

GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH

Easter 2007



Global leadership summit set for Norwich

■ A Global Leadership Summit organised by the well-known Willow Creek Church in Illinois, is coming to Norwich in September, thanks to high technology and a partnership between Oak Grove Chapel and King's Community Church.

Speakers will include Willow Creek leader Bill Hybels, former US president Jimmy Carter, ex-US Secretary of State Colin Powell, screenwriter and co-founder of Comic Relief and Making Poverty History Richard Curtis, ex-CEO of Hewlett Packard Carly Fiorina and Harvard

professor Michael Porter.

From September 28-29 the high-technology conference is coming to Norwich's King Centre, alongside satellite centres in Belfast, Bracknell, Bristol, Stafford and hundreds of others across the world.

The summit brings the gifted and experienced speakers on leadership together with up to 80,000 church leaders around the world. Meetings are held simultaneously and pre-recorded video talks are shown, creating a sense

of something big yet with the intimacy of a one-to-one conversation.

Oak Grove senior pastor Ian Savory said: "We attended the previous summit and it was the best leadership event we have ever been to. It took us a year to persuade Willow Creek to let us host the conference, thanks to being able to use the great facilities at the King's Centre."

The idea of a Global Leadership Summit originated with the Willow Creek Church and since

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Richard and Kay Harvey with daughter Jenny during her gap year working with Aids victims in Uganda.

An African step of faith for Aviva boss

Aviva and former Norwich Union boss Richard Harvey is taking a step of faith in July by giving up his high profile job to spend a year doing voluntary charity work in Africa with his wife Kay.

After ten years in charge as group chief executive at Norwich Union and then Aviva, the world's fifth largest insurance company, Richard will be taking early retirement from his influential and well-paid City job at the age of 57.

"I've been incredibly fortunate to do a job I love for so long," he said. "But over the years I've become increasingly aware of the inequalities in the world. I want to get my hands dirty and make a real difference before it's too late."

Richard's vision is shared by wife Kay: "Since our teens, when we met, we have had the developing world on our radar. Richard's retirement has given us an opportunity to be able to spend a year out, and we believe it should be in Africa. We are still deciding where and are speaking with a number of organizations."

By KEVIN GOTTS

The couple, who used to live just south of Norwich in Yelverton, and attended St Mary's parish church, will be following the lead of their daughter Jenny whose Christian faith inspired her to spend a gap-year in Uganda working with Aids victims. It was a visit to the village where she was working which started them thinking

Richard and Kay's own strong Christian faith was another key factor in the decision they have made.

"All of our lives we have had an active faith," said Kay. "I have been working with the School of Urban Mission so I am able to teach English as a second language. Other voluntary work shows a huge variety of needs in the UK especially inner cities; however Africa is on our hearts."

Since moving to London a few years ago, the couple have mainly been involved at Holy Trinity, Brompton.

"There has been a lot of prayer support towards our decision making and I am sure they will be continuing interceding for us," explained Kay.

"We expect to go to South or South East Africa, possibly Kenya, Malawi or Zambia this September," said Kay.

"Richard has a lot of business acumen, should that be needed, but he is just as happy doing practical things like building. Besides being able to teach, organize, hospital visiting and keen on horticulture, we are just happy to use our skills as appropriate."

The couple will be making occasional trips back to England, with elderly relatives to think about, and they are considering doing a video diary because of the big media interest.

They have not decided what to do when they get back to England after the year.

"Richard may return to the City, but not to such a high profile position," said Kay. "There are huge tasks in helping Africa via business and he will want to make things happen."

■ In brief

City romance academy plan

■ A Romance Academy is launching in Norwich, organised by Pregnancy Crisis Norfolk and following on from the popular BBC2 series No Sex Please We're Teenagers.

PCN director Biddy Collyer said: "Anyone who saw the BBC2 programme last year must have been inspired by the enthusiasm and compassion of the two Christian youth workers who pioneered the Romance Academy."

"Basically, they took a group of 12 young people and encouraged them and built up their self-esteem while they looked at issues of what constitutes a good relationship. They were encouraged to abstain from sex for the five months while they were on the Academy," said Biddy.

"We believe it is an exciting opportunity to positively influence the lives of young people by challenging them to question the messages that society throws at them and helping them realise their value and worth."

PCN are setting up a similar Romance Academy for a dozen Norwich youngsters and the group will run on Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm starting on March 27 at the Fishergate Centre in the city centre.

Two Christian youth workers, Sarah Woodger and David Lanchester, will run the 15-week Academy for twelve 14-16 year olds (6 boys and 6 girls). It will include a weekly two-hour session on topics including building and sustaining healthy relationships, influences on behaviour, contraception and sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, drugs and alcohol and self-image.

It will also include social events and a residential weekend away and is all free. "There will also be a graduation ceremony at the end to which the young people can invite their friends and family," said organiser Melissa Snell.

If you are interested or would like to find out more ring 01603 616580.

Walk of witness

■ An appeal has been put out for fit young Christians to carry a large cross through Norwich city centre as part of the annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

The Walk takes place on Friday April 6 from 4.45pm at Chapelfield Methodist Church. The walk will proceed to the Cathedral escorted by the Salvation Army Band. It will stop at Millennium Plain in front of the Forum for a short act of worship. The Lord Mayor of Norwich will be in attendance and an ecumenical service takes place from 6pm. The preacher is Rev James East, of Norwich Central Baptist Church.

Transforming Norwich chairman John Betts, who has helped to organize the event, said: "This occasion provides a wonderful opportunity for the Body of Christ to stand together for the faith we proclaim. We invite people from all the churches to join us. "We are asking for some young men who are able to carry the cross to join us."

Contact John on 01603 861181 or at 2john@johnbetts.fsnet.co.uk

GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH

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 ■ The majority of Norwich churches are solidly behind the aims of Festival Norwich which is to give every person in greater Norwich the opportunity to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ and to bring the message of Christ to bear on the social, cultural, educational, industrial and professional life of the city.
 In order to facilitate the communication of these aims and to improve the exchange of information, the Festival board decided to publish a periodical newspaper to keep the Christian churches, organisations and associations informed.
 Leaders and church members are invited to send information on forthcoming events and short articles (with relevant photographs) relating 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 Harvest 2007 issue is Friday August 31.
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Tell the whole world that Jesus is alive

■ "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Corinthians 15:14)

Christianity's power and credibility hinges upon Jesus' death and the indisputable miracle of his resurrection.

The essential nature of the Christian message is founded on the truth that Jesus did die for the sins of all mankind and "through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead," to pronounce forgiveness to all who would believe on Him.

Christianity is unique in the world, because it teaches that its central figure, Jesus, is still alive today after He was brutally crucified and killed. This is not because the Romans didn't manage a clean kill but that they succeeded and it was seen by many witnesses that Jesus had indeed died; and subsequently that He was raised again from death!



**Tom Rawls,
Senior Minister,
Proclaimers
Church,
Norwich**

Remember the words of the angel at the empty tomb; Luke 24:5-6, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Yes, He has risen indeed!

It's the truth of the resurrection that makes our faith so alive – and the declaration of His resurrection that gives us such power. There could have been no other phenomena that could have motivated first century Christians to take the message of Jesus as Messiah to

the four corners of the world. There could have been no other force to empower those believers to do the miraculous things they did or to walk the earth with such confidence and a sense of victory.

The resurrection of Christ is the indispensable ingredient that goes into the central doctrine of salvation. Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead by the power of God. Easter is our opportunity to tell the whole world that Jesus is alive and very interested and concerned for us. It's our opportunity to show we have a relationship with a living Jesus.

Paul the Apostle says it this way in Romans 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." We're not talking about an optional extra belief here but an essential Christian doctrine.

Citadel band to mark 125 years

Norwich Salvation Army's Citadel Band is marking its 125th anniversary in March with special events, new recordings and by raising money for a Kenyan children's home.

General William Booth visited Norwich in 1882 and commanded the citizens of the ancient city to "Get a drum and rouse Norwich from one end to the other!" The rest, as they say, is history.

Events to mark the anniversary include a celebration in Norwich Cathedral on March 17 with soprano Judith Howard and massed songsters, an evening with the King's Singers at the St Giles Citadel on June 23, the world-famous Black Dyke Band at St Andrew's Hall on Sept 29 and a 125th Anniversary Reunion Weekend on October 27 and 28 to which all former bandsmen are invited.

