

# GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH

Harvest 2007



## City churches lend a hand to credit unions

■ Two Norwich churches are helping a city Credit Union to expand its work saving and lending money to local residents without the crippling cost of excessive interest rates.

St Francis on Heartsease and Oak Grove Chapel in Catton Grove will be acting as agents for the Kett's Credit Union so it can expand its operations into the northern parts of Norwich.

Anyone who lives in the postcodes NR1 (north of the river), NR3, NR6 or NR7 may join. After paying an entrance fee of £1, a member becomes a co-shareholder in the Credit Union Co-operative. This entitles them to vote and have a say in the running of the credit union and the right to stand for election at the AGM and to be on one of the committees. The entrance fee also

covers some of the administration costs.

Doreen, from Kett's, said: "Among the reasons why such arrangements are beneficial to both community and church are that it offers a safe and secure local means of both saving and borrowing money; it gives opportunity for the church to serve the community and offers a unique way of saving ethically and supporting your neighbours.

"The aim of the credit union is to help people and reduce worry. Interest is set by law at 1pc a month or 12.7pc Annual Percentage Rate (APR) and charged on the outstanding loan balance at the end of each month. So for every £100 paid back in a year members pay £6.50 in interest. The Loans Committee can reschedule loans so

members pay less, if payments are difficult, or work out a way to assist."

Oak Grove Chapel's collection point will operate during the Friday Morning 'Coffee Stop' between 11am and 12 noon beginning on September 21. The second collection point at St Francis Church, Heartsease will start on Wednesday October 3 from 10:30am to 11:30am.

Kett's Credit Union is supported by Norwich City Council and is regulated by the Financial Services Authority following a stringent set of rules. Ian Leather from Norwich City Council supports the scheme which already operates in the Heathgate and Pilling Park areas of the city.

Contact Ian Leather on 01603 222187.

### ■ In brief

## Teenagers are on a mission

■ A group of teenagers from Norwich are going to work in a Bulgarian orphanage during the October half-term.

The team will be travelling to a small town called Burzitsa where they will engage the children through craft activities, playing games and singing songs.

"I'm excited about going to Bulgaria because it is a practical way to share God's love," explained Ben Gathercole. "I'm looking forward to seeing what it's like to be a missionary in another country and experience a different culture."

The visit to the orphanage has been organised by Peter Barnes, a member of Norwich Central Baptist Church, on behalf of The Saltmine Trust. The links between Norwich Central and Burzitsa orphanage are well established and teams have been going to Bulgaria for many years. Several Holy Trinity young people will also be going.

Ben Gathercole, Stephen Martin and Becca Genders from Norwich Central, and the rest of the team from other churches, have been busy raising money to fund their trip. They have already completed a 50-mile sponsored bike ride, organised a cake stall at church and plan to hold an auction of promises in a couple of weeks.

For more information about the work of The Saltmine Trust, visit: [www.saltmine.org](http://www.saltmine.org)

## 1000 beds saved

■ Hundreds of beds from the YMCA Furniture Project in Norwich have been saved from being dumped thanks to Network Norwich and local Christian wholesaler Hughes & Coleman.

The Norwich-based Furniture Project was given just two weeks to vacate one of its warehouses and find a new home for the 1000 beds.

An appeal via [networknorwich.co.uk](http://networknorwich.co.uk) website was read by staff at Hughes & Coleman. The supplier of Christian products and crafts had an empty warehouse in Delta Close off Vulcan Road in north Norwich and warehouse manager Steve Haystead met up with Gary Moore and Peter Carroll from the YMCA and was able to help them out and house hundreds of the beds.

Gary said: "We are delighted that we have been able to find somewhere to store the beds. In the last two weeks we have also been able to give hundreds of them away to other Christian ministries including Mission Without Borders International who are taking many to Bulgaria.

Peter said: "It is a great local example of networking of Christian groups across Norwich really working."

Steve said that Hughes & Coleman were more than happy to help out while their warehouse was empty for the next few months.

The YMCA Norfolk Furniture Project was launched last July at a separate Project Warehouse off Hall Road in Norwich. This warehouse will continue as normal.

[www.ymca-norfolk.co.uk](http://www.ymca-norfolk.co.uk)

# Churches challenged as attendance falls

By KEITH MORRIS

Norfolk churches have been given a challenge to help stem a worrying decline in county-wide church attendances over the past 25 years.

Top Christian researcher, Dr Peter Brierley, challenged over 30 church leaders in Norwich to counteract a possible loss of another 10,000 church goers in the county over the next decade, as they literally die off.

"If every one of the 1000 churches across Norfolk saw one new convert each year over the next decade, the predicted decline would be halted," he said.

The latest English Church Census shows that in 2005, 3.2 million people attended church across the country, a decline of 40% since 1998. This equates to just 6.3% of the population attending church every Sunday.

In Norfolk 44,000 people attended, just 5.3% of the population. Church attendance in the county has gone down by a shocking 50% in the last 25 years from 85,000 to 44,000.

At the moment there are more deaths than conversions among churchgoers.

Peter puts the decline down to several things: "a drastic loss of young people in the 1990s; a perceived lack of relevance of church to life; changing patterns of family life including an increase in Sunday trading and the attraction of alternative activities.

"Whatever else we do we must make church more meaningful to the rest of modern life," he said.

Roman Catholics are the biggest church grouping followed by Anglicans and Methodists but all are declining. Pentecostals are the largest growing group plus some

smaller denominations such as the Orthodox Church and new churches like New Frontiers and Vineyard.

Between 1998 and 2005, the church in England as a whole lost 900,000 people through death, people leaving the church for good and people attending less often.

To counter this there were 350,000 of gains including 100,000 conversion through the Alpha course, 50,000 through other courses and 100,000 children born to church-going families.

There is some good news. Some 42% of churches are holding mid-week services which accounts for another 310,000 church goers.

If current trends continue though, the church in Norfolk could go down to 28,000 by 2015 with around 9,400 attendees literally dying off.

"Recent growth has been seen in London and Herefordshire for example, why not Norfolk," challenged Peter.

Across the country, ethnic churches are taking off. An increase in the numbers of overseas migrants and the growth of mostly black Pentecostal churches now means that 10% of church goers are black with 7% other non-whites. In London a quarter of its 4,100 churches are Pentecostal. This move is even being seen in Norfolk with Chinese and Afro-Caribbean congregations and large numbers of migrants at the RC churches (see story on page 5).

There are also more growing churches now (34%) than a few years ago (just 21%). "Many people are leaving declining churches and joining growing churches. The larger the church the more likely it is to be growing," said Peter.

■ Continued on page six



Picture by EDP

■ **PEDAL NOW OR PADDLE LATER:** Campaigning canoeists from Christian Aid and Norwich churches helped act out a scenario of a future with Norwich under water in a world of climate change. Eldred Willey of Christian Aid, pictured above with Pete McAllen at Pull's Ferry on the Wensum, said: "We were inspired to put on this event by a photograph of people canoeing through Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, during the floods of 1998. For them, this is already real, and it could become real for Norwich too."



## NEWS

latest Norwich Christian news at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

## GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH

■ Good News for Norwich is published by Festival Norwich, 48 St Giles St, Norwich, NR2 1LP.

■ Website: [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

■ Editorial (01508) 488318. Send copy to Pear Tree Farmhouse, Wymondham Road, Wrenningham, Norwich NR16 1AT.

■ e-mail: [keith.morris@networknorwich.co.uk](mailto:keith.morris@networknorwich.co.uk)

■ Advertising and distribution (01603) 743786

■ Editor: Keith Morris

■ Writers: John Breeze, Peter Barnes, Kevin Gotts, Gail Halley, Mike Wiltshire.

■ Advertising: Peter Barnes.

■ Design: Keith Morris

■ Printed by Archant Print.

■ 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 Christmas 2007 issue is Friday November 2.

■ 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. Reproduction of any part of this publication without permission is strictly forbidden.

## Is harvest festival just a dusty relic?

■ Harvest Festival – bit archaic, isn't it? What relevance could it possibly have today? 80% of us live in towns. Those who do live in the country very often work in the city. And even farmers are branching out into maize mazes! Isn't Harvest Festival just a dusty relic from a bygone era?

Well, I'm not a card-carrying member of some Harvest Festival Preservation Society, but I love what the festival represents. It is simply one way of remembering that everything we have is a gift from God.

The apostle Paul put his finger on the button. He said: "What do you have that you have not been given? Why do you boast as if you had not been given it?" Most of us buy our food from shops and feel that we have earned it. We have paid for it.

But that is just an illusion. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't make a



Rev Martin Young,  
St Andrew's,  
Norwich

seed turn into food. Only God can do that. You might be paying for someone to till the soil and package up the produce, but the food is a gift from God. "What do you have that you have not been given?"

That's the message of the Harvest Festival. Everything we have is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it and we can do nothing to earn it. And that doesn't just

hold true for food: all your gifts, all your talents, the opportunities you have had, the relationships you have enjoyed – it all comes from God. Doesn't that make your heart leap up in gratitude?

But this gratitude is also the start of a different kind of relationship with God. You see, God not only gives us life on planet earth gratis, but he wants to give us eternal life on the same basis. He gave his only Son Jesus to die on a cross, and then raised him up to live with him forever.

His promise is that anyone who believes in him will have eternal life with him (John 3:16). We have done nothing to deserve it and we can do nothing to earn it. But God wants us to receive this free gift. All we can do is say 'thank you'. The gift of life, and the gift of eternal life: why not say thank you to God this harvest time?

## Online journey that led to Philippines

By MIKE WILTSHIRE

**A** Norwich technical author, who also has a passion for preaching the Gospel, has returned from a 14,000-mile ministry trip to south-east Asia – a journey that began with a simple internet inquiry from the Philippines.

