is bleak in the extreme.

God, however, has a rescue plan, and we

are the ones called to put that plan into action. We as Christians have the solemn responsibility to share the good news of the gospel.

We do not have to be evangelists to do this: each one of us is called to be a sharer of the Good News, however ill-qualified we feel.

Perhaps the most important, but the most difficult, place for us to do that is with our own families and friends.

Every effort to share needs to be soaked in prayer. Everyone we meet, in school, college, the work place or the pub is fertile ground for the seed of the gospel.

Jesus commanded us to ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into the harvest, and that commandment is as urgent today as ever. 'Whom shall I send?... 'Here I am, send me.'



Geoffery Darrah was a great influence for change in Norfolk in the 70s and onwards, as an Anglican vicar in Norwich and Winfarthing.

Rev Janice is online village shepherd

By SANDIE SHIRLEY

With a treasure box of ideas and a computer, Norfolk priest, Rev Janice Scott, is working on her latest novel.

The retired minister, and one of the first Anglican women priests in the country, is a prolific writer.

Through various websites, two novels and a host of children's stories and sermons, her work is available in book form and on the internet, as the Village Shepherd.

All this activity goes a long way to putting the gospel into the hands of thousands worldwide and her fiction is proving a gentle, absorbing way to share her faith message with many.

Yet all this would have seemed unlikely a few decades ago when the mother of three, who had sat in the pews since she was a small girl, had a crisis of faith. "I remember being asked to write down what God meant to me during a Lent course and I suddenly drew a blank."

The former physiotherapist, who had helped at the London City Mission, and moved to Fakenham to set-up a health business with her husband, walked away from church as her faith was lost in an instant.

"I realised I did not have any evidence of a personal understanding of God's love but for the first time I felt marvellous and was able to be myself," says Janice. It took soul-searching and communication, through a new spiritual realisation, before her belief was restored. It came when she recognised her huge, unlocked potential could be given to God, the one that lived within her, for it to be outworked. "That realisation brought into focus all sorts of richness," she recalls.

It included a call to the priesthood that she initially tried to ignore. But in 1985, Janice



Online shepherd, Rev Janice Scott.

began studying theology and her writing began in earnest. "I had always loved to write; together with sport it was the only thing I could do at school and some ten years before I had won a writing competition."

The essays for her training easily flowed. As a curate in Fakenham and later Eaton, near Norwich, her sermons continued to flow. Her

writing gained momentum when she took over a rural benefice in South Norfolk for ten years. Children's stories, with a simple gospel truth, were unleashed. Her first volume, which will also strike a chord with adults, has since hit the bookshelves and two subsequent ones are due for release.

"They are an ideal resource for school assemblies," says Janice. With a hotchpotch of characters and talking animals they also help address the problems that children face today including bullying, she explains.

A new marketing strategy came when she was approached by a small American family business that had spotted her prolific material on the internet. It took over the running of the site, and became a book publisher for her children's stories. Having retired, Janice has put the pen to work again, writing about the ups and downs of parish life. Her latest fiction - Heaven Spent and Babies and Suckling's (available from Jarrold, Norwich) is set in a rural Norfolk benefice and were published during the last 12 months.

Janice reflects on her real-life adventures as a minister in a country benefice: "I learnt so much from the people there and the collaborative work of encouraging their talents that included joining six churches within two small benefices together for increased unity and strength."

The move also helped inspire the Christmas Tree Festival in Dickleburgh, when 3,000 people make the annual trip to light candles and say prayers. "It became an all-embracing mission that was hard work, using a big Christmas tree as the focus in the church," recalls Janice who has seen its legacy continue to thrive.

www.janice-scott.com

www.sermonsuite.com/the-village-shepherd.html

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Record start to new season

By KEITH MORRIS

The Norfolk Christian Football League kicked off its new season at the start of September with a record 56 teams, a new management committee, a new website and a new logo.

Mike Culwick, from Heartsease Churches FC, has been voted in as Chairman (with Youth Leagues oversight), and Jim Green, from Norwich Vineyard FC, has been named as Vice Chairman (Adult League oversight). James Leck is the new Adult League Secretary.

Stepping down will be former chairman Gary Ryan and long-standing league servant, Tim Stapleford, who will both still be involved with the League in other roles.

Also added to the team is the new position of General Secretary, which has been filled by YMCA Norfolk Health and Well-Being Development Worker, Jessica Tyson, taking over from Katharine Hume who will become the new league Respect Officer.

Jess will be working for the League for one day a week, based at the YMCA Norfolk offices at Trowse and is the main point of contact for league matters on 01603 630049 ex 129 or at jessicatyson@ymca-norfolk.org.uk

Mike said: "I became involved in the Christian League when Tim Stapleford started the youth league in 1995, and thought this would be a great opportunity to witness to young people on the Heartsease estate. Football is the means to the end - the end being sharing the Good News of Jesus with everyone involved in our football teams."

"A few years ago we lost two young men, one 17 and one 18, both connected to the Heartsease Football club and this really brought home to me how important our message is."

"Churches please give your full support to the teams you sponsor, I mean your physical



Holy Trinity Under 12s claimed their first silverware in their Norfolk Christian Football League Youth Cup Final against Cringleford Ospreys.

support. Where would Jesus be on Saturday mornings? In the early morning prayer meeting praying for those lads, 'what are their names now?' No, he would be out there getting to know them, showing them how much he cares for them."

The League has launched a new website in time for the new season in partnership with the team behind the popular Network Norwich &

Norfolk website.

The new website at www.norfolkcfll.co.uk will carry all the latest fixtures, results and league tables, as well as news updates, league and team pages, picture galleries and document downloads, among other features.

A central part of the website will be a regular new weekly e-newsletter service which aims to provide the latest results, league tables and

league news.

Website designer, Helen Baldry, said: "We have aimed to produce an attractive and intuitive site which will provide an effective and efficient means of communicating with all the league's stakeholders, including players, parents of youth players, managers, referees, churches and potential new teams among others. Important league information can be communicated both quickly and effectively using both the website and the new e-mail newsletter."

