



Transforming power of Christian Gospel

The power of the Christian Gospel to transform lives around the world is a driving force in the work of Norwich-based humanitarian and aid worker **Eldred Willey**. **Mike Wiltshire** reports.

Years of experience in humanitarian and Christian work in Europe, Africa and Asia has been 'an enormous privilege', says Eldred, whose work with relief organisations has taken him to some of the neediest parts of the world.

In 2015 he joined a team from international relief organisation Samaritan's Purse in Nepal, where a deadly earthquake affected more than eight million people, with 2.8 million displaced and 3.5 million needing food assistance. More than 9,000 people died and 500,000 homes were destroyed.

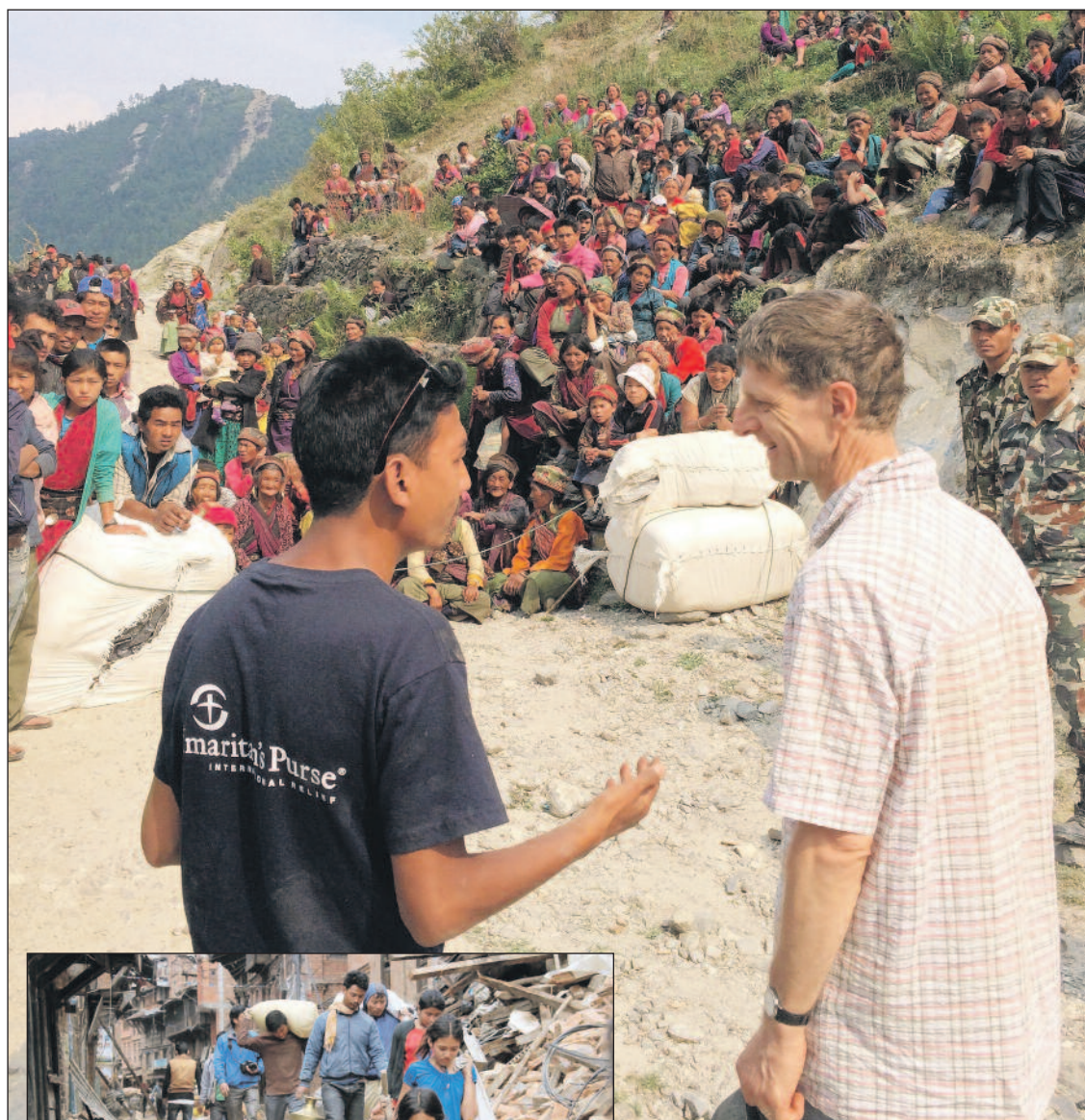
When he was in Nepal, Eldred said: "We were distributing tarpaulin to provide shelter from the imminent monsoon rains, as well as blankets, as nights at this altitude are shiveringly cold. We also gave out kitchen kits to replace the utensils, crockery and cutlery which all too often had been buried under rubble.