Marcus Philpott, who lives in Bowthorpe, has been teaching the Bible online from his home office for four years. Speaking in English and Spanish, he finds remarkable ways to share his faith with an audience worldwide.

"It has opened up a new world for us," says Marcus. Unusual opportunities have opened up for his 'Jesus Focus Ministry' such as live, interactive discussions with groups of Muslims.

Marcus has become skilled at leading online debates and answering questions, "but we always seek to bring the focus back to the teachings of Jesus Christ."

He and his wife Lesley, who are both gifted musicians, follow up their online discussions by sending out free teaching CDs and other materials.

Marcus's online teaching ministry led to the invitation for him and Lesley to visit one of the most remote areas of the Philippines to encourage pastors and hold revival meetings.

With the blessing of his home church in Norwich – Earlham Christian Centre – Marcus and Lesley flew to Samar island where they travelled hundreds of miles over bumpy roads to reach local churches that form part of Living Rock Ministries.



Marcus Philpott, preaching in the Philippines.

It was on Samar island, in areas steeped in witchcraft and religious ritualism, where a pioneer evangelist, Pastor Rizzy Montes and other workers planted nearly 100 churches over three decades.

Today, Rizzy's son, Danny, leads the work – and he was host-interpreter for Marcus and Lesley at one venue after another.

Marcus preached 18 times and was inspired by the zeal of local Christians, pastors and youth leaders who labour in very poor areas – "it was quite amazing; they are red hot for Jesus – I have never seen such passion for God."

Praying for the sick and trusting God for the next day's food was a way of life for them, says Marcus. "We were very humbled by these people. The children especially won our hearts."

Many local people responded to their evangelistic message including a local police chief. Marcus

adds: "For us, it was an incredible journey. We want to go back, but we can't go empty-handed. The people and their pastors have such basic needs – we must raise some support for them. We'd love to encourage Norwich people to help in this."

Significantly, the first message that Marcus preached in the Philippines was called, 'The Incredible Journey' where he spoke of the journey through time that Jesus made to offer hope to all mankind.

When Marcus began his online ministry in Norwich, he had little idea about where it would lead. "They are asking us to go back to the Philippines," he says. "And we will!"

For more details of Jesus Focus Ministries, contact Marcus via e-mail on [marco9love@aol.com](mailto:marco9love@aol.com) or call 077781 699 5610. The ministry website is being updated to reflect the outreach to the Philippines.

## Church opens new day centre

■ A new Day Centre, run by Community Action Norwich, has been opened in the Lakenham area of Norwich by the Lord Mayor.

The Day Centre was launched on June 21 and is run by Community Action Norwich, part of New Hope Christian Centre. It attracted some 50 people on the day from the local community. Acting project manager Alan Howes was delighted with the day and said: "this is a big step forward in helping older people out of isolation and loneliness in the immediate community in which we serve".

Councillor Blower commented on "the warmth of community spirit".

The Centre is open to all people of a pensionable age and transport is available to those who live in the Lakenham and Tuckswood areas.

There are a variety of activities on offer from board games to reminiscence, light exercise to relaxing and reading. Prices range from £3.50 – £5.50. There is something for everyone.

As part of the Day Centre there are four outings a year which all are invited to attend. Call Alan Howes on 617771 to book a place at the centre. [www.communityactionnorwich.co.uk](http://www.communityactionnorwich.co.uk)



anyone  
no charge  
no hassle  
no age limit  
confidential

## DrugsAlcohol

Making a difference to  
young people and adults

24/7 helpline

0800 764754

Could you help us  
help others?

Call  
01603 626123

[www.matthewproject.org](http://www.matthewproject.org)

Supporting people with drug and alcohol related issues  
Providing innovative education about the risks of drugs and alcohol  
Empowering people to make more informed choices

24 Pottergate, Norwich, NR2 1DX

Registered Charity No. 285256

## SEASONS

Corporate buffets, fresh bread, cakes,  
filled rolls, sandwiches,  
Gluten & Wheat Free Products,  
187 Reepham Road, Hellesdon

## Cards 'n' Things

The Specialist Card Shop

Reepham Road, Hellesdon, Norwich 485832

Recently Renovated Shop...

Greeting Cards - Stationery  
Helium Balloons - Cylinder Hire  
Party Products - Cross Stitch Threads  
Christian Books & Church Resources



**NEWS**Norwich Christian job opportunities at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

# Street pastors help cut city crime rate

By GAIL HALLEY

**S**treet Pastors have been out on the streets of Norwich every Friday for six months now and have helped to cut drink-related crimes and anti-social behaviour.

A meeting of the Norwich City Centre Licensing Forum has heard that the assaults on Friday and Saturday nights have almost halved since the new 24-hour drinking laws came into force in November 2005.

Inspector Peter Walsh, who oversees the operation to manage the night-time economy in Norwich, said: "We must also acknowledge the work of volunteers, the SOS Bus crews and the new Street Pastors, who make a vital contribution to the safety of the mainly young people."

The Street Pastors have become a familiar sight to doormen, police, other agencies and of course the clubbers themselves. Whereas in the first few weeks they were viewed with curiosity sometimes mixed with scepticism, now they are regularly approached by people on the streets wanting to ask questions or expressing genuine interest in why they're there.

As Olly Turner, the youngest Street Pastor, says: "One or two of the clubbers have been dismissive of our faith. However, the vast majority have been very polite and courteous. They have been very pleased with and thankful for what we are doing and amazed that we are doing it unpaid!"

All the Street Pastors are agreed that to go out without the support of the intercessors would be folly, but it is proving difficult to find enough willing intercessors. Eric Saunders, one of the intercessors, said: "The five hours pass so quickly and interestingly, but it's hard to explain this to people."

"The atmosphere on the streets has become more peaceful and less aggressive ... carrying the peace and presence of God with us, I think we have been a calming influence," said Olly. "And all are agreed it's because God hears the prayer going on back at base."

Most of the Street Pastors said they didn't really know what to expect when they started, but Fern Farr said: "I think it's fantastic the dif-



Two Street Pastors out and about in Norwich.

Picture by EDP

ferent people we have spoken to; we have amazing opportunities to talk openly to all sorts of people." And Barbie Doubleday added: "I didn't expect us to make a difference so quickly, but it's amazing how God has opened so many doors for us to talk to people."

The Street Pastors have been encouraged by the reaction of the police and how quickly they have been accepted by them. Project administrator Val Dodsworth reported that they had said to her: "We're so glad you're here. It's good to have another uniformed presence on the streets."

Initially the Pastors were on an 18-month trial going out on Fridays before the police decided whether or not they wanted them out on Saturday nights as well. By May, they were already being asked if they could go out on Saturdays as well.

The Street Pastors may have thought their beat was just going to be Prince of Wales Road or Riverside of a Friday evening, but one of them – Steve Wigby – is going somewhat fur-

ther afield. He answered a call from Ascension Trust, which oversees Street Pastors, for someone to go and give Street Pastors in Antigua a boost.

"They are up and running on the island," said Steve, "with about 40 to serve a population of 75,000 but they're still quite new, and they need someone to help raise the profile."

Steve will be given a government car and access to TV, radio and government officials. "I'll be there for three weeks," says Steve, "and I hope I'll also be able to go out on the streets with them," and he added, "After all, someone has to do it."

The second group of Street Pastors started their training on September 8, and will be on the streets by mid-October, at which point a Saturday team will also come into operation.

If you are interested in becoming a street pastor, contact Val Dodsworth on 01603 472753. If you'd like to join the team of intercessors and be at the heart of this exciting work, contact Jill Gower on 01508 491770 or [jillgower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jillgower@tiscali.co.uk)

## Priest of great energy and imagination

■ The Very Revd Alan Webster, Dean of Norwich from 1970-78, died in the early hours of Monday September 3 aged 89.

Alan Webster was ordained in 1942 and served in the Dioceses of Sheffield, Ely and Durham before his appointment as Warden of Lincoln Theological College in 1959. He was made Dean of Norwich in 1970 where he ministered for 8 years, and was responsible for the foundation of the Norwich Night Shelter in 1973.



In 1978 he moved to London to become Dean of St Paul's. He retired in 1988 and moved back to Norfolk where he continued to minister until 2001. He was made Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) in 1988.

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James, said: "As Dean of Norwich, Alan Webster opened the Cathedral to the city and county, increased its educational work and was instrumental in starting the Norwich Night Shelter. He was a priest of great energy and imagination whose faith was in touch with the world. He'll be greatly missed."

## Bishop quits Amnesty

■ East Anglia's top Roman Catholic has severed his links with Amnesty International in protest at its decision to support abortion rights for rape victims.

The Bishop of East Anglia, the Rt Rev Michael Evans, based at Poringland near Norwich, said the move would "divide Amnesty's membership" and "deeply compromised" its long-term commitment to protect human life.

Bishop Michael, who took over as head of the East Anglian diocese in 2003, said: "The Roman Catholic Church has no desire for women who have been through the trauma of abortion to be punished; they need compassion and healing."

"Women who suffer complications after an abortion should obviously receive quality care. But our proper indignation regarding pervasive violence against women should not cloud our judgement about our duty to protect the most vulnerable and defenceless form of human life."

He added that Amnesty's decision was at odds with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the United Nations in 1989 and stated that children needed "special safeguards and care" and "appropriate legal protection" before as well as after birth.

## Chinese church appoints worker

■ Norwich's first Chinese Cantonese church has appointed a lay mission worker.

Edmund Tsui (Tsui Chi-Wai) (pictured right) will be formally recognised into the role on Sunday October 14, at 2pm, at Wroxham Road Methodist Church Sprowston, where the congregation is based.

Edmund graduated from the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission Bible College at Milton Keynes earlier this summer and will work for two days a week in Norwich. The rest of the time he will be teaching at the College in Milton Keynes.