Former league vice-chairman, Tim Stapleford, who helped commission the new website, said: "As a league we want to network effectively with other youth support organizations and communication networks. The website will help us to do this and to greatly enhance our communication and publicity of events, vision and most importantly the Christian message."

New teams joining the league include East Norwich Youth Project (ENYP) U12, Hethersett Athletic U10 and Worstead Wolves U16. In the Men's league Kings have entered a second team plus a new team from Holy Trinity.

Those playing in the U10, U12 and U14 age groups have been encouraged to pair up for home venues so that a friendly match can also be played after the main match, this gives the young people more opportunity to play football and ensures everyone on the team has a chance to play.

General Secretary for the league, Jess Tyson, said: "I am excited to be part of such a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers that make the Norfolk Christian Football League thrive year on year. The opportunity for young people to play football in a safe and happy environment whilst also hearing about and seeing demonstrated the love of Jesus is amazing. I know it's going to be a great season!"

Putting faith into action

■ *Story continued from page 1*

held in Norfolk there has been a huge increase in the number of churches going and there is incredible support from all denominations of churches in Norfolk.

Age-appropriate seminars take place each day covering topics including science & the Bible, abortion, identity, dating and how to thrive at university.

Other activities include an ice rink, bouncy castle, skatepark, climbing wall and creative arts such as drama, songwriting, prophetic art and dance.

Evening meetings are eagerly anticipated at Newday and are approached with the expectation that God will speak. The Big Top comes alive with young people dancing, jumping, laughing and putting their hearts into worship. Hundreds of people respond regularly to the message and a ministry team is on hand to pray and talk with people.

Late-night concerts included Phatfish, Shackleton and Philippa Hanna.

Aaron Curran, from City Church Norwich, attended for the first time: "One of the highlights of the week for me was being able to do outreach in Catton. Having lived in Norwich all my life, it was such a good experience to go into a local community and be able to make a difference. A large group

of us were involved in helping to clear gardens, trim hedges and also paint fences for the people of Catton who are unable to get out and do it themselves," said Aaron.

"The other highlight for me was being able to witness 309 people get healed and 365 young people give their lives to God during the Thursday evening meeting whilst Adrian Holloway was preaching. It was a real testament to God's love and also power to see so many lives impacted on that night."

"The most incredible experience for me was standing in a tent with 6,500 other young people knowing that we all had one thing in common - a love for Jesus - was mind blowing and for me sums up what Newday is all about."

While young people learn about themselves and their own faith at Newday, the focus is very much outward-looking; on relationships with others, communities and issues in the wider world. An offering is taken on the last night and everybody is encouraged to think about how to contribute to this.



Organisers envisage that Newday will keep on growing; there is scope for thousands more people on site and they have announced that they will be returning to Norfolk for the next three years.


www.newdaygeneration.org

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Norfolk Christian Volunteer Link...

Splag

■ **CHRISTIAN YOUTH OUTREACH BUS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS:** An exciting youth outreach bus project which supports marginalised young people in the community where they live has two volunteer posts for a Treasurer and a Secretary to help them take the project forward. For further information and job description, please contact Project Coordinator Peter Dinsmore at splag@live.co.uk

All Saints' Centre

■ **NORWICH CHRISTIAN CAFE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS:** All Saints' Centre, Norwich is currently in need of a volunteer to deal with Gift Aid administration. It is also in regular need of volunteers to serve in its coffee bar. Other needs include help at fund-raising events and someone to make preserves to sell (ingredients provided).

Please phone 01603 633726, or email admin@allsaintsnorwich.org.uk or call in and see us. www.allsaintsnorwich.org.uk

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Volunteer link service

■ The Norfolk Christian Volunteer Link is a service provided by the **NetworkNorfolk.co.uk** website which aims to promote volunteering opportunities to people who have the time, skills and passion to fulfil the roles offered. We recognise that many Christian groups rely heavily on volunteers to ensure that their work continues and thrives.

Subscription to the volunteer link scheme costs £100 for the year and includes: up to six volunteer vacancy 50-word adverts on the website; entry in the Projects Directory on **Network Norfolk**; inclusion in the weekly e-newsletter; inclusion in a special regular volunteer e-newsletter; 50-word advert **Good News for Norwich & Norfolk newspaper**; promotion at annual **Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk** event

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New name for Norfolk street charity

■ **NORFOLK STREET PARTNERSHIP** (NSP) is the brand new name for the Christian charity which puts high profile street pastors out on the late-nights streets in the centres of places such as Norwich, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Diss.

Formerly known as Norfolk Street Pastors, the charity is changing its name but not its work or mission, which will remain exactly the same, according to chairman, Richard Pennington.

"The essential work of providing Christian love and support on the streets of Norwich and elsewhere in Norfolk remains our mission but now under a new name, which reflects the teamwork of prayer pastors and street pastors, as well as trustees and supporters," said Richard.

The change has been made following the recent decision of the Norfolk charity to leave the management of Ascension Trust (the umbrella organization for Street Pastors nationally) and join the Christian Nightlife Initiative (CNI). CNI is an affiliation of Christian groups working in the night-time economy, including the Suffolk-based Town Pastors, Street Angels and many other groups as well.

Richard said: "We are thrilled to be associated with the Christian Nightlife Initiative which supports the county-wide model which is so essential to a rural county such



as Norfolk. Some of our staff recently attended an inspirational CNI meeting in London which was addressed by Christian MP, Stephen Timms."

The name change was agreed at a recent meeting between the trustees of Norfolk Street Pastors and the management of Ascension Trust.

Richard said: "The main reason behind the move from Ascension Trust is that, while the model of street pastors used by them works very effectively in a metropolitan borough with clear boundaries, a rural county like Norfolk is a very different set-up."

"In Norfolk, the centre for street pastors is in Norwich which deals with the administration, training, fundraising, finance and uniforms for the whole county. For smaller

towns like Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Diss to have their own board of trustees and administrative centres is quite impractical.