The Band has been busy recording its latest production, General's Command. Its release is planned at a reunion weekend in October. Another new recording, Fine City Gold, part compilation and part newly-recorded, is made up of music conducted by Bandmasters Jack Gibson, Bob Munn, Ron Young

and Doug Beattie, and will be released in the spring.

According to band secretary Michael Whybrow, the band have chosen to raise money to support the Mombasa Children's Home in Kenya as part of its anniversary year.

"With my wife Jean, I had the pleasure of visiting Kenya for a holiday and we took the opportunity to visit the Home and also the local Salvation Army corps," said Michael.

"The first project that will be funded by NCB is the provision of a library. A suitable room will be re-

plastered, redecorated and shelving built around the walls. Our funding will enable the Home to purchase hundreds of new books and possibly a computer. Tables and chairs will be arranged in the centre so that the children can use this new library as a quiet reading and study room."

The NCB is hoping to meet the full cost and £2000 has already been sent.

For more details of events contact: secretary@NorwichCitadelBand.org.uk or ring 01603 868314

www.norwichcitadelband.org.uk



The old, left, and the new, above, faces of the Norwich Citadel Band.

Global summit in city

continued from page 1...

■ 1995 has grown so much so that in 2005 it reached over 80,000 leaders world-wide.

Willow Creek leader Bill Hybels, says: "Its purpose is to help leaders recalibrate, recommit, and renew their passion to lead with all diligence. It is a unique opportunity to join hearts and minds with tens of thousands of like-minded believers from around the world; to learn, grow, sharpen skills and step up to the next level. As always, this annual event will deliver all-new content from world-class leaders."

Other speakers at the summit include Floyd Flake, senior pastor of Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York; and John Ortberg, best-selling author and teaching pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California.

Early booking for the conference is at reduced rates with £57 per person for groups of five or more for the two days and is recommended. It runs on Friday September 28 and Saturday September 29.

Further details on 0845 1300 909 or visit: www.willowcreek.org.uk
By John Breeze

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Trainee Norwich street pastors Maddy Carvosso and Olly Turner.
Picture courtesy of EDP.

Street pastors walk tall in city

Street Pastors are well on their way to becoming a regular part of Friday nights in Norwich after a launch in mid-March.

During the month leading up to the launch of Street Pastors, on Friday March 16, small groups prayer-walked the night-life area of Norwich for a couple of hours three times a week.

Jill Gower, who is leading the team of intercessors, said: "Prayer walking is to break up the ground for the Street Pastors when they go out on the streets."

For some of the prayer walkers, what they saw was quite an eye-opener, and confirmation that there's a real need for Street Pastors out there.

Olly Turner, the youngest of the Street Pastors, who lives nearby and has visited several of the bars and clubs, said: "Even though I know the area well, I was struck by the number of people out there, and by the enormity of the task ahead." He added: "In spite of the noise and distractions, it wasn't difficult to

By GAIL HALLEY

concentrate on praying. I felt a real sense of peace although there is a lot of darkness in the area."

The different churches represented at the commissioning service, held at Chapelfield Road Methodist Church on March 14, reflects the wide variety of churches that Street Pastors come from. It is truly a wonderful example of Christians forgetting denominational barriers and getting out to work together where the people are.

The Street Pastors underwent a training course on four consecutive Saturdays which all found very helpful, though most are agreed that the real training starts now that they are out there.

An important strand is the close connection with the intercessors who will be backing them as they are out. Jill Gower said: "The Street Pastors and intercessors are one team working together, and therefore there will be

lots of contact between them by mobile phone while the Street Pastors are out; that way they will have prayer cover at all times."

Building relationships in and around the streets is also fundamental. Following a very helpful training session with Inspector Peter Walsh, the police offered to take street pastors – two at a time – with them one evening to get a flavour of what they do, and also to meet some of the volunteers on the SOS bus.

Val Dodsworth, administrator of Street Pastors, said: "After months of preparatory work, most of it behind a desk, it was a real tonic to get out and experience the place where Street Pastors would be out and about. The need is so obvious and the privilege of doing this work is enormous."

Although Street Pastor recruits are steadily growing in number, more are needed so if you would like to be part of this exciting project contact Val Dodsworth on 01603 472753 or v.dodsworth@ntlworld.com; intercessors please contact Jill Gower on 01508 491770 or jillgower@tiscali.co.uk



Churches launch new vision of future

■ Transforming Norwich, which represents Churches Together in Greater Norwich, has launched a new "vision for the future" statement and logo to guide its activities and members.

It aims to put Christians united at the heart of the community, working together with everyone who cares about the quality of community life by adopting "Making Norwich a Fine Community" as its slogan.

Transforming Norwich chairman John Betts said: "The aspirational vision looks to the future as if we were already there and is actively taking place. It is Isaiah 58 in modern English for our society today. This is what we see as our future for the church in Norwich."

Vice-chairman Rev Nicholas Vesey said: "This is something that people outside the church can agree with and get behind. It is hopefully accessible and goes beyond the aspirations of everyone and may help to get more of them to join us."

The aspirational vision for the future statement reads:

"Norwich is a fine city. People experience it as a fine community, a place where people look after each other. Where injustice, exploitation, loneliness and oppression are sought out and eradicated. The hungry and homeless are cared for. Families in crisis have someone to help them. Everyone understands where to turn in times of need. Christians are united at the heart of the community, working together with everyone who cares about the quality of community life."

Church seeks interns

■ A Norfolk missionary congregation of the Church of England is looking for four young people to take on as interns for a year of discipleship at The Fountain of Life Church, based at Ashill, near Watton. The interns live in a house in the village and run youth outreach, help with the Alpha course in prison, pioneer multimedia, work on an accredited Bible training course and are an integral and invaluable part in the life of the church. The intern year includes working with an overseas church/community for up to 10 days. This year's interns are about to set off for India.

For details visit: www.fountainoflifeonline.org

Living Water ends after 12 years

■ Having been a fixture in the local Christian calendar for the past twelve years there will be no Living Water at the Norfolk Showground this August.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven," so writes the Sage in Ecclesiastes 3v1.

For the Living Water Festival that time and season has come and gone. It began as a vision for the Rev Martin Down of Ashill in the early nineties when he wanted to establish in Norfolk an event similar to the New Wine Festivals in the West Country.

The first event took place over the early May Bank Holiday weekend in 1995. Growing from that early start there was a regular event until 2001 when the foot and mouth crisis prevented it from taking place.

Following that break, in 2002 it moved to the first weekend in August and increased to a five-day festival. Each year it offered activities for all from the youngest children through the ages to adults with speakers, programmes and worship tailored to each level.

Over the years the impact of Living Water has had effects way beyond the limits of the showground. One identifiable effect followed the visit of Tony Campolo in 1998.

Tony spoke of the need for Christians to get involved in matters of social justice. Some students from the UEA heard Tony's message and decided to do something about it. Under the directorship of Louise Donkin the SPEAK campaign was launched. By 2002 it had spread from the UEA to other universities in the UK, the USA, Canada and Europe. Now it has an international following and is making a difference across the world.

Call to Prayer also grew out of the event. Beginning as a group of intercessors for Living Water it has become a prayer network for churches and events with its own monthly electronic prayer letter.

Wavemakers Ministries, the children's ministry, also developed out of Living Water. Another is an orphanage initiative in Malawi. Other effects are more difficult

to quantify but no less real.

David Gardner, chair of trustees, said: "The real impact has been on the lives of individuals and churches in the region and it is very sad that the event will no longer be a part of local church life, particularly for those that have no or few other networks."

Heather Nunn, event manager, said: "The time has come for change, to encourage the churches around the area to go on and develop their own strategies for growth, helping one another to meet the needs of their local communities and bringing the grace and gifts of God to life where they are."

This was the objective of Living Water from the beginning. In fact since the closure of the festival was announced, there has been news of churches and groups setting out their own plans and programmes to help this growth.

David Gardner said: "We must wait and see what God will raise up in its place. Watch this space!"

By John Breeze



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Peter Phillips helps launch the appeal inside St Mark's.