A Chinese Cantonese congregation has been meeting at the Wroxham Road premises since 2003. The vibrant congregation, called Chinese Congregation Methodist Church Norwich, is one of a network of similar groups among Methodist churches around the country.

"Edmund will be working with the congregation but also in outreach to the



University of East Anglia Chinese students and also making contact with Chinese staff at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital," explained liaison officer Margaret Hardingham, from Wroxham Road. "Edmund is fluent in Mandarin and

Cantonese and his English is good as well.

"The congregation is anything between 20 and 50 and we have a thriving Junior Church with several teenagers," said Margaret.

Edmund said: "College life has been interesting. For me the most memorable and precious things have been fellowship with God in the Spirit and building up friendships with fellow students."

"At times discussions between us got quite animated, but we saw it as encouraging and admonishing one

another in love.

"We've not only been equipped with knowledge. Our time at college has been a process of each student being broken and refined, so that we begin our ministry for God well-pruned and clean. I pray that these three years will not have been in vain. May what we have learnt aid us in our service for God."

The Congregation's aim is to continue to serve all Chinese people in the Norwich area, whether Christian or not.

A Junior church has been established with both Chinese and English helpers and a Cell has been planted at Beccles.

The Chinese church meets every Sunday at 2pm and on the 1st Sunday of the month there is All Age Worship. The Chinese church also meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

Members travel from outside Norwich and speak both Cantonese and Mandarin.

Details about CCMCN can be found on the host Church's site:

[www.rocky-road.org](http://www.rocky-road.org)

■ See article on page 5



## DIPPLE & CONWAY

### OPTICIANS

OPTOMETRISTS &  
DISPENSING OPTICIANS

●●●●●●●●●●

QUALIFIED ADVICE IN  
ALL ASPECTS OF EYE CARE

●●●●●●●●●●

CONTACT LENS CENTRE

ALL TYPES OF LENSES INCLUDING  
DISPOSABLES FITTED & SUPPLIED

TEL: NORWICH (01603) 626750

19 CASTLE STREET, NORWICH NR2 1PB  
[www.dippleconway.co.uk](http://www.dippleconway.co.uk)



## NEWS

Norwich Christian projects directory at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

## Workers offered support at business parks

■ With numbers booming on three business parks in East Norwich, a Christian group has invited workers to join them at lunchtime support meetings.

Last June, a group of Christians began meeting on the St Andrews Business Park on the outskirts of East Norwich for mutual support and encouragement. This was part of a joint initiative from the Thorpe and Heartsease Christian Forum, together with St David's Church, Thorpe.

David Adams, pastor at Witard Road Baptist Church and one of organisers, said: "Although the numbers have varied at each meeting, it has always been a time of sharing and relating which those present have found helpful.

"One of the challenges of such a group is to understand how to make initial contact with Christians who work on the three business parks which have developed: St Andrews, Meridian and Broadland.

"It is a challenge to understand how the Church may best support those in the workplace situation. Although we know that many jobs are high pressured and schedules can be demanding, to know that there are others who share the same beliefs and to meet with them occasionally is, we believe, a good investment of a lunchtime.

"We invite any who work on or in the vicinity of these business parks to join with us for all or part of this time and to share with other colleagues who are Christians that this opportunity to meet exists."

The next meetings of the group are planned at 1pm on October 10 and November 14 at Rosebery Court, St Andrews Business Park.

It is helpful if you email either of the following addresses or telephone 01603 701502 (Witard Road Baptist Church Office) by the day before the meeting if you plan to attend.

[Frances.Sumner@ggc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Frances.Sumner@ggc.gsi.gov.uk)  
[david@witardroadbaptist.org.uk](mailto:david@witardroadbaptist.org.uk)

## Modern-day slavery denounced in city

■ As doves and balloons were released above Norwich City Hall to mark 200 years since the official ending of the British slave trade, present-day forms of slavery in Norfolk and around the world were denounced.

It was the local climax of the Stop the Traffik anti-slavery campaign.

John Drake, Sheriff of Norwich and chief executive of YMCA Norfolk, said: "Slavery was declared illegal in the British Empire 200 years ago thanks to the efforts of men like William Wilberforce and Norfolk man Thomas Buxton.

"We have a proud history of social reformers in Norfolk. People like Elizabeth Fry, Jeremiah Colman and Buxton," said John.

"But exploitation of people still exists today. It may be the pimp who feeds heroin to women to keep them enslaved or the illegal gangmaster who coerces people through fear to work for him for very low wages. It is often subtle, because if it were blatant we would be repulsed and act on it.

"If Wilberforce were alive today he would be appalled. We must make sure that all forms of exploitation are eradicated in our county and across the world."

Rev Andrew Platt, county ecumenical officer and executive officer of Norfolk & Waveney Churches Together, who helped organise the March 21 event with Christian Aid and Transforming Norwich, said: "We are commemorating the abolition of the slave trade 200 years ago, but the reality is that slavery continues today. Millions of men, women and children around the world are forced to lead lives as slaves. Although this exploitation is often not called slavery, the conditions are the same. People are sold like objects, forced to work for little or no pay and are at the mercy of their employers."



Sheriff of Norwich, John Drake, with anti-slavery campaigner Rose-Anne Auguste from Haiti, release the doves in front of Norwich City Hall.

# Norfolk's key role in fight to ban slavery

By JOHN BREEZE

**T**he recent celebrations of the abolition of the Slave Trade 200 years ago with the passing of the Abolition Act in 1807, focussed attention on William Wilberforce.

But there were also several Norfolk and Norwich individuals who played significant and vital roles in the process. So much so that the Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Committee has commissioned a research project in order to uncover and explore those connections further.

Researcher, Dr Richard Maguire, formerly of the UEA, will be giving a series of lectures beginning on October 10 at the UEA and there will be a touring exhibition during Black History month in October.

Perhaps the most significant of Norfolk's heroes is the man who was given the nickname The Liberator, 1st Baronet Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton (pictured right). Although born in Essex and MP for Weymouth, he was essentially a Norfolk man. He moved to the county in his late teens, and throughout his subsequent career it was always to Norfolk that he returned when his responsibilities allowed. The fact that he married one of the Gurney sisters and was therefore related to Elizabeth Fry could have had some bearing on that.

The abolition of the Slave Trade was just part of the issue of slavery; the choice to pursue that factor being simply a political one. The whole economy depended upon the

process of slavery and to seek to abolish it was thought impossible.

However, after the Act of March 1807 abolishing the Transatlantic trade in British ships was passed and after Wilberforce retired from Parliament in 1825, it was to Thomas Buxton, already a well-known social reformer and MP, that the baton was passed to bring about the final victory of the Abolition of Slavery Act itself on August 28, 1833.

Thomas died in 1845 and is buried in Overstrand where a memorial commemorates his life and work.

Another great Norwich champion of the anti-slavery movement was Harriet Martineau. Born in Norwich in 1802, she was educated to a very high standard – unusual for a girl at that time – and became known for her writings on political issues.

In the form of stories, her Illustrations of Political Economy appeared as monthly instalments (many selling more copies than the novels of Dickens).

Some of these Illustrations included her earliest attacks on slavery. She also wrote anti-slavery articles in the Unitarian journal The Monthly Repository. She argued on two grounds, the immorality of slavery, and its

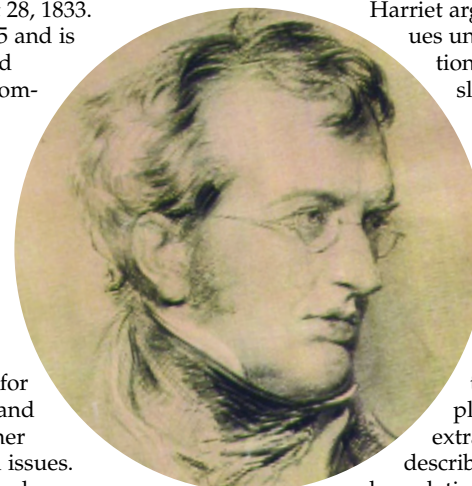
economic inefficiency. Her fourth story in Illustrations spoke of the intense human suffering that resulted from 'irrational slave systems that waste both capital and labour'.

Between 1834 and 1836, Harriet travelled throughout the United States where she observed the horrors of slavery at first hand and became friends with others in the anti-slavery movement. In her American writings,

Harriet argued that with the moral values underpinning the social institutions of the US, the practice of slavery made a 'mockery' of their stated ideals of freedom.

Arguing succinctly, logically and with decisive reason, using irony rather than outrage, she destroyed, one by one, the pro-slavery arguments that were promoted in the United States. She wrote of the abuse of human rights of the slave children, and using plain, harsh language that was extraordinary for her time, she described the sexual exploitation and degradation of their women both slave and free. None escaped her explosive critique as she described the conditions of slaves everywhere.

Battling against illness throughout her life (being deaf from the age of 12) Harriet became an invalid in 1839, but continued to support the anti-slavery movement by raising funds for it. Harriet died in 1876.



**hebron trust**  
Respect Choice Safety

### 'The path to recovery...'

Can you help women with serious drug and alcohol addiction to find their way to a new life?

**Could you:**  
**Become a volunteer?**  
**Support us in prayer?**  
**Consider giving a donation**  
**or regular contribution?**  
**Consider legacy giving?**

To find out more about our work, or to offer help in any of the above ways, please contact us at: 10-12 Stanley Avenue, Norwich, NR7 0BE  
 Tel: 01603 439905  
 Email: [info@hebrontrust.org.uk](mailto:info@hebrontrust.org.uk)



[www.hebrontrust.org.uk](http://www.hebrontrust.org.uk)

**hebron trust**  
Respect Choice Safety



**NEWS**Norwich Christian forums at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

The African choir performs at Princes Street in Norwich.

Picture by Kevin Gotts.