"In addition we were running a program to distribute Plumpy'Doz food supplement for children. People had food stored up for the monsoon rains, but much of this was lost when houses collapsed.

"It was a privilege to connect with the people of Nepal in their moment of tragedy, and to express some of the great love which Christ bears towards them," he said.

Eldred, who grew up in a Christian home in Canterbury, was strongly influenced by the love of Christ at the age of 20. He gained a degree in theology and also developed his love for languages - in particular, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German.

Eldred and his London-born wife, Kathi, have a daughter, Nadia Rose. Eldred's travels in crisis situations have presented big challenges to him and the family. He recalls his five months' work in Africa in 2013, serving with Samar-



Pictured, left, is the earthquake devastation in Nepal in 2015 (picture by Christian Aid) and, above, the distribution of emergency supplies by Samaritan's Purse personnel in Gatlang aided by Eldred Willey (on right). Picture by Samaritan's Purse.

itan's Purse, when he saw first-hand "the impact of the Gospel among the Congolese people" where so many have experienced extreme violence and massive population displacement.

Eldred speaks of "the transforming power of the Gospel among Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims - as well as at home here in the UK."

For this reason, he has been working more closely with the Billy Graham Association in the past year, helping to promote a

national initiative to equip local churches to proclaim the Gospel through the 'My Hope' video film project. This enables Christians to share the gospel through the messages of Billy and his son, Franklin Graham.

Eldred also helps to present free seminars on 'Sharing Hope in Crisis' - the next one in Norfolk will be at Thrigby Mill on Saturday, December 2.

In his days of worldwide ministry, Billy Graham - who, despite

years of ill health, will be 99 in November - spoke to more than 215 million people in 183 countries, and countless millions more via TV and film.

In 1984, Billy Graham made a powerful impact on the city of Norwich when he preached to 63,000 people at Carrow Road. There were 3,700 recorded decisions for Christ at that meeting, and many local people continue to date their 'Christian journey' from that event 33 years ago.



Dr Giles Waller.

Lecture marks Reformation's 500th birthday

Exactly 500 years after German monk Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg in Germany to kick start the religious Reformation, a noted Cambridge University academic will be speaking about the reformer as part of the South Creak Lecture series in Norfolk.

Dr Giles Waller will give a lecture on Martin Luther and the Theology of the Cross on Tuesday October 31 at 7pm. October 31 is the exact 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation when Luther is said to have nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg. Giles, from the University of Cambridge's School of Divinity, is tipped as one of the stars of the rising generation of young theologians.

He will look afresh at the intellectual and spiritual currents behind Luther's so-called 'theology of the cross'. How did this astonishing theology of God on the cross 'hidden in suffering' relate to Luther's break with the church of Rome and how might we rediscover Luther's spiritual insights for our own time?

A second lecture, The Fight for Beauty, will be delivered at 7pm on Friday September 22 by Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and former Director-General of the National Trust. Drawing on her book, The Fight for Beauty, Dame Fiona will explore the theme that we live in a world where the drive for economic growth is crowding out everything that cannot be given a monetary value.