Help raise church roof

Families are being urged to help their Norwich church, as a major fundraising drive was launched to restore it to its former glory.

St Mark's, on Hall Road, New Lakenham, is in need of more than £200,000 of repairs.

The 200-year-old church is suffering from severe water damage and needs urgent repairs to the roof, and the replacement of guttering and downpipes.

But as well as preserving the building for future generations, it is hoped enough money can be raised to transform it into a lively community centre.

On Saturday February 10, churchgoers met to launch the Raise the Roof campaign and establish the St Mark's renewal fund.

The Rev Erik West-Lindell said: "We hope this will make a huge difference to the community and we hope to turn the church into a real community resource."

"It will be a powerhouse for the whole community in the 21st century. We hope it will be used for much more than just ecclesiastical purposes."

An application has already been made to English Heritage for help with the fund.

Peter Phillips, parish treasurer, said: "Mending the roof is just the beginning. We want to make sure St Mark's is at the centre, not only of worship, but also of outreach to the whole community."

St Mark's costs about £1,000 a month to run and maintain, and already £27,000 has been raised in the last few years to install a new heating system and pay for rewiring work. Donations, C/o Peter Phillips, PCC Treasurer, 37 Welsford Road, Norwich NR4 6QA.

Express yourself

Norfolk is leading the way in the UK in offering a new training course aimed at equipping people beginning Fresh Expressions of church and engaging in mission.

Mission-Shaped Ministry is a one-year part-time course which aims to equip people to meet the challenge of making the Christian faith accessible to those with little or no church background. It began on January 20 and is being run at Ashill and hosted by Stephen Mawditt (Minister of Fountain of Life Anglican Church) and Jane Loades (District Evangelism Enabler for the Methodist Church). Contact Jessica Glauert on 01603 630517 or www.freshexpressions.org.uk



The new community hall taking shape in Catton Grove.

Community hall rises from ground in Oak Grove

As Oak Grove Chapel's new community hall rises from the ground, church members have been busy raising cash to help pay for it and TV Baptist minister Steve Chalke has been invited to conduct the opening on October 6.

The new community hall is quickly taking shape in Catton where the First and Middle schools are coming together this autumn under the Government's new scheme. As well as a group of classrooms being constructed next to the Middle School (which was rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 2000) there is to be a large community hall which will be used for sports and arts activities.

As part of its commitment to the Catton

community, Oak Grove Chapel is helping fund the building of this new hall as a gift to the community. This means that the hall will be larger and the specification upgraded to include state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems and a well equipped stage area. Oak Grove will use this 300-seater hall for its Sunday worship and it will be available for school and community activities outside this time.

Sing-a-long Sound of Music, Last Night of the Proms, craft sales and classical concerts as well as charitable and other funds have raised almost £25,000 which will help pay for the increased specification of the hall.

Oak Grove Chapel and its adjoining buildings

on Catton Grove Road will be used for midweek activities. The basic steelwork structure of the hall is already changing the skyline in the Catton Grove area and an opening weekend is scheduled for Saturday/ Sunday October 6 and 7 when Steve Chalke is expected as the main speaker. He will be at the opening on the afternoon of October 6 whilst the evening will be given to an open meeting for church leaders around the city and county when Steve will talk about the churches' mission to community.

More details are available from Oak Grove Chapel, Catton Grove Road, NR3 3N, 01603 403388. www.oakgrovechapel.co.uk

By John Breeze

Rwanda trip for team

By GAIL HALLEY

Way of the Spirit (WotS) team from Norfolk have returned from a two-week trip to Cyangugu in Rwanda during February. They were exhausted but full of excitement at what they had seen God do during their time there leading a 10-day residential conference for over 100 pastors.

For Roy Floyd, who cut off his dreadlocks to raise cash for the trip, it was the fulfilment of a dream. "I'd longed to go to Africa because that's where my roots are, and no-one can begin to understand Africa until they've been there," he said.

For his wife Karen, it was the result of a word given from God at a WotS conference two or three years ago. "God told us to go and as soon as the possibility of Rwanda came up, we knew that was where we were to go," she said.

Although Rwanda's recent history has been so turbulent – 800,000 people killed in the space of 100 days in 1994 – the team were encouraged to find some signs of hope. The land is beautiful and fertile and they saw many people working hard to build up their country again.

However, as team leader Richard George, said; "None of the pain is immediately obvious, yet it isn't far from the surface. Only recently, for instance, have people begun putting out flowers in front of their homes again. "We worshipped and prayed with one of the pastors in the single-room house where the church meets and where he lives with his wife and 10 children."

They were overwhelmed by the generosity,

friendliness and humility of the people there.

"They've been through so much, and have so little compared with us," said Roy, "but they were very warm and very open to the word of God."

For Karen, one of the joys was the dancing: "Roy and I have always loved dancing," she said. "So it was wonderful when the African pastors started dancing during our times of worship, and we could join in. They have such a strong warrior spirit that comes through when they dance, and they seem to worship God with the whole body."

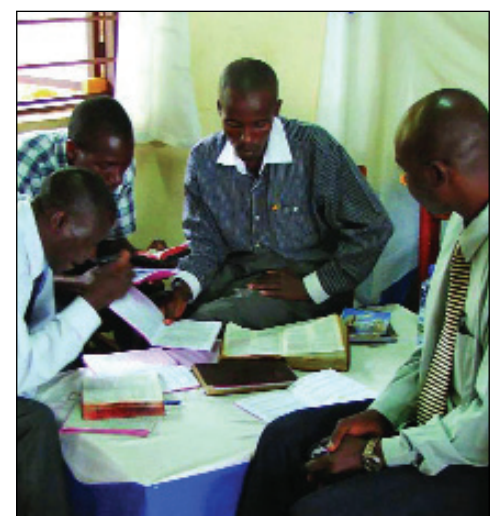
"In many ways the church in Rwanda is quite traditional and of the leaders present there were only a handful of women," said Roy.

He also said that the pastors from the different denominations – of which the biggest group was Anglican – quickly dropped any barriers there might have been.

Richard believes the Way of the Spirit is an important tool for bringing leaders together to learn to hear God for themselves, and then taking that back to their churches. "We believe it is key for this part of Africa," he said. "We've had three great conferences in Uganda on the same principle; Rwanda is now catching it, and our next trip will be to Burundi."

The Bishop of Cyangugu, in closing the conference, expressed his belief that: "Rwanda is key in the spiritual destiny of Africa ... and revival is the only answer." He longs for the church to wake up and deepen its roots in the Bible and in discipleship. As Richard says: "I sense we're not at the end of anything at all, but only at the very beginning."

www.thewayofthespirit.com



Above the Norfolk Rwanda team and, left, some of the African pastors they worked with.

NEWS

Norwich Christian forums at www.networknorwich.co.uk

New Norwich church throws open its doors

■ A new Norwich church opened its doors publicly for the first time on January 14 offering free breakfast and a café-style welcome.

Gateway Vineyard, led by Craig and Hannah Deal, started in October 2005 and is a church plant from Norwich Vineyard which meets in Thorpe. They are holding a new regular Sunday morning service at the Fishergate Centre in Norwich.

Craig said: "We want to be contemporary and relevant. But basically we want to create an environment where we and others can meet together and discover Jesus wherever they are at in life and with as few barriers as possible. It will be very rela-

tional, hence breakfast. It will be only an hour long and the talks, we hope, will be relevant to everyday life.

"We are a community of people who are committed to following Jesus Christ with our whole lives and who also called to love and serve each other and the city around us. We value diversity. We are a place where all are welcome: whether you're curious or convinced, disillusioned or envisioned, hurting or content.

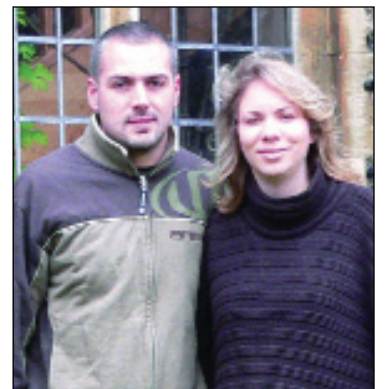
"Other things important to us are Vineyard values like keeping things simple, no hype and valuing the individual. There will be worship and oppor-

tunities for prayer.

The name 'Gateway Vineyard' was inspired by our desire for the church to be a place where anyone could come and meet with God.