## Youth choir brings the spirit of Africa to Norwich

■ Exuberance, energy, enthusiasm and joy are some of the words that sum up the fantastic concert given by the African Children's Choir at Princes Street URC in Norwich on July 24.

The 24 children, aged from 7 to 11, all came from Uganda. The audience clapped and swayed to the rhythms and lively dancing on the stage.

The children in their colourful costumes held the packed church enthralled to the end and had a standing ovation and calls for more. Songs included 'It takes a whole

village', 'He's got the whole world in his hands', 'This little light of mine' and 'O happy day'.

During the performance each child spoke of their dreams, hopes and aspirations for the future – to become teachers, scientists, nurses, pilots and pastors.

Some of the adult chaperones with them were former members of the choir and spoke of the way the Choir had helped them and others to further their education.

The choir stayed overnight with fami-

lies from various church congregations. It was a memorable and moving evening.

Over £2,300 was raised to support numerous schools in Uganda and other African countries, together with educational scholarships. The choir has been established for 22 years.

To quote from their magazine: 'The children hold the key to Africa's future. By providing children at risk with education and hope today, we can help advance Africa tomorrow.'

**Sheila Manners**

# Norwich churches get migrant boost

By **KEITH MORRIS**

**H**undreds of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants are swelling church congregations across Norwich and Norfolk.

African and Chinese congregations exist in Norwich churches and hundreds of people from the Philippines, India and Africa have boosted the congregation at Norwich's Catholic Cathedral from a weekend average of around 800 up to 1200.

Transforming Norwich, which represents churches across Greater Norwich, has sent a survey to church leaders to try to collect more information on the subject.

John Dubbey, who has sent out the survey, said: "As most of the countries from which the visitors came to England are Catholic we would expect the major recipients would be the Catholic churches.

"The newcomers have been welcomed by the Catholic Cathedral which has received an extra third mainly from the Philippines, India and West Africa, while St George's Catholic Parish has received an influx from Poland, Lithuania and India.

"These Catholic churches are providing settings for nationals of a particular country to meet with each other and in time will integrate more with the local congregations. As examples of local welcome, the Catholic Cathedral held an overseas festival in April and St George's is translating sections of the Bible into Polish for worship purposes."

The Catholic Cathedral is now holding fortnightly Polish masses.

New Hope Christian Centre in Lakenham has run an African-style worship service for the past five years on the third Sunday of each month at

## Warm welcome

■ To help provide a warm welcome to Norwich for visitors from other countries John Dubbey, from Transforming Norwich, is looking to compile a list of local Christians who can speak foreign languages and who are prepared to be of assistance if necessary.

If you can speak a foreign language or have more information about overseas attendees at Norwich churches to help his research, please e-mail John at [jdubbey@talktalk.net](mailto:jdubbey@talktalk.net)

5pm. Attendees come mainly from Southern Africa with some from Iraq and Turkey.

John Betts, from New Hope, said: "We get up to three dozen people from across Norfolk and Suffolk. We aim to create a home from home for African people who worship in a different way from most English people. We want them to be able to express themselves in a thoroughly African way.

"A lot of these people are in caring professions and often get offered extra money to work on Sundays which is hard for them to refuse. They are also in need of transport to maintain a consistent Sunday attendance."

There is a remarkable Chinese congregation which meets at Wroxham Road Methodist Church. This is attended by up to 60 Chinese who have lived in Norwich for some years, mostly working in restaurants. The fellowship began through one converted man, a restaurant proprietor who encouraged his friends towards commitment to Christ.

The Methodist Church provides premises for meetings on Sunday and for mid-week Bible studies. The church

has just appointed a salaried Chinese pastor to lead this section and also to minister to the many Chinese students in Norwich (see article on page 3).

Over 30 men from Eastern Europe, only half speaking English, have found their way to the services of the Salvation Army in Norwich.

Norwich Vineyard has recently seen new visitors from Nigeria and the Congo.

"There are no statistics yet available concerning Africans and West Indians coming into Norwich, but clearly there is a considerable increase," said John Dubbey. "From the experience of churches who have welcomed Africans into their congregations, and my own experiences in Southern Africa, there is much more inclination among Africans than among the British to take matters of faith seriously and attend church regularly.

"Because of this importance attached to church, any such newcomers will expect to be warmly received, especially by the leader, visited in their homes, given information about the life of the church and facilities available in the country and, where necessary, to be given help with transport."

But he said: "It needs to be recognized that many of these people have come to this country understandably to earn money and that the temptation of double overtime on Sundays can be stronger than that of attending church."

He concludes: "At present, it would seem that any church which actively campaigns to attract this more open and needy new population will be warmly welcomed."

Different churches have also reported regular commitment from students at UEA and these provide a great opportunity for mission work both now and on return to their homes.

## KERRISON TOYS

Kerrisons Toys have probably the largest range of toys and gifts in East Anglia, all at great prices. With branches at Aylsham Road in Norwich, King Street in Yarmouth, and now an online toy store, you should find a Kerrisons Toys store near you. Please call in and our staff will be happy to advise you on any of the products we sell

353 Aylsham Road,  
Norwich 01603-494008

21 King Street, Yarmouth  
01493-853891

[www.kerrisontoy.co.uk](http://www.kerrisontoy.co.uk)

## D.J. HOOD

### AUTO-BODY SERVICES

- Servicing
- MOT preparation
- Accident repairs
- Caravan repairs
- Specialists in repairing and painting plastic car parts
- Free estimates

**TELEPHONE 01603 487869**  
**MOBILE 07765 306972**



## CHAIRS • CHAIRS • CHAIRS



We have a large selection of high chairs, low chairs, manual recliners, electric riser / recliners, rocking chairs & commode chairs.

**Home selection service - Free delivery**  
(within 50 mile radius)

**OPEN MON-SAT 9.30am-5.30pm**  
Stockists of Celebrity, Cintree, Sherborne & other leading makes.

**ASHWORTH CARPETS, CHAIR & RECLINER CENTRE LTD**  
49 ROUNDTREE WAY  
(off Mousehold Lane)  
SPROWSTON, NORWICH  
**Tel: 01603 484963**

**Own Car Park - Wheelchair Access**



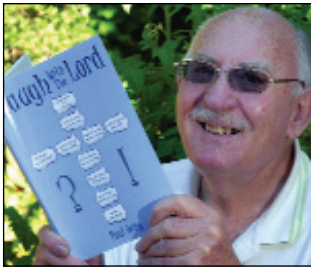


## FEATURES

### A message of laughter

■ Norfolk Christian cartoonist Paul Juby has just had his book, *Laugh with the Lord*, published by Authorhouse.

The new book contains over 200 cartoons and author Paul said: "I have compiled this book with a strongly evangelistic flavour, the main message is to become 'Doers' of the Word. The cartoons have a measure of finger-pointing without being in any way hurtful. It is a way of showing that we must not be pew



potatoes or 'the frozen chosen'. "Some may query whether the title is presumptuous, but I look on Jesus as a wonderful friend, one who has Himself shown humour and understanding. Christianity is a serious business but it does not exclude fun and laughter."

To purchase a copy e-mail Paul at [pandejuby@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pandejuby@tiscali.co.uk). The cost is £7.90 plus 80p postage.

### Challenge to churches

■ Continued from front page...

"Those in their 20s and 30s are choosing which church to go to – not just the one round the corner. We have to think much more about how we market our churches."

The church is also ageing fast. An incredible 39% of churches have no-one attending under 11 years of age and 59% have no-one in the 15-19 age category. Of the around 8,300 people in church in Norwich on a Sunday in May 2005, 2,300 were under 29, 1000 were aged 30-44, 2100 45-64 and 2900 aged 65 and over.

"More women than men are leaving the church, partly because of Sunday trading and job opportunities," said Peter. "Those aged from 30-44 attend church less often than others because of the other pressures they face from home, young families and work. Some churches have responded to this by holding church services at different times and on different days."

Large churches are becoming increasingly important with younger people much more likely to go to them often because they provide more appropriate activities such as young people's groups.

National churches of over 350 are dominated by RC churches (1,250) followed by Pentecostal (200), Anglican (160) and New Churches (140).

In Norfolk there are around 70 churches (7%) with over 200-strong congregations, 120 churches (12%) from 101-200, 200 (20%) from 51-100, 200 (20%) from 26 to 50 and around 410 (41%) with under 25 each Sunday.

"The challenge facing smaller churches, especially in rural areas, is they have a greater proportion of older people," said Peter. On the other hand they often have committed financial supporters, may be boosted by 'internet' families moving into the village and praying for grandchildren is also important. For 12% of Protestant churchgoers, grandparents were the most significant people in showing what faith is about.

**Peter issued three challenges to the church in Norfolk:**

- 1 It must combat declining numbers to survive.
- 2 It should encourage more mid-week activity which often bring people in, help grow the church's fringe and are especially important for young people.
- 3 To think, plan, pray and work more strategically.

Peter is director of Christian Research and the man behind the definitive English Church Census and Religious Trends reports. He was speaking at an event organized by Transforming Norwich, hosted by Sheriff of Norwich John Drake and held at the Salvation Army Citadel in the city centre in April.

The 2005 English Church Census asked all 37,500 churches in England for attendance figures, half responded.

Transforming Norwich chairman, John Betts, said: "We have seen the facts and glimpsed the future. We must do differently in the light of what we have learned. We can either profit from our history, learn and grow, or fail to move on." For more in-depth report see [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

### Social action ■ Young people w

## From Reality

This summer saw a second Reality event for young Christians in and around Norwich, combining community action, evangelism and teaching into a great week. **Gail Halley reports.**

**B**uilding on the foundations of last year, the team expanded the Action Areas to go beyond Norwich, reaching as far as Wymondham.

Grantley Watkins, of Wymondham Baptist Church, echoed the views of many when he said: "Seeing young people mobilised to serve the local church to give up their week – it's an amazing sacrifice, there is such enthusiasm, such energy – to be part of that is a real buzz! We're really benefiting as a local church in a rural town from that energy."