"The South Creak Lectures have been a tremendous success," said Fr Clive Wylie, the Vicar of South Creak. "Since the first lecture in September 2015, we have attracted large audiences to hear nationally famous speakers. This year's programme should again attract anyone with an open and curious mind. We invite people just to turn up at our beautiful church, entry is free and you don't need a ticket."

For more information about the lectures and directions to St Mary's Church, Church Lane, South Creak, near Fakenham, NR21 9LX or visit www.southcreake.org

GOOD NEWS

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■ The deadline for material for the Winter edition is Friday November 17. Distribution is from Thursday December 7.

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Harvest - a time for some real thanksgiving

■ At harvest-time we often spend time being thankful. Attending a Harvest Festival is an opportunity to be grateful for all we have and the many blessings we enjoy. A time to celebrate all the good things we have and consider how we can share these with others.

Yet, each day is an opportunity to be thankful and grateful. In each new day there are blessings to be found, although as we look to the world around us, choosing to feel blessed and thankful may not be our first thought.

Instead we might feel sadness, disbelief, despair, anger, loss, injustice or even rage. We may feel completely overwhelmed and wonder whether there is anything good to be thankful for.

Yet, what if we were to pull away from those negative feelings and determine to find the brighter moments? I do not believe we should ignore all that is happening, although by choosing thankfulness over hopelessness maybe we could make a difference in our

Ruth Starkings is the Family Worker at Meadow Way Chapel in Hellesdon.



another... in saying thank you... in a beautiful sunrise... in friendship... in putting someone first... in doing to others what you would have them do to you.

By looking for blessings and choosing to be thankful, our day becomes brighter. If we are bold enough each day to keep on looking, life becomes brighter still. This brightness may then shine onto the paths of others, bringing hope and newness.

This time of year we often see the harvesters who are reaping, gathering and storing what has been grown. They are working to make a difference to the lives of people around them. In turning our thoughts outwards, to those around us, our actions may become more meaningful and valuable.

As we celebrate Harvest and consider all the good gifts we have, maybe we can also take those thoughts into the following days and determine to make thankfulness and blessing part of each new day.

worlds, in the places where we tread.

We do not have to go far to find blessings or to see something for which we can be thankful. Blessings can be found in a smile... in a kind word... in a thoughtful deed... in a moment shared... in saying hello... in encouraging one

More than just words

Hannah Dunnett's watercolour pictures, some inspired by visits to the Norfolk Broads, can be found in cards, calendars and now books, reports Sandie Shirley.

A reflective book, *More Than Words*, telling the stories behind her artwork, includes a windmill inspired by childhood holidays on the Broads.

Her illustrations are also featured in a Bible due to be published by Hodder Faith on October 2, explains Hannah, whose brother-in-law, David Dunnett, is organist at Norwich Cathedral.

The former GP gave up her job six years ago to devote more time to her growing young family and now follows in the footsteps of her late grandfather, a Suffolk artist.

The Bible verses that have helped mark and shape her journey with God - including a medical career, working with a church in Brazil and raising a family - are the hallmark of each picture. They include 'key' themes - faith, hope, love and comfort - for a variety of occasions, explains Hannah.

Together with musician husband, Ben, Hannah helps to run an online business selling products using her pictures in various ways.

Despite success, Hannah sees herself as "just a mum who paints."

She works on the kitchen table - alongside Ben and another staff member - after clearing the breakfast dishes and doing the school run.

As Hannah ended her medical career, the artistic talent that had flourished as a child re-emerged and so did a new creative path to share her Christian faith.

"My artwork is just a little vehicle to take the Bible to others which is humbling and a privilege. The 'God of all Comfort' picture has been



Artist Hannah Dunnett.

helpful to people during times of loss and bereavement. I spent a long time on the picture thinking really hard about which verses would encourage someone in that situation; it took me three attempts to paint it."

Now increasing numbers of Christian bookshops, cathedrals and conference centres stock her designs which are also available from the company website.

This summer, Lion Hudson published 'More than Words' which details the friends, images, experiences and loved ones that have inspired many of her pictures.