Craig, who has lived in Norwich for the last 6 years, has worked for the Vineyard movement in the USA in Anaheim, California for 3 years. He is married to Hannah, daughter of Norwich Vineyard pastors Geoff and Annie Lawton. Both also work for the Schools department of YMCA Norfolk.

Contact Craig and Hannah on 01603 439076 or info@gatewayvineyardnorwich.org.uk
www.gatewayvineyardnorwich.org.uk



Craig and Hannah Deal outside the Fishergate Centre.

New 2,500-seat £5m church is planned

By KEITH MORRIS

Two Norwich churches have joined forces to draw up plans for a new 2,500 capacity church and community centre complex, costing £5m, on the outskirts of the city.

One year after a fire destroyed the Mount Zion Family Life Centre building on Heartsease Lane, the church has announced plans to merge with Drayton Hall Church to become the Norwich Family Life Church with immediate effect. The current congregation numbers around 400.

The new combined church is talking to Broadland District Council about a plan to build a £5 million church and community centre on the 32-acre former David Rice Hospital site on Drayton High Road.

The pastoral teams from the two churches are joining together to include Alan Pimlott, Graham Dacre, Trevor Pimlott and Bud Pimlott.

Pastor Trevor Pimlott said: "We are very excited about the possibility of building on the David Rice site and we will be talking to Broadland Council about using the site to build a church and community centre fit for the 21st century. In respect of the Heartsease Lane site we will be looking to maximise its opportunity and potential also. Watch this space."

Graham Dacre, who helped lead the Drayton Hall Church, said: "I am delighted to be part of a larger new church and all it will offer to the city of Norwich. It would certainly be great to see the David Rice Hospital site redeveloped for church and community use. Clearly we will need the support of all at Broadland."

Pastor Trevor Pimlott said: "These are truly remarkable days and I am delighted with the developments and news. My heart is to be a positive influence within our city, invest for future generations and be of value to thousands of families in the coming years. We are concerned for all ages and the new church will therefore care



New Norwich Family Life Church pastors Alan Pimlott (left), Graham Dacre, Trevor Pimlott and Bud Pimlott.

and provide for all from the cradle to the grave. Life is becoming increasingly challenging and complex and our goal is to provide answers and hope. Together we will respond to the needs of all around us, in Drayton, Heartsease and in Norfolk. It is great news all round."

Since the fire 12 months ago, the Mount Zion church has met at Drayton Hall. Community projects have continued at Heartsease from urgently constructed temporary buildings, and activities cater for all ages from pre-school to special events for the more senior members of the community.

Discussion with the local authority indicated the Heartsease site was no longer sufficient for all that is planned in the future and over recent weeks consideration has been given to the former hospital site on Drayton High Road. The 32-acre site was purchased by the Lind Trust ten years ago.

The envisaged cost of development for a church and community centre on this site is £5 million. The proposed

structure for the new church building is glass and steel – a beautiful, architecturally significant building. Discussions are underway with Broadland District Council and plans will be submitted in due course.

Christine Field, a spokesperson for the new church, said: "It's not often churches come together so it's all the more exciting. As a church we embrace the opportunity to work with Graham and Julie Dacre. They have a heart for young people as can be seen in their support for the Open Youth Venue project. Branding for the new church is being developed."

"The approximate time scale for completion is 2009. As for the size – we hope to build it as big as planners will allow. Clearly there is still a lot to discuss with planners. A sanctuary to seat 2,500 has always been the vision. On the 32-acre site there is plenty of space for numerous community facilities and activities to impact and benefit our city and all of these will be explored with planning".

Lord teaches YMCA residents how to change world

■ Three Norwich YMCA residents have been learning how to change the world from a lord and a lobbyist.

Dominic, Trakxx and Ruski attended a course at the German YMCA in London, called Changing Your World. The theme of the course was to engage young YMCA members in the electoral process including campaign-

ing and lobbying.

The course was arranged by YMCA England and Y Care International and was led by professional lobbyist and campaigner Kelly Drake, who teaches others how to use the parliamentary system to their advantage, and Lord (Rupert) Redesdale, an elected Liberal Democrat Life Peer.

YMCA Norfolk faith development officer, Alexis Lloyd, said: "The course was a wonderfully inspiring experience. It included lots of workshops and an afternoon at the Houses of Parliament. The young people asked the Peers and MPs many searching questions and went home with an informed perspective on the workings of government."

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GOOD FRIDAY 6th April

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United Walk of Witness, when we meet up with

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EASTER SUNDAY 8th April

Holy Communion at 9.30am and 11am

Evening Celebration at 7.15am

LOVE AND JOY TO YOU IN THIS
SEASON OF NEW HOPE

Social justice ■ Campaigns attack modern slavery

Tackling slavery



Presentation urges us to stop the traffik

■ Under the umbrella of the Oasis Trust, a Stop the Traffik two-hour multimedia presentation came to Norwich's King's Centre on February 2 as part of an 11-venue tour, courtesy of Marion White (pictured above), with her extended family and friends.

Following a meeting with Steve Chalke of Oasis, Ruth Field (Marion's sister-in-law) felt the need to visit Mumbai (Bombay) and with five family members went to see for herself the plight of people in the poorer parts of that city and to discover the work being done by Oasis to relieve suffering and restore justice. The experience was life-changing and resulted in the creation of the presentation.

"I wanted to show the world what was going on," she told her Norwich audience. "That 200 years after the abolition of the slave trade, many more people were in slavery now than at the height of the slave trade, yet, that individuals can make a difference."

The presentation included a series of videos, interspersed with songs from Paul Field's brilliant musical on the slave trade called Cargo. Paul, with a locally recruited 20-piece choir, sang some of these very touching songs which only highlighted the message of the videos.

One video was particularly moving – it used the words associated with harvest – 'planted, growing, ripe for harvest, selected, picked, graded, transported, sold and consumed' and applied them, not to fruit, but to young girls from Mumbai.

Other videos aroused feelings of pity, sadness and outrage as children told their distressing stories while latest statistics revealed how many criminals are turning to human trafficking as it is more profitable yet less dangerous than drug smuggling – it is worth 7 billion dollars a year!

Yet all is not hopeless, all is not lost. There is light and something can be done. Other agencies including Fair Trade and the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre gave evidence of how individuals can change situations.

Compassion spoke of their child sponsorship initiative where, for £18 per month, a child's life can be changed for ever! A building in Mumbai previously used as a brothel is now a safe haven and restoration centre for prostitutes.

The musical Cargo is being presented at Yarmouth on June 9 and Tibenham on June 15. Some of these are the full performance with choir, cast and dancers whilst others are solo performances songs and narrative.

Check out www.paulfield.com/cargo and

www.stopthetraffik.org

By John Breeze

Exactly 200 years after the official ending of the British slave trade led by Christian anti-slavery pioneer William Wilberforce, more people are in slavery today than at any time in the world's history. A number of campaigns are both celebrating the anniversary while highlighting the continuing injustices of different forms of slavery. **John Breeze** and **Keith Morris** report.



The British slave trade was abolished by an Act of Parliament on March 25, 1807, and the bi-centenary is being marked around the world on March 25, 2007.

But today at least 12.3 million people are estimated to be victims of forced labour worldwide. Of these, 2.4 million are as a result of human trafficking. People are still trafficked into prostitution, begging, forced labour, military service, domestic service, forced illegal adoption and forced marriage.

Today, it is estimated as many women are trafficked in Europe for sex as slaves were shipped across the Atlantic at the end of the eighteenth century.

The Stop the Traffik anti-slavery campaign will reach its climax in Norwich on March 21 with the release of doves and balloons over the city.

At 12 noon on the steps of City Hall the Sheriff of Norwich will release 200 balloons to mark 200 years since the victory of William Wilberforce in abolishing the slave trade. The occasion will be led by Graham Thompson, Chair of the Methodist District, with music from the Salvation Army band.

At 7.30pm on March 21 in St Peter Mancroft Church, Dr Carrie Pemberton, Director of Chaste, will expose today's slave trade. She will be joined by Paul Valentin, the International Director of Christian Aid, who will give a worldwide picture of the trafficking scourge.