Eighty five young people from around the region took part in RII, taking a relevant message of Christianity into the five Action Areas each afternoon during the week. Their work included holiday clubs, sports groups, litter picking, dance, drama, gardening and more.

Andrew Tyler, Parish Priest of St Mary Magdalene, said: "This is the second year we've been involved with Reality. It's been very, very good because eight or nine years ago when I came here this is exactly the sort of thing I wanted to do, and it's only because of the involvement with Norwich Youth For Christ that now we've been able to do it."

The aim behind all of the community projects was to demonstrate the Gospel in actions, and create opportunities for conversations with community members.

Danny Doran-Smith of Heartsease said: "Hundreds of people from 3 - 95 years old were impacted by Reality, with many other people from across the Heartsease estate and the local area coming to get involved. The week ended with a Joint Golden Jubilee Celebration for St Francis Church and Last Night Event for Reality, which included a free barbecue with live entertainment, children's entertainer, face paints,

motorbike show and even donkey rides. "It was a great end to the week, and many people from the Heartsease estate saw what was opening throughout the week and just got involved!"

Mark Tubby, working in the Lakenham Holiday Club, said: "For me, one of the best things is that it's going on all round the city. I think people have really noticed all the different things going on. It's just a real incentive it shows God's love."



## Workshops set to get local

■ Some 95% of people in Norwich have no connection with church which is a very good reason for the city's churches to get involved with Hope'08, starting with two workshops in Norwich on October 11 at 10am and November 24 at 12.30pm.

Local co-ordinator, Mark Tuma, from Norwich Youth for Christ, hosted workshops in June and September to challenge local Christians to get involved.

Hope'08 is gaining momentum across the country, and has been endorsed by Parmjit Dhandra MP, Cohesion Minister, Sir Ian Blair, Metropolitan Police Commissioner; Rt Hon Stephen Timmins MP, Chief Secretary of the Treasury; Caroline Spelman MP, Shadow Communities and Local Government

Minister; Steve Webb MP, Liberal Democrat Health Spokesman; and figures from across the denominations.

The momentum is growing locally too, as more churches, organisations and individuals respond to the challenge of engaging more with their communities. The Church of England's Norwich Diocese endorsed Hope'08 as part of their 'Committed to Growth' strategy at a recent meeting at Norwich Cathedral, attended by around 700.

Two local police officers recently got in touch with the Hope'08 team, wanting Hope to work well in the area, as well as being keen to work with the Church in transforming communities.

Several initiatives are being planned locally, they include:



■ In April there were up to 300 young people at Let's train and equip young people with their faith. ■ In summer Reality are encouraging the presence of the young people to get engaged across the region.

**GREENHEDGES**  
CHRISTIAN SELF-CATERING  
HOLIDAY HOUSE  
Sheringham, Norfolk  
*Planning a group holiday or weekend break?*  
Sleeps 30, bunk beds. Well equipped. Spacious meeting and dining rooms. Close to beautiful coast and countryside. Good rail, coach and road access.  
Brochure/bookings: Mrs Dorothy Burns  
01263 823517 GNFN

**Gibson Music**  
Specialist Brass & Woodwind Repairs,  
Instruments and Sheet Music  
• New & Second Hand Instruments  
• Low Cost Rentals  
• Expert On-Site Repairs  
• Music Teachers Directory  
• Suppliers to Eastern Shires  
Colleges and Schools  
Visit our new web site at:  
[www.gibsonmusic.co.uk](http://www.gibsonmusic.co.uk)  
5 St. John Maddermarket, Norwich, NR21DN  
Tel/ Fax: (01603) 663262, Email: [Sales@gibsonmusic.co.uk](mailto:Sales@gibsonmusic.co.uk)

**FOR THE FRUITS OF HIS CREATION  
FOR HIS GIFTS TO EVERY NATION**  
We invite you to join our  
**HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES**  
In aid of Church fund for World Mission  
at  
**WROXHAM ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**  
on  
**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30th**  
at  
**9.30 and 11.00**  
also a Faith tea at 17.30  
followed by a Testimony Service at 18.45  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**



Norwich Christian volunteer opportunities at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

work hard to show love of God on the streets

# Reality II to Hope



Reality II participants got involved in many activities including: prayer at the central meetings at NCBC, dancing in Lakenham, clowning around at Heartsease and collecting rubbish at Heartsease.



This  
people  
hap-

Mark Tuma, Director of Norwich Youth For Christ, explained what the week had meant to him: "It's been an amazing week on so many levels. Just like last year, God has taken this group of young people who are prepared to work in his service and he has used them to change things in the five areas."

st  
ty, and  
differ-  
ve and

"The two biggest and most exciting things for me this year were these: first, that these God-filled young people were leading the way and showing the Church and the community what

happens when people serve him - they actually bring hope into situations, like the family in one area facing a court appearance whose garden was cleared by the team, it brought hope to them; and secondly, you could watch the young people becoming evangelists as the week went on - by the end of the week when I asked people what would change when they finished Reality they all said, 'I'm going to tell my friends about Jesus, I'm not going to hold it in any more.' I couldn't have asked for any more than that!"

## al ideas flowing for Hope'08



ere will be a weekend for young people from 11-18 in the town Hall. The weekend will equip young people for engaging their friends and communities. After 2008 the team behind the event, by asking young people to get involved with community and evangelism projects in their region.

■ A couple of local people are looking at using Carrow Road as a venue for an event in summer 2008. They're still at the dream and imagination stage, but it's already an exciting prospect.

■ [i-hope.co.uk](http://i-hope.co.uk) is a new website being developed locally to tie-in with Hope'08. The idea is to give a place for the world to share its hopes and, if they want to, find out about our hope.

Mark Tuma said: "It's great to see these ideas developing as people begin to grab the opportunities to engage, but there's always a danger that churches and individuals sit back and wait for someone else to have the ideas and put them into action! Hope'08 is great because it gives all of us the chance and the challenge to take a step for-

ward in engaging. I think God gives us these crazy dreams and ideas, like Carrow Road or i-hope, so that we do something with them, not so that we ignore them!"

To help the move from idea to reality the Hope Manual has recently been published. For just £2.99 you can find 160 pages of ideas and encouragement to help every church and group to get involved in Hope'08.

For more information about Hope'08 locally, or to book your free place on either workshop, contact Mark at NYFC on 01603 620678.

**web updates on Hope'08 from:**  
[www.hope-norwich.com](http://www.hope-norwich.com)  
<http://hopeinnorfolk.blogspot.com/>  
[www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)



The Life Café at Earlham Christian Centre.

## ECC brings life to Sunday nights

By MIKE WILTSHIRE

■ "The church that's alive is worth the drive" – that is the view of the leader of a fast-growing fellowship in Norwich which has launched a popular series of new format, "visitor-friendly" evening meetings.

"We attract people from a wide area," says Paddy Venner, senior pastor of Earlham Christian Centre (ECC). "We offer people a 'mosaic of choice' through the month, with different formats on Sunday nights."

Although Paddy Venner admits his natural leaning "is towards being a straight-forward Bible teacher," he says the local church must try to be creative and diverse in its approach to people in a post-modern society in which many people no longer believe in absolutes or absolute truth.

While Sunday mornings at ECC follow a regular format for its family services, Sunday nights are what Paddy calls "multi-accessible", to hold the interest of a wide range of visitors, from students to older people.

In particular, LifeCafé transforms the church into a coffee shop where people chat and enjoy refreshments at tables. The leader introduces a topic – sometimes on a contentious theme – allowing guests to interact with a roving microphone. There's an element of risk which calls for wisdom in summing up views, says Paddy, but the approach fits well with the culture at ECC which is one of warmth, acceptance and friendliness. The evening also includes a time of what he calls "unplugged worship" led by an instrumentalist.

On another evening they will have "Sunday Night Live" which uses an interview approach in which people share their stories of how they faced challenges and overcame problems through their faith. "We are simply presenting the truth of the gospel in a new format," says Paddy. "Looking ahead, we'd like to use video and film clips to highlight topics."



Other Sunday nights include "Refresh" which has a focus on the power of the Holy Spirit – "non-believers are welcome," he says. "If people find it a bit strange, then it will be explained to them, but very often people are captivated by what they see as true and real in people's lives."

On another Sunday night, the church introduces new or upcoming speakers. The church on Earlham Green Lane has purpose-built premises on the site of what was once The Good Companions pub. The church also runs five children's clubs and leads assemblies in eight schools where 45 per cent of the general population is under the age of 22.

The church is part of the worldwide Assemblies of God denomination, which was founded in the 1920s and now has more than 600 pentecostal churches in the UK alone.

[www.eccnorwich.org.uk](http://www.eccnorwich.org.uk)

## Churches youth project launch

■ The East Norwich Youth Project was officially launched on September 9 at St Francis Church on Heartsease.

David Adams (Chair of Trustees) and Danny Doran-Smith (Senior Youth Worker) spent time during the evening sharing some of the vision of ENYP and volunteers shared testimonies of their experiences of supporting youth work in the area over the last few years.

The project is being backed by eight local churches: St Francis, Witard Road Baptist Church, Heartsease Lane Methodist Church, St Matthew's, St David's, Norwich Vineyard, The Salvation Army on Dussindale and The Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Danny gave his testimony and shared his passion for reaching the lost and seeing God's

Kingdom come. There was a challenge for everyone to consider whether we are 'desperate, hungry and willing' to see God move. A response was made in unison to go for God, see his Kingdom come and to be who he's called us to be in the places where we are - school, work etc.