"In practical terms, this should make no difference to the wonderful work that our paid staff and volunteers do in town and city centres across Norfolk."

The work of CNI has been backed by the Right Hon. Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, who said: "I welcome these night-time initiatives such as Street Angels. You are working hard to help the communities in which you live by making the streets safer and I am extremely grateful to you all for that. I pray that these initiatives continue to result in reduced crime and the fear of crime. Keep up the good work!"

Volunteers needed

■ An appeal has been put out for more volunteers to join Norfolk Street Partnership and become street pastors. A four-day training course is set to run on Saturdays from September 24 at Gage Road Chapel in Norwich from 10am to 4.30pm.

For further information and to obtain an application form, contact Gail Halley at hailgail@btinternet.com or on 01603 617598.

www.nspuk.net

www.cninet.weebly.com

YFC launches fourth new Norfolk centre

By KEITH MORRIS

A fourth Youth for Christ centre was launched in Norfolk on September 16 and aims to demonstrate God's love to young people in the North Breckland area.

Angela Fox, who has been working for Norwich Youth for Christ for the past seven years and has been a volunteer for 20, has taken up the post as Director of North Breckland Youth for Christ.

Angela said: "I'm very excited to be involved at the beginning of this new Centre. I have a passion for reaching and discipling young people and training and equipping them to live life to the full. I want them to know the love of God and recognise how He works in their lives."

"We will aim to cover the Breckland area north of the A11 corridor and also cover Hingham. Integrate YFC covers south of the A11 and we will work together in that area."

"Last summer God began to speak about moving on and to a harvest field where we hadn't sown. We sensed we should look south of Norwich and at the NYFC Annual Thanksgiving I was called to start a centre in the Breckland area," said Angela.

"We have already been offered use of buildings for an office and for activities and have recruited a number of key volunteers, prayer team and an amazing group of trustees. We will be continuing to establish relationships with the local churches and congregations and with those who are inter-



ested in supporting the Centre

"We have been offered some financial support but would always welcome more to further the work. We have secured some funding which is released when we can match it from other sources. We are looking to sustain the work through local giving as far as possible as the work is for the youth in North Breckland."

Director of Norwich YFC, Mark Tuma, said: "It's enormously exciting to see another new YFC centre being born in our area, and it's particularly encouraging to see this new growth coming from within our team here in Norwich. Ang is faithfully and courageously following God's call as she steps into this new role and I'm convinced that it will change the lives of young people in that area!"

NBYFC was officially launched on September 16 at Wellspring Church, Dereham.

Other events already planned include a Volunteers Training Day on October 22 and a

Musicians Training Day with Taste on February 18, 2012. In the run-up to Easter, NBYFC plans to work with the churches in the area to have a youth-led social action week, plus schools work and various clubs springing up in the villages.

Youth for Christ is an international movement working in more than 100 countries around the world to give young people a clear, relevant and engaging understanding of the Gospel.

It has a strong heritage in Norfolk dating back to the 1950s, and has existing established centres in Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Diss.

For more information contact Angela Fox on afox@northbrecklandyfc.org.uk or visit: www.northbrecklandyfc.org.uk



New NBYFC director Ang Fox.

NEWS

Norwich & Norfolk Christian online shop at www.norwichchristian.co.uk



Left, the new foyer inside Mason Road looking towards the large cafeteria, above, the NFLC Sunday congregation and right, senior pastor Trevor Pimlott and his wife Joyce.

Milestone for church

A large Norwich church has just reached an important milestone in the transformation of its 'new home' on an industrial estate, just off the Ring Road at Mile Cross Lane.

Just 15 months after moving into a spacious industrial complex on Pentecost Sunday in May 2010, Norwich Family Life Church has totally refurbished the building located on Mason Road, next to the Hughes Electrical Store, opposite Comet.

"It's a big step for us. This place was just an empty shell when we moved in," says senior pastor Trevor Pimlott. The move to Mason Road also marked the 45th anniversary of the church (formerly known as Mount Zion Family Life Centre) which had been located at a six-acre site at Heartsease - until a devastating fire destroyed the premises in February 2006.

Since then, Mark Nolan, a director of the Norwich architectural firm of Chaplin Farrant, has been "a great inspiration" in the transformation of the industrial unit at Mason Road, says Pastor Trevor.

NFLC's comfortable new venue has two conferences halls, plus a large carpeted sanctuary, equipped with

By **MIKE WILTSHIRE**

multimedia systems. The complex includes a visitors' welcome lounge, large cafeteria, children's areas, a youth hall and a substantial admin area.

Already, outside business and education organisations and Christian ministries are showing interest in hiring the facilities for one-off events.

The move to Mason Road is a vital step towards NFLC's vision to build a 45,000 sq ft church and community complex at its Heartsease home site where the church still maintains close links with the community through its pre-school and other community activities.

NFLC's first year at Mason Road has seen a series of special events ranging from a Bible reading marathon in March to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, a major missions conference and a 'summer camp re-union' which drew people from all over the world who had been involved in these events on the Norfolk coast between 1970 and 2001.

This year has also seen a number of

international speakers visit.

Trevor says the new facilities enhance the church's emphasis on providing "a loving welcome for everyone, a place where people find a spiritual home and receive balanced preaching and Bible teaching."

While maintaining strong links with other churches and the wider community, NFLC also runs 'life groups' for pastoral care and shared interests, usually meeting in local homes. "As the church gets bigger, we must get smaller," explains Trevor.

Among a dozen ministry areas at NFLC are children's and youth groups, plus 'discovery' groups for new visitors, marriage-related courses, leadership training, women's events, plus projects to give practical help in the community, and a keen interest in overseas work in the Philippines, India, Ghana and Israel.

Pastor Trevor, who is chairman of 'Unite' - a prayer initiative among Norwich ministers - says he is also encouraged by the number of spontaneous inter-church 'prayer groups for revival' that have sprung up across Norfolk in the past year.

www.nflc.org.uk



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FEATURE

Chaplains on workpl



Thetford workplace chaplain, David Freeman.