"I painted a sailing boat on an ocean because my dad loves sailing which he did during his childhood Norfolk holidays. It is also a power-

ful analogy to faith, trust and prayer during the rough and calm seas of life."

Hannah reflects: "Medicine taught me a lot but it was never my real passion. It felt like a pair of shoes that didn't fit properly but through it I learnt so much about myself, people and God. It changed my character and my faith and gave me the confidence to make a new start.

"Trusting God for your life ahead is a constant challenge, handing him the many issues of life over which we don't have control. I don't know what the future holds but I try to make the most of every day, taking the twists and turns ahead with an open mind."

www.benandhannahdunnett.com

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MPs welcome Jo's prayer card dream

A Norwich Christian couple's Parliamentary prayer card initiative has received an overwhelmingly positive response from MPs and Lords after the cards were delivered to over 1,400 parliamentarians following June's General Election. **Keith Morris** reports.

Jo Grey, a developmental studies graduate from UEA, died in January 2015, aged 37, from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, 15 months after undergoing a kidney transplant from her mother Janice at Addenbrooke's Hospital near Cambridge.

Jo was a huge cross-stitch enthusiast and over five years she spent literally hundreds of hours carefully stitching 731 prayer cards – aiming to produce one for each MP and Lord. For her they were a work of art and of prayer. She was even stitching in hospital hours before she died.

It was Jo's dying wish that they were all completed and delivered and husband Colin, an ICT tutor in Norwich, set about making it happen with the help of over 100 people from right across the country.

In June, Colin fulfilled Jo's dream and personally delivered the cards to Parliament and handed them over to his own MP Clive Lewis of Norwich South and Christian MP Nicky Morgan, who represents Loughborough where Jo's mum Janice lives.

Within weeks of the cards being delivered, Colin was inundated with positive responses from MPs and Lords, with over 320 responding personally.

Colin said: "Most are personal letters. Several say things like I will treasure this card, or what a wonderful lady Jo must have been. Many express condolences for Jo's death. Others have said this is a timely message, or they will endeavour to live by the message. Many say this was a welcome change from their usual mail. It is clear from these comments that several people have been touched by them."

The positive messages have come from across the political spectrum

Baroness Sally Greengross wrote: "I was touched and grateful for the beautiful blessing card you sent



Pictured top is Colin Grey with some of the prayer cards and, left, Colin with Hilda Gordon delivering a card to Norwich South MP Clive Lewis at Portcullis House in London.

me. Your letter was also very moving and I shall treasure it."

MP Nigel Evans wrote: "I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to both you and your late wife Jo, for the exquisite blessing card I received last week. It is an exquisite piece that has taken pride of place in my Westminster Office next to a photograph of Her

Majesty the Queen. It is inspiring to receive such a gift from Jo, who gave so much time and left such an impression on so many people. I sincerely hope that Jo's wise words guide me through my time in Westminster, as a MP for the Ribble Valley."

Norwich North MP, Chloe Smith, wrote: "I have seen other

MPs here in Parliament with their cards warmly displayed. Well done."

The Rt Hon the Lord Bassam of Brighton wrote: "Many thanks for sending me your wife's card together with a letter. I feel very privileged to receive a copy with such a very personal message. Jo must have been very special."

In Brief

First UK Catholic TV studio opens in Walsingham

■ International Catholic TV network EWTN has opened its first studio and office in the UK in Walsingham in North Norfolk.

The facility is located in a converted home in the village of Walsingham, home of one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Europe, the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The formal dedication took place on August 29 in a ceremony attended by EWTN Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Michael Warsaw; Shrine Rector Mgr John Armitage, Rector of the Shrine and Bishop of East Anglia, Rt Rev Alan Hopes.

"This is a particularly important step for the continued development of EWTN in the UK," said Michael Warsaw. "This new facility will allow us to greatly expand our capacity to produce programming for our European channels as well as to more easily incorporate content from the UK into our other channels around the world."

"I'm very happy that EWTN now has a presence in this extraordinary place and can share what happens here with our audience around the globe," he said.