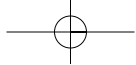
If you are interested in receiving the first ENYP newsletter please email administrator Lucie Fox at [administrator@enyp.org.uk](mailto:administrator@enyp.org.uk)

For further information please contact: Danny Doran-Smith (Senior Youth Worker) [ddoransmith@enyp.org.uk](mailto:ddoransmith@enyp.org.uk) or 07912 464883

David Adams (Chair of Trustees) [chairoftrustees@enyp.org.uk](mailto:chairoftrustees@enyp.org.uk) or 01603 432647

Lucie Fox




**NEWS**

 Norwich Christian action zones at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

# Plea to adopt a prayer week

**N**orfolk Call to Prayer has been undergoing a number of exciting changes recently as it moves into a new phase of ministry and the challenge to local churches to Adopt a Week of Prayer is just one of them.

Having been involved in the Lighthouses of Prayer, the Just Ten Mission and First Fridays, Call to Prayer is now preparing a new initiative, the launch of Adopt a Week of Prayer.

Annabel Valentine of the Call to Prayer team said: "The First Friday meetings have been a wonderful means for Christians from a number of different churches to share in prayer and fellowship, and a good network of people willing to meet to pray has been built up ... now it is sensed that, in Adopt a Week of Prayer, God is opening up a new opportunity, which can be instrumental in raising the level of effective, dynamic and focused prayer."

The plan is for a church to book a week – via the [networknorwich.co.uk](http://networknorwich.co.uk) website – in which they will focus more than usual on prayer, especially prayer for their local communities. Jill Gower, who leads Call to Prayer, said: "It's exciting to see a growing interest in prayer rising up in the nation as well as locally. We believe Adopt A Week could inspire and encourage the church prayer meeting in all types of churches."

Part of the vision of Adopt a Week is to back the week of prayer by providing a

box containing ideas which it is hoped will bring a freshness into the prayer life of the church by exploring different ways of approaching prayer. The content of the box is designed in such a way that churches can adapt it however they wish to suit their own needs.

Jill Gower added: "Call to Prayer is also anticipating this will be a great resource for the church as we look towards Hope 2008."

The box will include a selection of written prayers based on scripture, the Hope 2008 manual, suggestions on different models of prayer and ideas on a 'What can we do if our church Adopts a Week?'

Adopt a Week is working closely with Transforming Norwich; it was formally launched on Saturday September 22 at the Bowthorpe Worship Centre. For more details contact Jill Gower on 01508 491770, [jillgower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jillgower@tiscali.co.uk)

## Intercessors wanted

■ The Christian Divine Exchange Stall needs intercessors to come and pray at the next Natural Healing Fair on October 13/14 at Hewett School. A team made up from various churches will man the stall. For further details contact Jess Stubenbord, Mulbarton Rectory, tel 01508 570296 or [jwstubenbord@aol.com](mailto:jwstubenbord@aol.com).

## Reuben rocks Norwich with Hillsongs

■ International worship leader Reuben Morgan and a band from the 20,000-strong Hillsong Church in Australia performed in Norwich on July 23 to a packed crowd of 650.

Drayton Hall, current home of Norwich Family Life Church was packed to the rafters, the dry ice was drifting across the stage, the coloured lights illuminating the drum kit and keyboards. Organiser Jon Norman summed it up: "This was not a concert but there was a purpose behind tonight. It was somewhere you can encounter Christ."

Reuben said: "We are here in Norwich to build up the church and build up his people. We want to contribute to the life of the Church here and encourage people to encounter God. We want people to experience and receive from God. I believe that Jesus Christ is real, alive and relevant today and is worth looking into. I want to help connect with people where they are at, whether they are young or old. I want them to know that they matter to God."



**Celebrating  
150 years  
of local  
service**

[www.ymca-norfolk.co.uk](http://www.ymca-norfolk.co.uk)

## Supported Lodging Scheme

### Have you got a spare room in your home?

Would you like to help and equip a young person to grow in confidence and gain the skill to take on their own tenancy and live an independent life?

We are looking for households who are sympathetic to the aims and purposes of YMCA Norfolk. This can be owner-occupied, council tenancy or privately rented and possibly bed & breakfast/guest house providers, who are prepared to offer a temporary home to a young person in the Norwich and Great Yarmouth areas.

In return you will receive a weekly payment of £81.05 (tax free under the government rent a room scheme), training and regular support from the YMCA staff Resettlement Team.

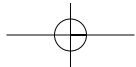
If you live in the Norwich City Council or Gt Yarmouth Borough Council areas and would like to find out more, please contact:

#### For Norwich

Eddie Pleban, Head of Housing Services  
Tel 01603 620269 ex 41  
e-mail [eddiepleban@ymca-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:eddiepleban@ymca-norfolk.org.uk)

#### For Great Yarmouth

or Mary Gilbert on 07894 935775  
e-mail [marygilbert@ymca-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:marygilbert@ymca-norfolk.org.uk)





**NEWS**latest Norwich Christian events at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

# Indian school opens thanks to churches

By KEITH MORRIS

**N**orwich-based Christian development charity the Vidiyal Trust, has opened a school for children from a slum area of Kerala, in India, in partnership with local churches and with financial backing from churches across Norfolk.

Headed by well-known Norwich minister Rev Canon Pat Atkinson, chaplain at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, the opening of the school is the start of an £80,000 project to also build two children's homes and day care facilities for local destitute elderly people.

Local churches, in an area of northern Kerala that had been badly affected by the tsunami, were desperate to fulfil a need for school facilities for village children in Mavelikara. They contacted the Vidiyal Trust and Pat, who has been working in India for 17 years.

Using a locally-based charity which Pat had set up some nine years before, the Trust bought and registered land and started to renovate and extend what had been a cattle shed in Mavelikara.

The school has already opened its doors to the first 50 children, with a further 10 expected to start in October.

"Local schools were so full that they could only offer a few hours of teaching each day," explained Pat. "Our centre helps the local Dahlit slum children to have full-time education and is also providing two meals a day and medical care.

"Some of the funds given by Norfolk churches are still in hand to build a vocational training school as



**Above, Rev Pat Atkinson with pupils from the new school (right) in Mavelikara, northern India.**



the site develops. We are building a boys home, girls home, kitchen and dining suite, for our existing children. The vocational training school will help our resident children as well as our school children and other local young people. We anticipate having facilities for over 150 by next July.

"We are particularly grateful to the Norfolk churches who responded to the Lent appeal," said Pat. "We are thrilled to be working so closely with the local Christian community

which is also offering a lot of voluntary help."

The Vidiyal Trust is also continuing its work with the Regional Cancer Centre, providing home care to terminally ill poor patients who cannot get to the hospital, and has purchased a new ambulance to extend this care. They will be holding study days at the Centre early next year. It also continues its post-tsunami work in Sri Lanka, extending its sponsorship scheme in one of the worst affected areas. This work

is also with local churches.

"What started as a difficult year has, thanks to a lot of prayer, developed into a secure project where land and buildings will always be used for the poorest," said Pat. "Please continue to pray for our work."

If you want more information or would like to support the project, you can contact Pat and the Vidiyal Trust at [vidiyaltrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vidiyaltrust@hotmail.co.uk) on 0845 1567090 or at 32 Berryfields, Brundall, Norwich NR13 5QE.

## ■ In brief

### Drop-in centre calls for more volunteers

■ All Saints Centre in Norwich City Centre is appealing for volunteers while promoting its Food for Thought voucher scheme and its facilities.

The centre on Westlegate, opposite John Lewis, is always on the look-out for volunteers, both in a pastoral role and as part of a team to help in its popular coffee bar.

Admin manager Trevor Scott, said: "Our staff have seen a rise in the number of men coming forward to help them in its work amongst the people of Norwich and the many visitors to the city who pass through its doors. If any other men have held back from offering themselves for volunteering because they think that only women do that sort of thing, then perhaps they would like to think again. Women are of course also needed."

The Centre's "Food for Thought" Voucher scheme is designed to help and support people in a practical way by selling vouchers which you can give to anyone you come across asking for help or money in and around the city. These vouchers, to the value of £1 each, are on sale at the All Saints' Centre and can be exchanged there for food and hot drinks.

"Churches are welcome to buy a block of vouchers to sell on to its members and in doing so encourage fellow Christians to help those struggling on the streets of Norwich this winter," said Trevor.

The Centre has a number of facilities including a comfortable and spacious first floor meeting room to let on an hourly basis. One-off or regular bookings welcomed at £5 per hour. A coffee and snack bar, chapel and rest area, Traidcraft goods, Christian cards and small gift and a Christian Lending Library are also available.

The Centre is open Monday - Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 12.30 - 4pm.

Contact Trevor Scott: 01603 633726, call in or visit: [www.allsaintsnorwich.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsnorwich.org.uk)

### Thieves hit churches

■ Three Norwich churches have become the latest to be struck by thieves stealing valuable lead off their roofs.

Villagers in Trowse had raised £14,000 for the renovation at St Andrew's Church but the roof above the organ chamber has been completely stripped of the precious metal and parts of the side aisle roof had been rolled back, apparently ready for removal.

St.Elizabeth's Church, North Earlham has also been visited by the 'leadknappers' when £500 worth of lead flashing was stolen in early August. "It is always shattering when damage is done to any part of creation, and especially so when it is small and vulnerable," said the church's Elaine Constantine. "However, worship and life here continues as usual."

Crooks have also ripped off lead from the roof of St Thomas Heigham Church, in Earlham Road, just months after it was hit by an arson attack

## Fun and games for Bulgarian youngsters



■ Fun and games were had when a team from Norwich visited a children's home in Bulgaria recently. The week-long visit by university students, with links to Norwich churches, provides the 52 under-privileged children with fun, games, craft, music and special attention (pictured left) that is usually absent from their young lives.

For most of the student-aged group from Norwich, this was their first visit to the 'forgotten country of the Balkans'.