David stepping down from role

■ **THETFORD:** David Freeman's colourful working past has made him a man of the people during his ten-year post as Thetford's chaplain in the workplace. At 68, the Methodist circuit preacher is stepping down from a role that has seen him give hope and encouragement to hundreds of factory workers and company directors at crucial times in their lives.

Over the last decade, David has been chaplain to the police, fire-brigade and forces in South Norfolk. In roles past or present, David's philosophy has been simple and unchanging: "I listen, care and pray as I aim to leave people in a happier state than when I met them."

His part-time workplace chaplaincy (with funding support from Thetford Christians Together and the Norfolk & Waveney Industrial Mission), began with introduction letters and meetings at major companies and continued with relationship building at smaller firms. Those early seed-sowing days resulted in sharing the tears, joys and challenges of life with a growing workforce in over 50 companies.

David's own career saw him rise from the shop floor to management with a stint in personnel, purchasing and sales. This helped him to gain empathy with those he worked alongside as he understood production, quality control, competition and redundancy concerns.

He also provided a listening ear for more personal issues. "It has been important to tune into people and sense what to do or say, recognising that everyone will have a need for prayer support and encouragement at some stage in their life."

He has made a note of prayer needs and has often woken in the night or early morning to pray on specific dates and times for people. "If you pray for them and God does something in their lives, that is powerful," says David, who has seen a young man return to work after being ill for years and a woman cured from a flying phobia.

David's own faith was tested after taking up the workplace chaplaincy. With an old car that eventually gave out, he was at a loss at how to continue the regular trips to factories and offices from his home near Diss. After immediate prayer, expressing the desire for a low-maintenance, affordable car, he saw a swift solution. "That afternoon a message was left on my telephone from a chaplaincy contact. Someone was selling the exact make of car I had asked God for and with my wife's unexpected pension, the vehicle, with its low mileage, was mine."

By Sandie Shirley

Throughout Norfolk, from King's Lynn to Great Yarmouth, there is a small group of clergy that provide a vital frontline work of supporting people in their working lives in times of need.

Kevin Gotts and Sandie Shirley report.

The largest chaplaincy organization in Norfolk is Good Work (formerly the Norfolk and Waveney Industrial Mission). It is a charitable trust limited by guarantee providing chaplains in various workplaces.

The role of the Good Work chaplains is to give comfort and support to anyone in need of support when they have problems or concerns in their life, whether physical, emotional, financial or related to work, family or other relationships.

The charity currently has four chaplains and operates ecumenically.

■ **Stephen Andrews**, who is an Anglican ordinand. He works part-time providing chaplaincy in Gt Yarmouth to Asda (staff and shoppers), to Camplings Linen Services, to the manual work force of the Borough Council and to the local employees of NORSE labour force.

■ **Rev Chris Copsey**, an Anglican minister. She works full-time for the Trust, providing chaplaincy at County Hall in Norwich, and for the Coroner's Service county wide.

■ **Rev Peter Glanville**, a Roman Catholic deacon. He gives part-time support to the Trust. He is part of the team of chaplains at the James Paget

Hospital at Gorleston and is chaplain to the sugar beet factory at Cantley. He also supports Angle, a grouping of companies in the Acle area. He acts as deputy to the port chaplain of Great Yarmouth, taking on the role when Peter Paine is absent on holiday or is unavailable for any reason.

■ **Rev Peter Paine**, a Baptist minister. He works full-time for the Trust. He is the Port Chaplain for the port of Great Yarmouth, working to the requirements of the Mission to Seafarers who oversee the welfare of all sailors visiting the port. He is also chaplain to the Town Hall in Great Yarmouth. As port chaplain he visits nearly every ship that comes into port and helps the crews, many of whom come from other parts of the world and who have no local connections or support, but who need help to get in touch with their homes. The port chaplaincy offers literally a 24/7 service, where a call from the Coast Guard or hospital could require a visit to a seaman.

Peter, a former RAF Air-Sea Rescue employee, has real empathy with seafarers who may well be away from their homes on voyages lasting up to nine months.

"While modern ships have excellent facilities, the sailors like to relax, use IT or meet up with other crews off shore," he said.

When on board a vessel, Peter explains, "I treat it as their home and will deal with any faith questions. Generally I find seafarers as God loving people, 90% would have a strong faith - all faiths and none."

Peter gets involved with prayer meetings, services and Alpha courses which would continue for

participants at other ports, as the Mission to Seaman is a network of chaplains in 240 ports across the world.

He tells of a Polish crew who requested a prayer and praise service on shore, where the uninterested Russian captain chose to stay on board. From this Peter passed a copy of the Y-Jesus DVD (in Russian) via the First Officer to the Captain. Some days later the chaplain in Belfast phoned Peter excitedly to report that the Captain had become a Christian!

■ Good Work has no income-earning capacity. It survives financially with monies and grants from the Mission to Seafarers and others including churches, Port Authority, businesses and individual gifts. Despite this help it has made a loss in the last few years and its reserves are dwindling fast.

Good Work chairman, and former Norfolk County Council chief executive, Barry Capon appeals, "Anyone wishing to give to the cause, become a ships visitor with training, to pray, or volunteer then please contact Peter Paine."

"The work of the chaplains today is even more important than it has ever been. People are under increasing stress and pressure at work, at home and generally. So often they need an understanding, a listening ear, someone independent, unbiased, uncritical to whom they can talk completely confidentially," said Barry.

Contact Peter Paine on 01493 850270 (ext 4), 07788 111823 or email portchaplain@keme.co.uk

More details of Good Work on: www.good-work.org.uk
By Kevin Gotts

Good Work
Norfolk & Waveney Industrial Mission



Broad's vision for Rev Briant Smith.

ace frontline



Above Stephen Andrews who is chaplain to Camplings Linen Services among others and, left, Rev Peter Paine, Port Chaplain in Great Yarmouth.