The three-story building named "Annunciation House" contains EWTN's studio and a street-level reception and welcome centre that introduces the Network to visitors. The facility allows Shrine pilgrims to enjoy clips from EWTN's most popular television shows, original films, documentaries and more.

In addition to producing programmes with leading Catholics from across the UK, Warsaw said EWTN hopes to form a strategic collaboration with the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham that will help the Shrine carry out its mission to evangelize.

Bishop Alan Hopes said the facility: "will certainly be a centre for evangelization."

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St John's opens doors to 75 sister cathedrals

■ A unique exhibition linking St John's Cathedral in Norwich to the 75 other Catholic cathedrals across the world also dedicated to St John the Baptist will be staged during September.

Every year, St John's Cathedral in Norwich involves itself in the Heritage Open Days celebrations in early September. Each year tours, displays and exhibitions are put on that reflect the Cathedral's Catholic heritage and faith.

It was decided this year to expand the event's horizons and to find out how many Catholic cathedrals world-wide are also dedicated to St John the Baptist, and to see how many of these could be featured in a small exhibition.

The 76 cathedrals are located in 32 different countries on five continents. A request for information from the other cathedrals was met by a phenomenal response with information from all of them received direct or researched online.

St John's Cathedral Culture and Heritage Officer, Julia Stafford, said: "What started as a possibly small display has taken on a life of its own and grown out of all proportion to original ideas and what was thought may be probable or even possible.

"The result of the wonderful response is that this fascinating exhibition,

will now feature stunning imagery and information on all 76 cathedrals. It will also not only be over the Heritage Open Days, from September 7 to 10 but will be extended to the end of September for anyone who is not able to see the display during the heritage days.

"The exhibition itself visually reflects the incredible diversity of the Catholic faith in both its architecture and its peoples, ranging from the historic cathedrals dating back to the 11th and 12th century in Central and Eastern Europe, through the 17th and 18th century cathedrals of Central and South America, the 19th and early 20th century cathedrals of North America and Northern Europe right up to very modern cathedrals in some of the newly formed African countries and almost everything in-between. A true cornucopia of architecture, cultures and people from all around the world and all centred on our own Cathedral of St John the Baptist."

All are welcome to this unique exhibition at St John's Cathedral and it is hoped visitors will leave with a very different perspective on the Catholic faith and Church.

You can find the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, at Unthank Rd, Norwich, NR2 2PA.

www.sjbcathedral.org.uk



Pictured left, the Norwich historic churches Flintspiration festival back in the spring and, below, Neil Blunt from NHCT.

New home set for Norwich historic churches group

Norwich Historic Churches Trust (NHCT) has a new home which will also be an emerging centre for illustrating the history and heritage of **Norwich's** world class collection of medieval churches. **Keith Morris** reports.



The centre will be at St Martin-at-Palace-Plain, adjacent to Tombland in Norwich city centre, which is already under the care of NHCT and has been empty for four years, since the Norfolk Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders moved out.

The move follows the very successful three-day Flintspiration festival held earlier this year which aimed to tell the stories behind many of Norwich's historic parish churches.

Neil Blunt, Vice Chair of NHCT, said: "We wanted to create a permanent home for the 'Story of Norwich's Parish Churches' exhibition, created especially for the event and housed in St Peter Mancroft for the festival itself; a distribution outlet for the considerable stock of booklets and trails which Flintspiration had commissioned; a

location for talks, children's activities and other events related to the medieval parish church; meeting space; and not least, an outlet for the energies of the many enthusiastic volunteers who had come forward to help and were eager to carry on doing so.

"Although we are in the very early stages of this, working with almost no additional resources, much progress has already been achieved. A volunteer rota has been established which will open the church to visitors from 10-4 every Tuesday and Thursday, and for organised activities on other days. The Flintspiration exhibition is on permanent display in the South aisle."

Neil, who was also project director of Flintspiration, said: "The full set of

church, churchyard and city wall trails which were devised for Flintspiration are available free to visitors from the newly-installed reception area. Volunteer guides are able to conduct short tours of the building and highlight its history and salient features; and volunteers from the Friends group have set to work tidying up the grounds and exposing the overgrown cobble borders around the path to the South porch.