Under the banner of West Midlands-based Saltmine Trust and led by former Police Superintendent Peter Barnes, the team interacted with the youngsters by running a Christian Holiday Club type programme which included art and craft work, songs and games based on Bible stories.

In addition to paying their own costs for the trip they also raised over £1200 for the purchase of shoes, Bibles and equipment for the Outdoor Adventure Play Area, most of which had been repainted by the team during

their stay at Burzitza.



### Biggest prayer event

■ Six hundred Norwich Christians joined millions of others in over 200 nations across the world who stopped to pray for the needs of the world on Pentecost Sunday as part of the biggest prayer meeting the world has ever seen.

The Global Day of Prayer on 27 May was the culmination of thousands of 24-hour-a-day prayer watches taking place around the world in the 10 days running up to the event.

Prayer in the Park at Norwich Anglican Cathedral was one of at least 30 such meetings across the UK alone. It saw around 600 Christians from almost 30 Norwich and Norfolk churches join together for worship and prayer.

Norwich organiser Hilary Oliver said: We were thrilled to be part of this great day and are very grateful to all who cancelled their services to be with us."

The next Global Day of Prayer, is on Pentecost Sunday May 11, 2008.



## NEWS

Norwich Christian resources at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

# Street outreach plea

By KEITH MORRIS

**T**he Christian-based Magdalene Group is looking to expand its work among Norwich's 600-strong prostitutes by increasing its outreach work and it is appealing for more volunteers to help.

Based in King Street, right next to the King's Community Centre, the established project has been refocused by project manager Canon Mair Talbot who has been at the helm since last September.

Moving away from a continual search for funding to support paid workers, there is instead more reliance on groups of volunteers to help in the outreach work with Norwich's vast community of street girls.

Mair is keen to expand the current team of 25 volunteers.

"Rather than trying to do everything for the very chaotic individuals we work with, we are looking to do the front-line outreach. We want our clients to know that there is the possibility of escape from the world of prostitution," said Mair.

"We are trying to move them forward into the cycle of change and then refer them on appropriately to other agencies such as AA, Teen Challenge, or NORCAS.

"Our current team of volunteers cover two nights of outreach a week," said Mair. "We would like to expand this night by night until each weekday night is covered.

"They do not have to be Christians but they have to be willing to work within the group's Christian ethos and not mind when other volunteers offer to pray with working girls.

"We need male drivers who stay in the car



Picture by EDP

Project manager Canon Mair Talbot.

and remain vigilant while our female volunteers work in pairs to befriend and talk to the street

girls. We usually get a good reaction and they are often happy to talk," said Mair.

"I see the Gospel as an integral part of the girls finding a way out of the addictions which is often why they have got into prostitution in the first place," she said. "It is a lot to do with the lack of love and direct exposure to God's love can be a significant moment for them. We offer pastoral care and a way out if the girls wish to take it."

The Magdalene Group has contact with around 50 of the 600 prostitutes and rent boys whom Mair estimates work in Norwich on the streets or via the internet.

As well as making contact with girls on the street, the group operates a drop-in centre on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. It has a sitting room and kitchen and offers cookery and craft sessions.

The third area of work which the group is involved with is the Jigsaw Project. This comprises preventative work in up to 25 schools across Norfolk. The aim is to prevent vulnerable young people ending up in prostitution because they get involved with the wrong sort of people.

"We will be taking a staying safe in relationships approach," said Mair. "We aim to give youngsters the knowledge and assertiveness skills to cope."

Jigsaw will be starting up during the next academic year and will be available to any secondary school in Norfolk. Teachers are welcome to contact Mair by email or telephone, if they'd like to know more.

Mair is also keen to build relationships and networks with other interested groups and organizations around the city and can be contacted on 01603 610256 or at e-mail: [mair@magdalenegroup.org](mailto:mair@magdalenegroup.org)

## Tabernacle has a public outing

■ A life-sized Old Testament tabernacle has had its second public outing in Banham for three days during mid-September and has a new dedicated website.

The New Covenant Tabernacle, which was first seen at Living Water 2006 was on public show in the Garden of Eden in Banham from September 20-21.

The 100 x 75ft structure has been constructed by a core team of five, Jill Gower, Penny Jones, Lorie Lain-Rogers, Jo Grey and Colin Grey. "Its purpose is to enable people to encounter God in a deeper way by using it as a visual aid," said Jill. "It is not an actual reproduction of the one given to Moses but rather a prophetic Tabernacle revealing the fulfilment of Jesus our Lord.

The team's belief is that the Tabernacle will eventually be used around the country as a place to meet with God. Jo said: "This tabernacle is not a museum piece. The original one was designed to travel, and we believe this one is designed to do the same."

A new website for the Tabernacle has also been designed by Colin Grey including historical notes and a 3-D video tour, visit: [www.newcovenanttabernacle.co.uk](http://www.newcovenanttabernacle.co.uk)

## Balloon back in city

■ Saltmine Trust's ever popular children's theatre company, Red Balloon, is making a return visit to Norwich on Saturday January 12, 2008 to perform their brand new Christmas panto in the splendid setting of newly refurbished Norwich Central Baptist Church, Duke Street. Ring Peter Barnes 01603 743786 or [www.norwichcentral.org](http://www.norwichcentral.org)

**WILDLIFE**  
Youth Club  
REDEFINING YOUTH CULTURE

**Every Friday**  
YOUNG GUNS 7pm  
**7.30-10pm**  
Ages 13-18  
Free Admission

Basketball, Football, Tribal Wars, X-box, Playstation, Radical Worship, Chick Zone, Embrace, The Garage...  
**Plus Loads More!**

[www.myspace.com/wildlifeuk](http://www.myspace.com/wildlifeuk)  
call: 07717503334 for more info  
Drayton Hall, Hall Road, Norwich NR8 6DP

Do you know where you are going?

Does your life have meaning and purpose?

CHRISTIANITY  
EXPLORED

Ever thought about what happens after we die?

Come and explore the big questions of life in a friendly, non-threatening environment.

**Thursdays at 7pm**  
**at Norwich Central Baptist Church, Duke Street**  
**starting Thursday 4th October**

Enjoy a meal together and find out about the Christian faith through a series of DVDs and short discussions.

The course is free of charge.

To book a place - or for more information - please phone (01603) 760497 or email [office@norwichcentral.org](mailto:office@norwichcentral.org)

[www.norwichcentral.org](http://www.norwichcentral.org)





**NEWS AND EVENTS**Norwich churches directory at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

# Country Gospel comes to Norwich

■ Country Gospel music with one of the UK's best country bands, Inheritance, is coming to Norwich in October, courtesy of City Church (Norfolk).

Formed in the autumn of 1994, Inheritance initially came together to perform a concert as part of a church outreach programme in Great Barr, Birmingham, where the band are based. Country legend George Hamilton IV likes them: 'In my opinion Inheritance are the best country gospel band I've heard in years from the UK.'

The band's material consists mainly of the self-penned songs from band leader, Keith Slater, which, in a very real and accessible way, sets forth the gospel and the joy and fulfilment to be

had by being in a personal relationship with God through the spirit of Christ. Their songs are played regularly on UCB radio and have also featured in a BBC documentary.

The concert will be held at City Gate Centre, 33 Cowgate, Norwich, NR3 1SZ (formerly Wensum Chapel) on Saturday October 6, 2007 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm). Places are limited and entry is by ticket only. Tickets are £5. Refreshments will follow the concert.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact the City Church office at City Gate Centre.

T: 01603 632 904 e: [admin@citychurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@citychurch.co.uk)



## Gala moves to Yarmouth

■ This year's Salvation Army Gala Show is on the move from Norwich – heading east to Great Yarmouth.

The highly successful shows have been staged at the Theatre Royal, but with the venue having a major overhaul, it's been necessary to find another location for the fund-raising gala.

The show, which features the Norwich Citadel Band, was the idea of BBC Radio Norfolk's Tony Mallion who teamed up with the former leader of the Norwich Corps Major Ray Begley. "It's all part of the annual partnership between the Salvation Army and BBC Radio Norfolk for the Toys and Tins appeal" explained Tony. "The Great Yarmouth Salvation Army always hold a Carols for You event at the Marina Centre. This year they'd booked the Norwich Citadel Band and I'm delighted they've kindly agreed that this can become a mini Gala".

As well as the band, the evening will feature the Beccles-based Friends in Harmony Choir. The young Watton comedian David Ketteringham, who was such a hit last year, will be performing along with Bishop Peter Fox with his comedy magic. Others will also be taking part and there will be plenty of carols and favourite Christmas music. The evening will be recorded by BBC Radio Norfolk for broadcast on Christmas Day. Capt. Nigel Byrne, the leader of the Yarmouth Salvation Army, will be the speaker.

"We hope that we will attract a large audience to Great Yarmouth. Whatever we raise will all help towards the overall cost of Toys and Tins which increases each year along with the demand," said Tony who will host the evening.

A Gala Carols for You will be held at the Marina Centre, Great Yarmouth on Tuesday December 4 at 7.30. Tickets will be £5. More information on 01603-631631.

# Top spiritual teacher in city

One of the world's leading spiritual teachers is coming to Norwich to give a public talk and a two-day intensive workshop as a part of an East of England initiative called The Year of the Contemplative.

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest and an internationally renowned speaker and conference leader. He is the bestselling author of many books on subjects such as community building, peace and justice, male spirituality and the enneagram. His published works include Everything Belongs, exploring the gift of contemplative prayer, and Breathing Under Water, a study of the spirituality of the 12-steps.