Love for Broads inspired mission

■ **BROADS:** Rev Briant Smith's visit to the Norfolk Broads when he was 13 inspired a long-lasting love affair with the area. Now, more than 50 years later, the former biologist, who has retired from the Methodist circuit, is putting his unique stamp on the magical waterways that have become his 'parish'.

The part-time chaplain for the Broads ventured into new waters four years ago with a job that has fostered his love for nature, art and spirituality. The man, who was also a biology teacher for 25 years, is busy developing educational resources for school visits as well as running courses, walks and sailings on a unique trading wherry while being Vice President for Broads Tourism.

"A lot of what I do is about gently pushing doors and seeing what happens," explains Briant, as he builds relationships with tourists and those that work in the area, particularly businessmen.

"There is a great deal to offer in terms of spiritual heritage," says the nature lover, who is at home amongst the waterways

and river systems with their varied wildlife and village and urban communities. "The culture and history, with ancient religious buildings and other historic icons, continue to help individuals and groups with their ongoing personal development," he says.

"An increasing number of people are searching for spiritual meaning in their lives and part of their search involves a deeper appreciation of the natural world for spiritual exploration, growth and development," says Briant, whose findings are included in the five-year blueprint for the Broad's sustainable tourism.

Ongoing work is to seek to help visiting schools engage with 'mind-mapping' about the Broads through wildlife, environment, literacy and the weather for example and youngsters can also expand their understanding using websites. The resources will initially be available for use by local schools, but Briant's dream is that they become a national resource. The subject is close to his heart, after a dramatic awareness of the Creator through the wonders of creation.

"I had been at a boarding school from the age of 11 where matins and evensong were compulsory, but they did not help my spirituality," he said. "A few years after leaving, I was working on a farm on the Isle of Wight. As I looked out towards the sea and the surf and the white cliffs, I had to turn off the tractor as the view was so spectacular and if I had not prayed, I would have wept."

His course and resources for 'seekers and searchers' visiting the Broads allow them to leave the material world and wallow in the beauty through recreation. "It is about stopping, looking and immersing yourself in the moment and perhaps writing, taking a photograph or drawing and thinking, where is God in all this?" says Briant.

His Broadside series of photographs and meditations encourage further reflection while various Pilgrim trails are also available through the chaplaincy which was appointed by the East Anglia District of the Methodist Church.

www.broadsspirituality.org.uk
www.churchestogetheronthebroads.org.uk

By Sandie Shirley

Christmas Good News

■ The Christmas edition of **Good News for Norwich & Norfolk** will be distributed in an innovative new way to help ensure the many positive faith-based stories it contains get into as many different local homes as possible.

Last Christmas, for the first time, the paper was printed as part of the **Norwich Advertiser** and all copies were distributed with it to homes across Norwich.

This year we plan to print and distribute around 20,000 copies inside the **Norwich Evening News**, with another 15,000 copies available separately for churches who wish to distribute it at services or door-to-door in their local areas with their own Christmas literature, from the end of November.

If you wish to have free copies, to distribute in this way, please contact Les Champion at lesandlinda@talktalk.net or on 01603 402310 before the end of October.

Please do not take previous arrangements for granted. It is essential you make a specific point of contacting Les (preferably by email), with your requirements. Please ensure your church or organisation is clearly identified, and give a contact name and phone number.

Making a difference on the city streets

■ Every weekend Norfolk Street Partnership (formerly Norfolk Street Pastors) street pastors are out on the night-time streets of Norwich, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Diss providing a helping hand to all those in need.



This is what people have said about our work in Norfolk:

"The street pastors are doing a fantastic job."

General Sir Richard Dannatt, ex head of the **British Army**

"The street pastors know what friendship is and that is what they are offering in some of the busiest places which are also some of the loneliest."

Bishop of Norwich, The Rt Rev Graham James

"The street pastors really are 'the stars of the night'. It was a pleasure and a privilege to go out with them for an evening."

Charles Barratt, High Sheriff of Norfolk

"They are a inspiration to everyone."

Jemma, Norwich nightclubber

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meet the Good News team: Sandie Shirley

■ "I have had the privilege of unearthing many amazing stories of miraculous healings, divine encounters, invincible courage and amazing sacrifice and I want others to hear about them to fuel faith and build hope," says Good News for Norfolk writer Sandie Shirley, who is busy launching a website of faith stories (www.refreshingwaters.co.uk).

"I have loved writing ever since I can remember and at 19 it became a career and later, a heart for ministry. Over the years I have worked for secular magazines and newspapers across East Anglia and further afield, as an employee and freelance," says Sandie, who is now available to talk at churches, outreach meetings and women's groups.

"I help compile a regular outreach magazine of testimonies on behalf of Hope Community Church, Wymondham, where I worship. I also write a regular column for the Village People magazine, unveiling the men and women who make life tick in rural South Norfolk where I live," says Sandie, who is married with two children and five step-children.

Last autumn she saw the launch of Courage to Dream - the Impossible becomes Reality (www.lastwordpublications.com and Jarrold, £7.99) a book co-authored with grandmother, Coralita Martin. "Despite poverty, abuse and unprecedented suffering

this plucky woman of faith has gone from the slums of Antigua to the suburbs of London and the wilds of Norfolk to pursue her destiny as a teacher in the classroom for 50 years until she was 70," says Sandie, a member of Norwich Aglow International and the Association of Christian Writers.

A second book is now underway, detailing the story of a baby born with no lower arms and a badly twisted leg who was locked away from the outside world in a Romanian orphanage.

"Today that little baby is a confident young man of 18 who has just completed his first year at Oxford University. His life was turned around by a chance encounter with a UK aid worker who together with her husband adopted him. It began an unrivalled story of love, faith and hope when he was brought back to England for surgery," adds Sandie who is also looking to publish a series of poetry cards.

This autumn she will take on a PR role to help educate people about Myasthenia Gravis, the terrible rare neurological disease that currently affects her son. Sandie will work with the Myasthenia Gravis Association to highlight the personal stories of sufferers and their carers to heighten awareness of the disease through the media. Visit www.mga-charity.org e-mail: sandie_shirley@yahoo.co.uk



Journalist Sandie Shirley.