The event is backed by Transforming

Norwich and Churches Together in Norfolk, and will feature the Norwich Youth for Christ alternative worship from Wonder.

Rose Anne, who runs a funded project in Haiti to help victims caught in trafficking, will be at the evening meeting.

For more details contact Willey, Christian Aid 0781

www.stopthetraffik.org

Amazing Grace

■ The film Amazing Grace tells the life of antislavery pioneer William Wilberforce opens in cinema country on March 23.

The film stars Ioan Gruffudd, Finney, Michael Gambon, Ciaran Hinds and Yousouf Kadir.

Elected to the House of Commons at the age of 21, and on his very successful political career, Wilberforce spent the course of two decades fighting the English establishment and those in power to end the practice of slavery.

www.premier.org.uk/a

www.amazinggracemovie.com

Not for Sale Sunday Chaste

■ Not for Sale Sunday on

as William Wilberforce victory is celebrated

very today



Scenes from the film **Amazing Grace**, set for release in the UK on March 23.



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Gage Road Chapel.

Church celebrates 25 years and looks ahead

By JOHN BREEZE

■ A Norwich suburban church will celebrate its 25th birthday on June 24 with a weekend of celebration, reflection and anticipation. There will also be a great party.

"We want it to be a time when we recognise the work done over the years in this community," says Michael Graves, leader of Gage Road Chapel, Sprowston.

"But we also want to look forward to the ways in which the church can grow and develop in the days and years that lie ahead."

Gage Road Chapel began as a church plant from Oak Grove Chapel when the number of Christians in the area began to grow in the 1970s. A process of Christian growth through personal witness meant that several young families began coming to church and there was the need to begin a Sunday School in the area which, initially, was held in Sparhawk Avenue School.

Later there was the opportunity to build a church on a site that had originally been allocated to a superstore. The plot was bought and the building opened on June 26, 1982. Since then the church has grown, developed and changed. In March 2006, Michael was

appointed as the Pastor bringing to the position a wide variety of experiences in several skills including management in the civil service, teaching at the City College and involvement with several churches/church groups through connections with the Evangelical Alliance.

"The people in this church have a loving and caring attitude," says Michael, "and we want to recognise that. With several community-based groups such as the bereavement group, Tot Spot, art and craft activities, youth and luncheon clubs, the church makes a valuable contribution to community life. And we need to look forward to new challenges."

"There are new homes being built close to the Tesco store and we need to welcome them, as well as developing our relationship with the other churches in Sprowston so we can speak with a united voice and message to this secular culture."

Michael is already involved with local schools and has visions for that to increase and develop to involve not only the church members but the church building too, adding: "On the 24th we will be celebrating not just the past and the present but that the best is yet to come."

Gage Road Chapel is on Gage Road, Sprowston, tel 01603 488481.

New YMCA is final piece in Norwich bus station jigsaw

■ The final piece of the jigsaw to redevelop Norwich bus station has been unveiled as a modern YMCA building.

An artist's impression of the proposed scheme shows how the development, which will also see the building of flats, a café and a shop on the remaining undeveloped part of the site, will conclude the bus station redevelopment.

Plans have been drawn up by NPS Property Consultants – the county council's wholly owned property consultancy – and were recently approved by the city council's planning applications committee.

The site will be developed in partnership with the YMCA to produce a new 34-place hostel. The remainder of the site will be sold to build 70 flats, a cafe unit on the Queen's Road frontage and a retail unit next to the bus station.

The YMCA has already secured £2.7m of

funding while a 150th anniversary appeal backed by a host of well-known public figures including the Bishop of Norwich and Richard Jewson, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, is also hoping to raise a further £1.1m.

The 70 flats will range from one to three bedrooms, and will also benefit from provision of leisure facilities – such as a swimming pool, gym and sauna.

The £5m bus station opened on August 30, 2005, as part of a master plan by the county council to redevelop the run-down city centre facility.

Chief executive of Norfolk YMCA, John Drake, said: "We are delighted, relieved and ready now for all the opportunities that it will mean."

"The good news about the development is that we will be able to offer facilities for females as well as males, whereas at St Giles we couldn't."

Europe (Chaste).

Chaste is working in collaboration with other key partners to develop the response of members of all denominations to widespread sexual exploitation in our midst.

Full information and resource are available at:

www.notforsalesunday.org
www.chaste.org.uk

Making Our Mark

■ Nationally the Making our Mark Walk of Witness, takes place in London on Saturday March 24, led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

It will begin at 12.15 in Whitehall Place and conclude with an act of worship in Kennington Park beginning around 2.15 pm. Its three themes are Remembrance; Repentance and Restoration.

www.makingourmark.org.uk

Set All Free

■ Set All Free aims to remember the past and apply its lessons to tackle the legacies of Transatlantic slavery and its modern day equivalent.

Set All Free has been set up by Churches Together in England as a collaboration between those who are happy to work with a Christian ethos on the relevance of the bicentenary.

www.setallfree.net



er way to continue the fight against modern-day slavery, especially the enslavement in trafficked women and girls for sexual exploitation in massage parlours, brothels and 'secured' houses across the UK today.

It is estimated that over 4,000 women are trafficked for prostituted sex into the UK each year.

Not for Sale Sunday is a special initiative of Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking across

From China with love

By MIKE WILTSHIRE

From factory manager in mainland China to founder of a chain of successful restaurants in Norwich – that's the surprising story of entrepreneur and Christian Paul Lin.

Born in Canton during the repressive Cultural Revolution, Paul was one of the fortunate few who graduated with a coveted degree in mechanical engineering in the 1980s.

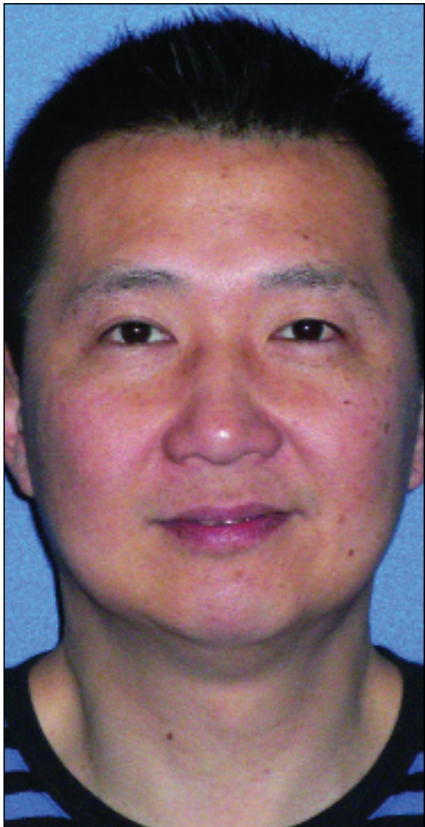
Paul had big responsibilities at a manufacturing plant in southern China, but in June, 1989, while on a visit to Hong Kong, he heard the alarming news about the Tiananmen Square massacre of students in Beijing – and he feared the worst.

Along with a number of other graduates and business people, Paul believed that it was the right time to seek a new life in the western world. Many educated Chinese moved away to Australia, Canada and the US.

Paul hoped to come to Britain, but knew no-one here. However, within 24 hours' of an application and interview, he was given permission to come to this country, where he started an English course at Sheffield University.

"One day at a bus-stop, a lovely young lady called Ruth spoke to me in Cantonese," he recalls. "It was a wonderful surprise!" This chance meeting was the start of romance.

British-born Ruth, then a medical



Christian entrepreneur Paul Lin.

student, had learned the Chinese dialect while working in Hong Kong with Jackie Pullinger, the well-known pioneer worker with drug addicts and the author of the best-selling book, Chasing the Dragon.

Ruth, a Christian, took Paul to a local bookshop and bought him a Bible. As their friendship grew, Paul and Ruth attended the Chinese church in Sheffield where Paul became a committed Christian and was baptised.

Eventually, the couple got engaged and were married in the same church. Ruth won a masters degree at Cambridge, but life was hard for them as Paul looked for work. He sold hot dogs, cleaned people's homes, filled supermarket shelves and even picked potatoes to make a living.

The couple moved to Norwich where hard-working Paul made his "big break" – he progressed from making sandwiches for local business people to setting up his first Chinese takeaway. "My experience as a mechanical engineer was a help in setting up the kitchen," he says.