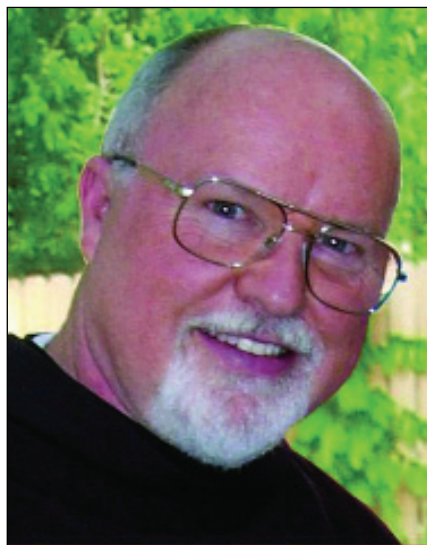
Richard is probably best known for his pioneering work on the relationship between our inner being and the way we live and act in the world. He founded the Centre for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico, which is committed to exploring ways in which living the contemplative life and undertaking the inner work of meditation can lead to more authentic action and bring about radical transformation of our lives, our communities, and our world.

Richard will be running a two-day intensive course in Norwich in January 2008 on the theme The Contemplative Mind. The workshop will include an introduction to contemplative prayer and an exploration of 'non-dual consciousness' – a way of being that is not founded on conflict and fear, but on wholeness and love. There will be talks, spiritual exercises, meditation and small group discussions.

Rohr says: "I believe there is a deep dilemma and contradiction at the heart of institutional Christianity. Maybe it is even a necessary one. All I know is that it can only be resolved by authentic inner experience, prayer, or dare I call it 'spirituality'."

Richard will also be giving a talk at the Anglican Cathedral on the theme Becoming Stillness. This will be open to all and will look at how to bring stillness into a busy life and avoid the dangers of stress and burnout.

Rohr is one of a series of speakers that are coming to Norwich over the next year. Laurence Freeman from the 'World community of Christian Meditation' will be here in October and Cynthia Bourgeault, an Episcopal priest who has worked with contempla-



**Richard Rohr.**

tive masters such as Thomas Keating will be coming in May 2008.

"It is very exciting," says Nicholas Vesey from the Norwich Christian Meditation Centre. "Norwich has played a great part in the contemplative tradition through Julian of Norwich and her book 'The Revelations of Divine Love', and many of these speakers are coming to be a part of that. We are really hoping that this will become a 'Year of the Contemplative' and that we can come together and form a community of contemplatives in the East of England that can help to change our society for the better".

Clergy will be able to use a part of their 2008 CME grant to pay for the event.

'The Contemplative Mind', Friday 11th- Saturday 12th January 2008 at St Luke's, Aylsham Road, fees £40-70 depending on circumstances.

'Becoming Stillness', 7.30pm Thursday 10th January at the Anglican Cathedral. Admission free.

For more details write to: Richard Rohr, 61 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2HF or email [nicholas.vesey@btpopenworld.com](mailto:nicholas.vesey@btpopenworld.com) or call Nicholas on 01603 416973.

Visit: [www.caradicalgrace.org](http://www.caradicalgrace.org)

## ■ In brief

### Free introduction to meditation offered

■ A Practical Introduction to Christian Meditation course is being offered free in Norwich from October by Father Laurence from the World Community of Christian Meditation.

Following the success of Fr Laurence Freeman's visit to Norwich on June 10 at which more than 300 local people gathered to hear about the importance of Christian meditation in the 21st century, local meditators are offering a short, practical course on Christian meditation. The course will be based on the teachings of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

Anne McDonnell, regional WCCM co-ordinator, said: "Our society measures personal value in having things and achieving the right image. Meditation dismantles that dream. It provides an experience of reality where it is possible to discover the simplicity of 'just being'. We're delighted to be able to offer this course, and hope that it will enable more people in our area to engage in a practical way with the contemplative path."

The course is free. You will be taught how to meditate and there will be space for questions and discussion about your experience of meditation. The course comprises four, two-hour sessions and will be run on the following Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon: October 13, 20, 27 and November 3. The venue will be Noggs Barn, Little Melton, near Norwich.

For more information and to book contact Anne McDonnell on 01603 810646 or by email [anne.mcdonnell@talk21.com](mailto:anne.mcdonnell@talk21.com).

By Liz Day

### Elim jubilee countdown

■ The Elim Pentecostal Church in Trory Street, Norwich will be marking its 50th anniversary in 2008 with the help of John Pantry and Paul Jones and it is appealing for former members to get in touch to help it celebrate.

The first campaign took place in June 1958 and was led by the late Rev Ken Matthews. Over a five-year period the church met in 22 different hired halls around the city. The main Sunday meeting took place in Stuart Hall, now the home of Cinema City.

A number of the mid-week meetings took place at the Friends Meeting House in Lower Goat Lane. The Elim Church in Trory Street was opened on the 2nd November 1963.

Pastor Gerry Turner said: "We have been struggling as a church for years, but last Sunday we had over 60 in, and over 10 people were away, so we thank the Lord for growth."

"To celebrate the Golden Jubilee, the church has planned a number of special events throughout the year. Many pastors, with Norwich links, have been invited, such as Rev David Townsend, Rev Paul Riseley, and Rev Maldwyn Jones. Dr Tony Stone, who led some of the early crusades, has also been invited."

Other special events include, a concert with Premier Radio's presenter, John Pantry, and also a concert with Paul Jones, award-winning lead singer of Manfred Mann.

Church secretary Ray Johnson would be delighted to receive any testimonies from those who were present during those early meetings, on 01603 621767.

### Gideons friends meet

■ The annual Gideons Friends Meeting in Norwich takes place on September 29 at 7pm at Sprowston Methodist Church, Wroxham Road.

There will be an opportunity to learn about the work of the local Gideon branch, as well as the work of the organisation generally. Music will be provided by Meadow Way Chapel. The speaker is Vernon Whitby Smith from Gideon National Office. Afterwards there will be a light supper.

The Friends are the support group of the Gideons, but all are welcome. For more details contact Lesley Winter on 01603 868967.

## K.P. ELECTRICS

FOR ALL YOUR DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS.  
NEW ADDITIONS, REPAIRS AND EMERGENCIES.  
FAST, FRIENDLY, RELIABLE SERVICE

PLEASE PHONE 01603 744208  
MOBILE: 07770 921399



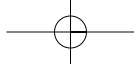
## network:norwich



An upto date list of events  
for the Norwich Christian  
community can now be  
found on the website

[www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)




**NEWS**

 Norwich Christian business services at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)

# New worker as hall opens

By JOHN BREEZE

**O**ak Grove Chapel has appointed a new youth worker as they say goodbye to two gap year students.

Pete Skivington was appointed in September to work amongst young people in the Catton Area, particularly with those in their early teens, for the next three years.

He will focus primarily on the transition years between Middle and High School. Ian Savory, Oak Grove's senior leader, said: "We are involved with children from several middle schools and it is important that they are cared for in those difficult years between leaving Middle School and joining the various High Schools. Pete will establish relationships with them and develop various youth activities out of that."

Pete said: "I'm really looking forward to this new post as it is going to combine two roles I've been involved in previously. I've been working with the YMCA in local schools and I've been working with Oak Grove's Young People as a volunteer so the opportunity to bring those together is a big step into bringing Church and community together."

Peter's post is funded for three years by Children in Need. He will also help with the current youth groups associated with the Church. Peter is married to Jenny who helped found the 'Speak' organisation and later worked with Norwich's Christian Aid programme. They have a young son Cameron.

Two young people have spent their 'Gap Year' as outreach workers at Oak Grove, under the umbrella of Pioneer's DNA student system.

Vicky Lewis from Southampton and Christopher Marsh, from Herne Bay, have worked in local schools, at the church and other youth clubs in the Catton Grove Area.



**Pete Skivington, new youth worker at Oak Grove Chapel.**

For a year, young people enrol on the DNA programme. They engaged in training and practical Christian service.

Chris and Vicky have worked as classroom assistants and helping with lunch-time activities, Vicky has worked at 'Boredom Busters' the youth club on Bullard Road where she has helped run DJ workshops along with a wide variety of activities. In schools, Vicky has helped with a dance group which performed in an assembly.

With Oak Grove they have helped with the youth activities, including youth weekends away, particularly Norwich YFC's Rock Solid Weekend at Dunton.

Ian Savory, said: "Having these young people here has always been a positive experience. We've enjoyed having them and they have served well. They have learned what it means to be in a church that's involved in the community with all the opportunities that brings right across the age spectrum."



■ This is the new meeting hall of Oak Grove Chapel being used for the very first time on Sunday, September 16. After two years of fundraising, planning, preparation and a year of building it will be dedicated at a special service on Saturday October 6.

There will be a Prayer of Thanksgiving in Oak Grove Chapel, Catton Grove Road, at 2pm followed by a Jazz Procession along Woodcock Road. This procession will include the parading of the Communion Table at its head to show the centrality of that mystery to the life of the Church.

On arrival at the new hall on Weston Road, a ribbon will be cut by Miss Vera Askham, Oak Grove's oldest member. There will be a dedica-

tion Service at 3pm with Steve Chalke, of the Oasis Trust, as guest speaker.

After tea, at 7pm, there will be a 'Faithworks Celebration Service' when Steve will speak on 'Intelligent Church'.

This new building will be used by the school and the community for various weekday activities and by Oak Grove for its growing congregation on Sundays whilst the old buildings on Catton Grove Road will still be used for community, Church and the charity shop activities during the week.

Further details may be obtained from Oak Grove's office on 01603 403388 or from:

[www.oakgrovechapel.co.uk](http://www.oakgrovechapel.co.uk)

[www.proclaimerschurch.com](http://www.proclaimerschurch.com)

**2 identical services  
EVERY SUNDAY**

at The Ramada Jarvis Hotel (Opposite ASDA)

visit our **website** for details of  
upcoming **events** and **speakers**

great  
music

great  
message

great  
company

**creche & kids church  
at 10 & 12 services**

10.00am

12 noon

7.00pm

**A member of the Hillsong Network**

A relational network of churches committed to championing the cause of the local church.

Printed by Archant Print, Thorpe Print Centre, Norwich