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Financial angels come to rescue

By MIKE WILTSHIRE

A Christian business man told a Norwich audience recently about a 'financial miracle' in his life when a complete stranger on the other side of the world felt prompted by God to come to his rescue.

Former banker Pieter van Rooyen had prayed earnestly that God would deliver him from a personal debt of more than £214k after a business arrangement went wrong through no fault of his own.

Pieter was a successful banking executive on the Isle of Man, a leading offshore financial centre. At weekends he also acted as a leader in a thriving Christian congregation in Douglas, the capital and largest town on the island.

Perhaps naively, a youth pastor in the church had asked God to 'send angels to deliver Pieter and his family' out of the financial crisis they faced.

Unknown to them all, Peter West, a businessman and Christian leader in Queensland, Australia, was woken one night with what he believes was a clear message from God 'go to Isle of Man and give a six-word message to a pastor that everything is going to be OK.'

The next day Peter West stumbled across a picture of Douglas and saw the words 'Apostolic ministry' in a magazine. He felt in his heart that God was giving him further directions. Nevertheless, he sought advice

from local Christian leaders who reassured him that God does speak in strange and challenging ways.

Peter West and his adult son, Paul, flew to Europe in faith and subsequently arrived in Douglas, wondering where in the world they were supposed to go until they stopped at a tram terminus and asked the ticket lady if she knew any church with the words 'apostolic ministry' in the title.

The lady became excited and said it was the very church where her troubled teenage son had recently found great help - and the church was located above the tram terminus.

There they met Pieter van Rooyen - including the youth pastor who had asked God to send angels to deliver Pieter from his financial crisis and subsequent court case. The church leaders were astounded by their Australian visitors who gave Pieter the message: 'Everything is going to be OK'.

However, Pieter's leading advocate only agreed to take on Pieter's case if they never mentioned the name of Jesus or miracles in his presence.

But the lawyer was so impressed by the generosity and faith of Peter West in supporting Pieter van Rooyen, that he eventually wrote to say that he had himself become a committed Christian.

Today, Pieter is a business mentor and Bible teacher whose story is told in the book, 'Business Unusual; banking on God'.

He told his story to the Norwich FGBMFI.



Peter van Rooyen.

A hub of community care

■ church profile: by Sandie Shirley

The Hub in Wymondham is a fast-growing expression of community care in the heart of town. The former Job Centre with its modern re-fit, is used by a team of volunteers from Hope Community Church, Wymondham, to value and uphold today's diverse and changing society.

Through the Hub Community Project, a new route of practical empathy is being channelled into the lives of mums, youngsters, the elderly and their carers and those from overseas, through regular expert sessions.



Passion to teach: Paula Mullane.

Brazilian-born Paula Mullane has a passion to teach. She taught English in South America before travelling to the UK with a return ticket, to enhance her vocabulary skills. But her visit became a one-way trip following an unscheduled visit to Norfolk that birthed a new adventure as an interpreter and English speaking teacher.

The member of Hope Community Church, Wymondham, provides English speaking lessons at the town's Hub Community Project. The weekly Saturday sessions are paving a new path of communication and confidence for a variety of immigrants from Wymondham, Attleborough, Dereham and Watton, since they were launched six months ago.

"It is important to be patient and develop learning strategies for different abilities," explains Paula, a volunteer whose popular two-hour lessons, that include a refreshment break, are building friendships and understanding with those from Brazil, Portugal and France.

During the week, Paula is busy using her interpreting skills from Thetford to Great Yarmouth in a growing, cross-cultural society. She is a national registered interpreter, holding a Diploma in Public Service Interpreting since 2007. Her lessons help facilitate new and ripening lives and she is often called on to interpret at hospitals, police stations and court hearings as well as help with form-filling.

"I get to see and help a lot of different people," says Paula, who may teach 45 students in a single lesson. "Language is like planting a seed that begins to blossom. Those who have zero ability are learning to communicate with practice. I love seeing the results as it opens up new opportunities for their careers and in society," says Paula.

She attributes success to her beliefs: "It is the kindness and mercy of Jesus' identity that lives in and through me," says Paula. Her inspiring faith and resulting vocation comes from her late mother who was a teacher and church planter in Brazil. "Her home was always an open door for love and care," recalls Paula.

Paula taught at primary and secondary schools in Brazil before visiting England in 2002 before Christmas, ready to start an intensive three-week course in Bournemouth in the New Year, before finally flying back home. But with fast evaporating funds, she was at a loss to know how to finance her stay until she met a group of Brazilians in London's Oxford Street. Their suggestion to accompany them to King's Lynn to find work began a life-changing chapter.

"I was soon employed in a chicken factory, earning more in a week than I could earn in a month in South America," says Paula. As she conversed with her colleagues her English speaking skills quickly developed without the need for a specialised course. "I wanted to stay in the area to give back my blessing from God," says Paula. She put down roots when her children joined her from Brazil and she attended a church in King's Lynn where she started English speaking lessons for a growing influx of immigrants before moving to Wymondham last year.

English speaking lessons are held on Saturdays (2-4pm) at The Hub Community Project, 27 Fairland Street, Wymondham. Contact: paulamullane@blackberry.orange.co.uk or debbie-hope@hotmail.co.uk.

Making an art of growing old

■ Retired teacher, Libby Creber, dedicated her MA in counselling dissertation to her late mother's desire to make growing old an art. From this has come a unique, social life-line for carers and those they care for at Wymondham's Cup of Caring.

Libby knows the heartache and hard-won understanding that comes while caring for two elderly family members. One suffered from senility and a lack of mobility and the other from a loss of coherent language, caused by a stroke. Her empathy and understanding of others was also enlarged during her six case-studies of carers for the elderly during her recent UEA degree.

"God first led me to do counselling 12 years ago and I felt it always had to have a purpose," says Libby, who now shares her knowledge and professional qualification at the monthly sessions with a 12-strong volunteer team from Hope Community Church.