Eventually, his first takeaway business developed into a string of local restaurants. In fact, success came so rapidly that Paul admits frankly: "I felt I'd made it. I got big-headed and, amid the distractions, I was a bit reckless in my personal life."

In Norwich, Paul and his young family joined King's Community Church in the city centre. "They have been so supportive to us," he says. "And I have learned that, as a Christian, if you don't listen to God, things can go wrong, especially if you allow yourself to be carried away with business 'success'."

"I have learned to seek God's help – and he has never let me down."



Social reformers honoured

■ Plaques commemorating leading anti-slavery campaigner Sir Thomas Buxton and prison reformer Elizabeth Fry, were unveiled by Sir Jocelyn Buxton and Sue Debbage, warden of the Friends' Meeting House, in Upper Goat Lane, Norwich on February 6.

Elizabeth Fry was born into the Gurneys, the Quaker family who founded what was to become Barclays Bank. She worshipped at The Friends' Meeting House and became one of the world's most respected prison reformers.

Sir Thomas was an MP, brewer and social reformer who married Elizabeth's sister, Hannah Gurney, in 1807. He worked with Elizabeth on prison reform and managed to reduce the number of crimes punishable by death from more than 200 to eight.

Sir Thomas worked for the complete abolition of slavery. He took over as leader of the abolition movement in the House of Commons after William Wilberforce retired in 1825 and in 1833 his efforts paid off when slavery was officially abolished in the UK. Sir Thomas also features on the current English £5 note.

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■ To receive a leaflet about any of these opportunities contact Nick Nundy on 01603 621263 or nicknundy@ymca-norfolk.org.uk or visit our website: www.ymca-norfolk.co.uk

www.ymca-norfolk.co.uk

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or Mary Gilbert on 01493 335790 or marygilbert@ymca-norfolk.org.uk



NEWSlatest Norwich Christian events at www.networknorwich.co.uk

Moving from Hope to Reality

Preparations for Reality II are gathering pace as more churches get involved. This follows on from last year's successful week of social action by teams of Christian youngsters across Norwich and kicks off preparing for Hope '08

The team behind the event is focusing on two main areas at the moment: raising awareness and support; and building a base of prayer.

"We're really excited by the developments already," said Mark Tuma director of Norwich Youth For Christ. "One of the important things for RII was to go further than we did last year and make sure we kept in the faith element of the whole thing – the success of last year only came because we were in the position where we had to trust God."

"So far there are lots of new ideas and projects coming up that are building that need for faith again. For one thing we'll be spreading RII wider, taking in at least two more Action Areas, Wymondham and Earlham. This is exciting because our aim in doing a sec-

ond event is to help churches prepare for Hope '08 next year, so to have another two areas where the church

wants to do that is great.

"We had a great fundraising ball before Christmas, with 130 young peo-



As a follow-on from Reality I, once a month, an Action Team made up of young people from Witard Road Baptist Church and St Francis Church, led by church youth workers, are spending a couple of hours voluntarily serving their local community by doing projects like gardening, painting and cleaning windows for local elderly or disabled people.

ple dressing up in their best dinner jackets and ball gowns for a night featuring a live band and a DJ. As well as raising some money for the summer we were also really pleased that this event included a short Gospel message – after all the reason we're here is to spread the Good News."

Continuing the build-up to this summer's event the team are organising a barn dance on April 21 as a further opportunity to raise support funds and share the vision of the event.

"The barn dance was great fun last year, and appealed to a different section of the church population than the ball, mostly a slightly more mature crowd," said Mark. "We'd love to see a full venue on that night too. Let's have the adults keeping up with the young people in this."

As well as the social activities there are a number of prayer evenings

planned in the run-up to the summer. The team would like the event to be firmly established in prayer. The prayer meetings are open to everyone, whether able to join in the summer or not.

"It's really important that prayer is a foundation for RII, otherwise we're spending a lot of time and effort for nothing. It's the spirit of God in the event which will make it work, so I really hope many people will be able to come to the meetings and pray for the event and for our city," said Mark.

Details of the preparations are on the web www.reality-norwich.com or people can ring the Norwich YFC on 01603 620678.

"The key thing is that RII is not just an event run by one group for one week, it's the co-operation of churches and groups working together to preach the Gospel and prepare the ground for Hope '08," said Mark.

Hope '08 aims to unite church and move it on into action

By GAIL HALLEY

■ Hope 2008 is a nationwide Christian initiative aiming to unite the whole church in prayer, community action and evangelism. Norwich will be playing its full part.

The vision for Hope '08 is: "To unite the whole church, for the whole nation, for a whole year... to do more, do it together and do it in word and deed."

Andy Hawthorne, Director of The Message Trust and a founder of Hope '08, who was in Norwich recently, said: "I honestly believe Hope in 2008 is an opportunity, perhaps like we've never had before, for every denomination, stream, conference and movement to play to their strengths and together to make a huge impact on this nation."

Hope '08 was launched in prayer at Trumpet Call V on October 21, at the NEC in Birmingham, and the momentum has been building up since then. The pillars of Hope are unity, prayer, community action and evangelism, and its vision is huge, encompassing all churches and Christian ministries and charities – together with the police, local authorities and other agencies – working to transform their neighbourhoods and to reach every village, town and city for Christ.

Mike Pilavachi, Director of Soul Survivor and a founder of Hope 2008, says: "Hope in 2008 provides an amazing opportunity for all Christians to work together and make a huge impact on this nation. My hope and prayer is that through representing Jesus in words and in deeds we can see lives transformed and bring lasting change."

There will be school and university missions, fun days, barbecues, kids clubs, estate clean-ups and much, much more. Goals include 100,000 people in prayer groups, 1,000 schools missions and, perhaps the most transforming of all, 'a million hours of kindness'.

This hasn't come from nowhere; all over the nation there has been a significant move towards community life and action, and an increasing awareness that no single church, or even denomination, can go it alone; we all need each other.

Roy Crowne, of British Youth for Christ, and a founder of Hope '08, who should be visiting Norfolk sometime during the year, said: "Building on what has gone before, it seems as if the time is right and ripe for multiplication. Therefore, with faith, love and hope let's have the confidence and courage to go for it together. Each church with its unique calling and gifting is needed to form that united whole where God so delights to command the blessing."

Consequently, Hope '08's Board of Reference reads like an ecumenical Who's Who and includes Dr Rowan Williams, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor and Revd David Coffey, alongside MPs Stephen Timms, Caroline Spelman and Steve Webb, representing the three main political parties.

So what will Hope '08 look like? it will rely on locally organised initiatives, but will benefit from nationally coordinated



resources. There is a call to "act locally, think nationally" and while churches everywhere are free to be creative in any way they want, there will be a number of 'Hope high points' which they can join in with, knowing that Christians across the country are doing the same. These include:

- **Fresh Hope:** (January) an opportunity to make a fresh start and be supported in it.
- **The Big Hope:** Exploring Holy Week
- **Hope Where You Live:** (May Bank Holidays) The Church on the street
- **Hope Explored:** (September) Inviting the community to explore the Christian faith, eg through Alpha, Christianity Explored etc.
- **A Gift of Hope:** (Christmas) Unpacking the Christmas message

Mark Tuma of Norwich Youth for Christ, a local champion for Hope '08, says: "I'm tremendously excited about Hope! It gives us a chance to come together, recognising our distinctives but choosing to honour the unity Jesus brought to us, to devote ourselves to being missionary people in Norwich. We have to face the fact that Christians constitute just 3% of our city now, it's time for things to change, and I believe we're ready to make things different."

The year 2007 is key – it's a year of prayer and preparation where all Christians are invited to join together in prayer across the nation as individuals, churches and groups in homes, workplaces and the community.

Here in Norwich, a group of Hope enthusiasts, led by Mark Tuma, are meeting with church leaders, and they believe that as the year continues the movement will gain momentum. The World Prayer Centre has produced a 'Friday Focus' leaflet with prayer themes for every Friday in 2007, and it's hoped there will eventually be a Hope prayer meeting every Friday as more churches get involved. Mark says: "I think the focus on prayer is really going to be key in making the most of the potential."