Through the Hub Community Project, they bring a new and enlivening dimension to carers, and those they care for, who sometimes battle fatigue and isolation. The sessions with music, singing and refreshments also feature past and present themed events including holidays and a Royal Wedding celebration meal in April. Cup of Caring opened last September and it attracts those from near and far with diverse needs, including lack of mobility, senile dementia and Parkinson's Disease but all are welcome, explains Libby.

"We provide an accepting, informal meeting place where visitors don't need to feel at all embarrassed and where carers can communicate with one another and share insights," said Libby, whose volunteer team have all cared for close family members.

"I have learned that it is important to be quiet and listen, respond to body language and

promote a sense of purpose and dignity for all who attend," says Libby, whose sessions currently attract the over 50s, but carers in other age groups are welcome.

Her mother-in-law died recently, having suffered from aphasia (loss of language) for over five years. Libby also saw the effects of dementia when her mother, a committed Christian, lived in a residential home for 30 months. "During one visit I found some of her notes that read: 'Growing old is an art - it depends on mind, heart, emotion and security. By themselves these are powerless, unless surrounded by love'," recalls Libby, who sees them as helping to define her purpose.

Cup of Caring meets on the last Thursday in the month (10.30-12noon) at The Hub Community Project, 27 Fairland Street, Wymondham. Contact: creber@btinternet.com or Debbie (debbie-hope@hotmail.co.uk).

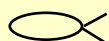


Cup of caring: Libby Creber.

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Salvation Army's aim is to mend broken lives

■ **NORFOLK:** During the month of September members, friends and volunteers of The Salvation Army in Norwich and the surrounding areas will be out collecting in the community to raise vital funds for the Annual Appeal campaign. Collectors will be going door to door and 100% of all donations made to the Appeal will help people in need.

This year the theme for the Annual Appeal is 'Mending Broken Lives' and illustrates the life-changing impact that unconditional Christian love, practical support and professional help can have on people who come into contact with The Salvation Army through any of our 800 social and community centres across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

This has been a particularly hard year for many people who

have had to cope with job losses, poverty and loneliness.

This is why the role of The Salvation Army is more important than ever. With cuts to public funding we receive, public donations to our Annual Appeal are vital to ensure we can continue our work in mending broken lives from services such as our Lifehouses (Hostels) support and provide accommodation for people and families who are homeless, and our care homes and day centres for older people.

Please watch out for official Annual Appeal collectors who all carry a permit, which can be produced on request, and who will only be asking for cash donations (using blue Salvation Army donation envelopes/sealed Salvation Army collection tins).

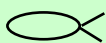


A Salvation Army officer reaches out to a homeless man.

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Norwich duo plan city ball

By KEITH MORRIS

Two women from a Norwich church are organising a charity Ball to raise £10,000 for a Christian charity, founded in Norfolk, which supports street children in one of the world's most violent cities.

Valerie Thorne, from Hellesdon, and Lisa-Marie Platford, from Thorpe St Andrew, both attend City Church in Norwich. They are organising a Ball to be held at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel in Boundary Road, Norwich, next March for the charity Let The Children Live! after reading about its plight in the Eastern Daily Press.

Valerie saw an article about the work of the charity and its need for funds in the paper: "I knew instantly this was the charity I wanted to support and Lisa-Marie was in full agreement. You could say God moved in a dramatic way."

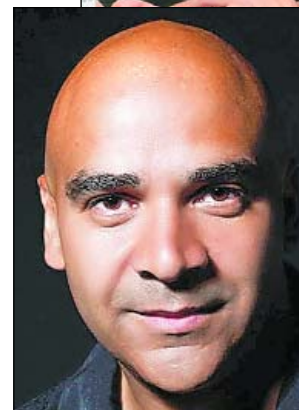
The pair are now looking for people to get behind them and to sponsor the event and also to buy tickets.

Let The Children Live!, which was founded in Walsingham, near Fakenham, supports children in Medellin, Colombia's second largest city, after stories emerged of youngsters being murdered, hooked on drugs, separated from their families and forced into prostitution.

Valeria said: "Neither of us have done any fundraising like this before and had never heard of Let The Children Live! But when we read this story we knew straight away that we had to do something to help and we're going for it in a big way. We are hoping to sell all 250 tickets and are looking for people to come forward now and sponsor the event."

Let The Children Live! has a large day centre and a residential home in Medellin and it provides children with food, medical and dental care, education, social interaction and psychological support.

The black-tie Ball will be on March 24, 2012,



Pictured above are Valerie Thorne, right, and Lisa-Marie Platford, who are organising the charity ball. Courtesy of EDP. Left, is singer Glen Cooper

and people can enjoy a four-course dinner and music from solo vocalist Glen Cooper and a disco with Chris James.

Tickets are £27.50 per person and can be booked by calling 01603 412520 or from the Dixon Centre, Reepham Road, Hellesdon.

Anyone wishing to sponsor the event should make cheques payable to 'Let The Children Live (Norwich)' and send them to 48 Woodland Road, Hellesdon, Norwich, NR65RW or call 01603 412520.

For more on Let The Children Live! visit the website: www.letthechildrenlive.org

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Divine creativity burns brightly

By SANDIE SHIRLEY

A Norfolk barn has become the only centre of its kind in the UK to explore and extend the boundaries of divine creativity.

Revd Wendy Shaw, co-founder, co-ordinator and sojourner with God, has tapped into the mysteries of spiritual art to help launch the Burning Bush Barn at Rockland St Mary from a restored stable.

With its lofty white minimal space, the sanctuary of quiet, unhindered expression and contemplation is both healing and affirming, explains Wendy, who believes God wants to be actively creative through his people.

"I hope the barn is a ready place to respond, rediscover and uncover the gospel through creative experience," says Wendy. "We have a sacred space for the Holy Spirit to dwell where there is nothing to distract, or anything of ourselves, so we can encounter God. Here is an unspoken honesty - a place to be vulnerable on Holy ground where art-making is a way to experience closeness with God and when God is our creator so we are creative," adds Wendy.