To find out more about Hope '08 visit their website on www.hope08.com or in Norwich www.hope-norwich.com or contact Mark Tuma on m.tuma@norwichyfc.co.uk

For more information about prayer contact Gail Halley on hailgail@supanet.com

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African flying mission

By PETER BARNES

A Christian couple from Norwich have given up their jobs and flown out to strife-torn Uganda to work with the charity Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Recently retired Police Inspector Adrian Went, together with his wife Jacqueline, have been working in Uganda for almost five months now, using the skills he has acquired as a middle-ranking police officer in Norwich and the flying qualifications gained as a pilot.

Adrian is the Operations Manager for MAF in Uganda and oversees flight operations, checking which planes and pilots are available to travel to remote and often dangerous parts of a country with medical aid and equipment, food and emergency supplies.

Both Adrian and Jacqueline, who has had to give up her voluntary work with young people at their Norwich church, Surrey Chapel, are excited about the posting, despite the continuing threat from the infamous Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which has left tens of thousands of people traumatised over the past 20 years as they have waged war against the Ugandan Government.

Adrian said: "There has been a recent ceasefire to allow peace talks to be held, but they have now been all but abandoned by the rebel LRA who say they want the talks to be held in an area where they feel 'safer'.

"We have to keep praying that the current ceasefire holds despite the difficulties in getting the talks to continue, and that a lasting resolution can be achieved that will allow the people living in the area to safely move back to their home areas and live in peace."

Adrian and Jacqueline are based in Kampala



Left, Adrian and Jacqueline Went from Norwich.

Below, a MAF aircraft at the Kalongo camp for displaced people in Northern Uganda.



and although their living conditions are better than those who live in the north and south west of the country, they have constant disruption of electricity, gas and water supplies.

"The people here are amazing," said Jacqueline. "They are so friendly and helpful despite their poverty and fear."

The couple first heard of MAF in 1991 when Adrian started flying lessons at Earls Colne flying club in Essex. It was there he saw a notice about MAF. Adrian gained his private pilot's licence at Earls Colne, and later his private instrument rating at RAF Coltishall in Norfolk.

Over the years, Adrian and Jacqueline maintained their interest in MAF, but never thought

that one day they would be going to work with the organisation overseas.

As Adrian approached retirement, they started to think about going into full-time Christian work with MAF. Last May, Adrian applied for the position of Operations Manager.

MAF operates over 130 light aircraft in more than 35 countries in the developing world. As well as reaching remote areas with vital food and medical supplies, they transport evangelists and missionaries to share the gospel with the local people.

If you are interested in Adrian and Jacqueline's work with MAF call 0845 850 9505.

www.maf-uk.org

Looking to past for future ideas

■ Seeing the future of the church by looking back at its history is the theme of a day hosted by Sheriff of Norwich John Drake and featuring well-known Christian researcher Dr Peter Brierley.

Church and Christian organization leaders from across Norfolk are invited to hear Dr Brierley, from Christian Research, the man behind the definitive English Church Census and Religious Trends reports.

Peter will be speaking about "church-going in England and Norfolk today" as well as "trends in British society and their implications", with reference to the recently released 2005 English Church Census. He will share insights from the research which point the way to the future.

John Drake will also speak on "our history is our guide to the future". John said: "As my year of office draws to a close, I have been constantly reminded that our county, but particularly our city, has a history of vigorous non-conformity, radical action and occasionally bloody revolution. Our history is our guide to the future."

Also speaking will be John Betts, chairman of Transforming Norwich, which is co-hosting the day, and there will be a chance for discussion, reflection and prayer.

The event is on Tuesday April 17, from 10-4pm at The Salvation Army Citadel, St Giles Street, Norwich NR2 1LL. Lunch is provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact: John Betts, Chair of Transforming Norwich, The Christian Fellowship, Norwich, NR1 2HX, 01603 617905 or e-mail 2john@johnbetts.fsnet.co.uk



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Tuesday to Friday (2.5 years plus)

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Mount Zion Family Life Centre and Drayton Hall Church have joined forces to form a brand new church for a brand new day. We look forward to welcoming you to our life impacting Sunday Services and wide ranging activities throughout the week!

Sunday

9.15am Early Service
11:15am Family Service
6.00pm Sunday Night Live

Monday

9.30am-12 noon Pre-School
10.00-11.45am Rainbow Club
6.00pm Cross Training (11-14's)

Tuesday

7.00am Early Morning Prayer
9.30am-12 noon Pre-School
10.00-11.45am Rainbow Club
7.30pm Crossfire (18-30's)

Wednesday

9.30am-12 noon Pre-School
10.00am Ladies Meeting
6.00pm Adventurers (4-11's)

Thursday

9.30am-12 noon Pre-School
10.00-11.45am Rainbow Club
7.00pm Life Groups

Friday

9.30am-12 noon Pre-School
7.30pm WILDLIFE (13-18's)

Saturday

7.00pm Fellowship Meeting

For further information please call (01603) 462200

Sunday services and many weekly activities are held at Drayton Hall, Hall Lane, Drayton, Norwich. Coach transportation is operational from Heartsease to Drayton Sunday evenings.

Tel: 01603 462200 Fax: 01603 462202

NEWS AND EVENTS

Norwich churches directory at www.networknorwich.co.uk

Packed out hall for All Souls Praise

■ Once again the rafters of St Andrew's Hall were filled with the wonderful sound of instruments played by members of the All Soul's Orchestra on March 10.

The capacity audience was enthralled with a programme of high quality sacred and secular music performed by this ever-popular orchestra conducted by Noel Tredinnick and based in London's Langham Place.

Orchestral music by Bizet, Coates and Schubert was augmented by outstanding violin soloist, Bulgarian-born Ivan Stankov, who played the First Movement of Mendelssohn's Concerto and an equally talented saxophon-

■ review

ist, Sophie Parkhouse who performed the Saxo Rhapsody.

A massed choir made up of around 120 members from local churches sung a wide variety of pieces including songs and anthems written by Timothy Dudley-Smith, former Bishop of Thetford, John Rutter, Roger Jones and Stainer and topped by an exciting rendering of the Hallelujah Chorus by Handel.

However, it was the beautiful soprano voice of soloist Sarah Stroth that really won the hearts of an enthusiastic audience. Former Norwich Curate, Rev Hugh Palmer, now Rector at All Souls, rounded off the evening with a clear and challenging Christian message.

It is two years since the orchestra last performed in the city and judging by the delighted cries of 'encore' from a packed auditorium, it is hoped that it won't be as long before they return once more.

By Peter Barnes

Monk to lead city meditation

■ International meditation teacher and Benedictine monk Laurence Freeman is in Norwich on June 10 speaking on Christian Meditation in the 21st Century.

Laurence (pictured below), a Benedictine monk based in London, is the Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation. He is an internationally renowned spiritual teacher and the author of many books and articles including Light Within, Web of Silence, Common Ground, Your Daily Practice and Jesus: the Teacher Within.

As well as encouraging the teaching of Christian meditation to the Church and society at large, he has conducted inter-religious dialogues and peace initiatives such as the historic Way of Peace conference held in Belfast with the Dalai Lama.

Fr Laurence will be leading meditation and speaking on the theme 'Love and Meaning: Christian Meditation in the 21st Century' at St Peter Mancroft church, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Fr Laurence will also be leading a service of compline at St Julian's church later the same day at 7pm.

Rev Nicholas Vesey, from the Norwich Christian Meditation Centre, says: "It is great news that Laurence Freeman is coming to Norwich. It raises the profile of meditation in our area, and gives people a chance to meet and talk with a real expert in the field. I am very much looking forward to it."

For more information and to reserve tickets (£8/£6), contact Anne McDonnell on 01603 810646 www.wccm.org or by email anne.mcdonnell@talk21.com

By Liz Day



Youngsters on stage at Oak Grove for their final performance.

Getting a taste for making music

The dream of becoming part of a rock band or dance group became reality for a group of young people at Oak Grove Chapel during half-term week in February.

Taste, a five-piece rock band from Essex, invited 22 young people from local schools to write a song, lyrics and music, then compose a musical accompaniment with the full range of instruments and voices. The music was then laid down using the latest synthesisers.

Taste, comprising Andy Clark, lead guitar and vocalist, Claire and Heather with Tom on drums and Nick on bass guitar with the mixing desk under manager Joy Clark led the group in auditions and workshops on drums, guitars and keyboard.

The band was augmented by Bethany Starling as part of the techy side. The young people then took the parts of singers, dancers, and musicians and formed their own band, calling it The Wannabees.

Their song, Ticking Away, explored the importance of making the most of the time here as it is rapidly 'ticking away'. It looked at the importance of forgiveness and not being dragged down by feelings of guilt or broken relationships and of making a difference where we are.

Following much practice, a CD was recorded. Meanwhile an inlay for the CD was designed, based on the name of the band and the style of the song. These were printed and CDs were reproduced so

that each one of the group had a copy as a memento of the event.

Included in the five-day programme was a visit to the studios of Radio Norwich under the guidance of presenter Emma Philpotts who showed the students how the radio station uses music in its programmes.

On the last day, the final touches were put to the performance and this was followed by the real climax – a live performance in front of family and friends. The performance was received very well, and although exhausted, the young people loved every minute and even returned for an encore!

Taste is part of Viz-a-Viz Ministries based in Basildon and is available for work in schools and churches. Taste had been active in Angel Road and Catton Grove Middle Schools the week prior to the concert.

Along with Oak Grove's Community workers, Beccy and Darren, and year out students Vicky and Chris, they took assemblies, performed concerts and took lessons looking at a mixture of aspects of music and RE, looking at how young people view themselves, their self-worth and their identity, using their songs to reinforce what they were saying. There was good feedback from both schools.

All these activities were made possible by a grant from SureFutures.

Taste's website is at www.vizaviz.org.
John Breeze

■ In brief

American gangs play in Norwich

■ A story of gang warfare, drugs and violence will be acted out on the stage of the Norwich Playhouse for two nights in June.

Adapted from a book written by David Wilkerson, The Cross and the Switchblade is a remarkable story about urban renewal that takes a poignant look at survival in the city of New York.

This pulsating play, performed by the Saltmine Theatre Company, toured to huge acclaim in 2000 and 2001. By popular demand, the production has been revived with a brand new cast and adaptation and will be performed at The Norwich Playhouse on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th June at 7.30pm. Tickets £9, and £7 cons, are available from the Playhouse Box Office at Norwich Theatre Royal, tel 01603 598598.



Book fair to feed minds

■ The popular annual Norwich Feed the Minds book fair is being held from Wednesday July 4 to Saturday July 7 at St Andrew's Church, Redwell Street.

The 2006 book fair raised an impressive £3000 plus, which went to support a Christian radio project in Burundi, a vocational training print project in South Africa and an Egyptian peace building project.

Norwich Feed the Minds chairman Waltraud Jarrold said: "We were delighted at the response last year and hope for a similar outcome this year."

Thousands of books will be for sale and admission is free. The fair is open from 10-5pm each day except for Saturday when it opens from 9-1pm finishing with a silent auction from 11am.

For more details ring Waltraud on 01603 454799. www.feedtheminds.org

Dawn on Easter morn

■ As dawn breaks on Easter Day, members and friends from churches that make up the Thorpe & Heartsease Christian Forum will celebrate Easter morning on St James' Hill overlooking the City of Norwich.

Everyone is invited to assemble at the Car Park at 5.15am on Sunday April 8 ready to join in the sunrise service which starts at 5.30am.

There are ample parking facilities on Britannia Road Car Park and further details about this event can be obtained from David Joscelyne (01603 433493).

Dates for your diary

■ John Hardwick, at Holy Trinity Church, Norwich, Saturday June 23. 9.00am-11am The art of story-telling for children's workers, £2.50. 3.30pm-5pm: Cool 'n' Crazy Praise Party aimed at children 4-10 and their families, £1 For more details contact Dave Thornton on (01603) 622225 or youth@trinitynorwich.org

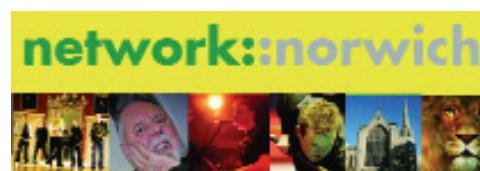
■ Norfolk Male Voice Praise Choir 45th Melody of Praise at Wroxham Road Methodist Church starting at 6.30pm on Saturday May 12. Details from David Stringer 01603 435369

■ Charity Concerts with Meadow Way Orchestra at Meadow Way Chapel, Hellesdon. Friday March 23, at 8pm and Friday July 13, at 8pm. Further details and tickets from Cards 'N' Things 01603 485832 or at the door.

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for the Norwich Christian
community can now be
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www.networknorwich.co.uk

Andrew's trip to Mexico's lost city

By KEITH MORRIS

Norwich teenager Andrew Green has gone to Mexico City for four months with Christian development charity Tearfund to teach English, help in schools and run sporting activities in a squatter settlement.

Andrew, 19, who attends Norwich Vineyard church, left for the "lost city" of Lomas de San Isidro, part of Mexico City, the largest urban conurbation in the world on March 6.

The city has huge numbers of people living in marginal communities, due to the failure of rural development, and consequent accelerated urban migration. Lomas de San Isidro, is one of its marginalised communities. Made up of 1200 families, with approximately 4-6 people per family, it is not recognised in any kind of census, and is considered a 'lost city' or 'squatter settlement', due to the large number of immigrants who move from rural areas.

Formed over 13 years ago, it does not have any kind of basic urban services such as purified water, electricity, sewage or drainage systems, paved areas or property rights.

Andrew, who will be in Mexico for four months until July, said: "I am in a gap year and really wanted an experience. I also wanted to help people and part of this is considering whether something like this is what I want to do in a more long-term way. The Bible is obsessed with this –

God has a tremendous heart for the poor, and as a Christian I feel my life should reflect that.

"The Tearfund placement in Lomas sounds a fairly challenging place to go and the living conditions are very basic compared to what I'm used to. Also, Mexico City is the most polluted city in the world, and apparently the drivers are crazy. It's not all bad though – as a team we get two weeks off, and there are some really great places in Mexico to see like Acapulco and the Incan pyramids."

This is the second year Tearfund have been operating in Lomas and Andrew will be teaching English to children and adults, running sporting activities, doing child tutoring and after-school help and adding extra help in whatever way is needed.

Mexico is a middle-income country, but with huge inequalities in the distribution of income. An estimated 18 million people and rising live in extreme poverty. A further 27 million are considered poor but have some resources to cope with their poverty.

"The problems Lomas faces are not necessarily immediate ones," said Andrew. "They are more economic. Lack of education is a huge problem as 75% per cent are illiterate, and without education people are almost inevitably going to stay on a very low income. Teaching people English, for instance, is often a good way of breaking the cycle of poverty."

For more information on Transform: <http://youth.tearfund.org/transform/>



Andrew Green in poncho and headgear getting ready for his trip to Mexico.

Call to cathedral prayer gathering

Christians from all Norwich churches are being invited to the Prayer in the Park event in Norwich Anglican Cathedral at 6.30pm on Pentecost Sunday, May 27, which is also the Global Day of Prayer. Rev MADELINE LIGHT, Vicar of St Helens, Bishopgate reports.

■ Three years ago a few people had the vision of all the churches in Norwich meeting together to pray. They would be praying outside, visible to the world, not closeted in a church building.

The people who had this vision invited others to share the vision and eventually together organised an event at the Aqua Park. Some 1,200 people met to pray together.

Since then we have met in Chapelfield Gardens and Open on Bank Plain. It has always been the same, people from every type of Christian church, together worshipping God and seeking his heart for our county and city.

The vision to meet in a real park is still very important but in the meantime we are going to meet with a roof over our heads. So this year Prayer in the Park will be on Pentecost Sunday May 27, in the Anglican Cathedral at 6.30pm.

This year we are coinciding with the Global Day of Prayer which is a worldwide call for Christians to pray together. Last year 400-500 million Christians from 198 nations united in a day of repentance and prayer.

This happened in a great variety of ways from a huge event for 50,000 people in the Netherlands to six churches in Ankara, Turkey who combined their Pentecost morning services. If you would like to know more see their website www.globaldayofprayer.com.

This year at least three churches so far have agreed to cancel their evening services and meet together in the Cathedral. Will you join us? For more details contact administrator Hilary Oliver on 01692 650255 or at hilaryannoliver@btinternet.com.

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