The Church of England priest, a painter who sews and sculpts, is seeing the spiritual freedom that comes with making and creating. She also believes in seeking God's provision for the projects and pro-



grammes that flow out of the Barn which, in itself, enlarges the creative process.

The result has been revolutionary as the Holy Spirit inspires definitive and figurative art for visitors, explorers and partakers to touch the heart of our creator, remarks Wendy, who has seen a fresh unleashing of paint and prose through those who never saw themselves as artists.

This pioneering ministry maintains a passion for creative use of liturgy and The Sacraments liturgy within art meditations yet the off-beat agenda somehow provides an open door for every genre and age. It includes prayer painting, breakfast meetings and contemplative sculpture and interactive installations. There are also meditative exhibitions (or 'shewings'), various workshops and a library of 500 art books and DVDs that can be lent to those unable to visit.

The regular Thursday breakfast meetings have swelled since their inception in the lounge of her house three years ago. Some are Christians, others are not and some are unsure but it doesn't matter. All



■ Sally-Anne Lomas, a former Norwich Art School pupil, drifted away from her Christian faith, unable to find a congregation where she felt comfortable. The Burning Bush Barn opened when she moved to Rockland St Mary and she was invited to a prayer painting workshop.

"Now I pray and paint every day. I feel the love of God working through my life. I have found a new, creative, imaginative, private, contemplative form of Christian worship and a community I feel part of which has awoken the flame of love inside me," said Sally-Anne.

"Finding a place and a way that leads me to God, I pray that many more people sense the fire burning so brightly here in this tiny parish and walk as I did towards the light."



Right Rev Wendy Shaw, above the Burning Barn and some of its art works.

have a deep need to live a creative life, with a creative spirituality, explains Wendy, who hosts the early morning sessions for weavers, sewers, painters, doodlers and sculptors to kick-start their day with fresh insight and shared support.

"It is spirituality and creativity with a capital 'S' and 'C' where art-making is about making sense of our lives and not about making a great picture," insists Wendy, who opened the centre with co-partner, Kate Litchfield, who is also a counsellor.

Wendy and Kate shared a similar vision when they met in 2003. Both were artistic and hungry to meet God through the joint harness of creativity and spirituality. They experimented with art - making marks, smudges and lines as well as a riot of primary and metallic colour - as they learnt and understood the developing process of non-verbal prayer through God's releasing. They believe they have uncovered a more natural way of praying, when God sometimes seems beyond words for many people.

They began hosting workshops in South Walsham but demand out-stripped availability. As the partnership continued, the ensuing vision for the Burning Bush Barn came when Wendy's husband, Revd John Shaw - Priest of the Rockland Benefice - was moved to his present location. The run-down stable alongside their home provided a potential base. With a major financial contribution from the Diocese of Norwich, together with trust funds and personal donations, the vision became reality 21 months ago.

Wendy's creative ability was encouraged and released at secondary school. Today she works with diverse materials - machined fabrics, silken threads, clay, vibrant acrylics and even black soot and ashes - at the Barn and her own purpose-adapted studio next-door, as her passion for art and faith has placed her on new spiritual ground.

Wendy once engaged with profoundly deaf children and has a passion for non-verbal visual communication. "As a priest I now help make faith visible and tangible for people who for, whatever reason, are unable to hear the word of God and are deaf to his love because sometimes we need to see His word as well as hear it," she said.

www.burningbushbarn.blogspot.com

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Celebration of faith fills up Norwich city centre

Thousands of people witnessed the sights and sounds of Christians celebrating the many different local expressions of church life for three days in June (10, 11 and 12) centred on the Forum and Millennium Plain in Norwich.

This is the third year Celebrate has been held and it showcased the vast array of Christian groups, activities and services offered across Norfolk.

Celebrate project director John Betts said, "I think we have a great deal to celebrate and that is why we were doing it. We are saying to everyone - this is what God is doing in and through his people."

The Forum atrium and Millennium Plain were filled with around 40 different local Christian organisations and projects who spoke to people about their work, gave out information and encouraged people to get involved.

Shoppers stopped in their tracks as the choirs, bands, musicians, street entertainers and artists performed.

Passers-by were encouraged to join in with games, street art on a giant canvas and there was even the opportunity to whizz up a banana smoothie on a pedal-powered bike!

Chris Duffett, an evangelist with the Light Project who took part in Celebrate, said: "I have had lots of positive conversations and encounters. What an impact this is having on many, many people."

On the Sunday morning, there was a Café Church in the Forum, more music and during the afternoon spitting rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of several hundred Christians from different denominations gather on Millennium Plain to celebrate the Global Day of Prayer.



Above Sheringham Gospel Voices Choir, left evangelist Chris Duffett and below, the Norwich Global Day of Prayer.



■ The 2012 dates for Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk have been announced along with a new addition to the team behind it and the opportunity for others to contribute.

From Friday June 8 to Sunday June 10 the Forum in Norwich, Millennium Plain and St Peter Mancroft Church will showcase a huge array of Christian groups, activities and services from across Norfolk, including the popular Christian Community Action Exhibition.

There will also be a wide-ranging programme of Christian music, arts and dance both local and nationally-known.

Joining the team, to lead activities and events focused on young people, will be East

Celebrate 2012

Norwich Youth Project director, Danny Doran-Smith.

Danny said: "I am pleased to be able to be part of the Celebrate team for 2012, and to build on some of the activities we were able to do this year in engaging with young people and their families"

Celebrate project director John Betts, said: "We are delighted to be able to announce the dates for next year's event which aims to build on what has gone before over the past

three years.

"We are looking to develop Celebrate in new directions and are seeking people who can join the team and take responsibility for that development. We would like people to consider what they could bring to Celebrate as we seek to enlarge the scope of what we do and develop the effectiveness of our work.

"We will also be looking to add new dimensions, including more activities focused on young people, with Danny's help, and also some elements linked to the London Olympics and the More than Gold initiative, which follows shortly after our event."

www.celebratenorfolk.co.uk

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