"The Heavenly Gardens churchyard project has based itself here, and Dr Nicholas Groves is planning a series of day schools and an autumn conference as the first steps in the establishment of a Centre for the Study of the Parish Church," said Neil.

As for the future? Neil said: "Although many of our churches, both living and repurposed, do a fabulous job meeting and greeting visitors and helping them understand the wealth of history in their respective dwellings, the potential for a visitor centre giving a wider context and guiding people's understanding and appreciation of their collective importance has been talked of for a long time. The Flintspiration project was a determined attempt to raise profile and interest among local people and visitors alike, and we hope that St Martins can carry this forward as it grows."

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Norfolk author asks: Do you believe in miracles?

Inspired by a miracle in her son's life, **Norfolk** author **Jane Finch** set out to gather together stories of others who have experienced miracles and has now published them in a new book.

Jane, who lives in Buxton near Coltishall and attends North Walsham Congregational Church, wrote the book *Do You Believe in Miracles?* after her son Ryan's experience.

Ryan, who attends Servants Church in Norwich, woke up one morning in 2012 to find a lump the size of a goose egg on the side of his neck. He was immediately referred to the hospital and underwent a series of urgent tests and biopsies.

"We were told that the usual possible causes such as glandular fever had been ruled out and as the lump appeared to be growing rapidly we should prepare for the worst diagnosis," said Jane.

"Christian friends set up a prayer chain that stretched from the UK to Canada to the USA to Spain, and I received many emails from people around the world saying they were praying for Ryan's healing.

"Miraculously, and with the doctors and specialists mystified, one day the lump just disappeared. Ryan told the hospital consultant that God had healed him. The consultant could offer no other explanation, and Ryan was discharged.

"The miracle of Ryan's healing affected a lot of people. Many of those who had been praying for him thousands of miles away then emailed to say how blessed they had been by his healing and how it had



Pictured above is author Jane and her son Ryan Finch and, right, her new book.

encouraged them in their faith and in their own walk with God," said Jane.

"It has been four years since Ryan was healed, and I have had a recurrent thought since then. If one miracle can encourage so many in their faith, then perhaps there are other stories of life-changing miracles that need to be told."

So, over the last few months Jane has gathered testimonies of people who have experienced miracles in their life. Some are life-changing, others are testimony of God's provision. In *Do You Believe in Miracles?* ordinary people have opened up their hearts to share their stories.

"The purpose of the book is to encourage believers and to stir the hearts and minds of unbe-

lievers," said Jane.

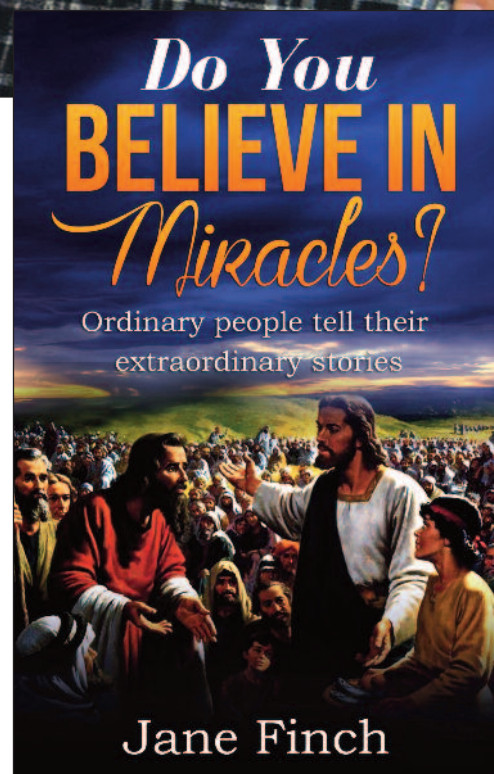
A few weeks after the book was published Jane was herself diagnosed with breast cancer.

"The testimonies in the book have been a great personal encouragement to me and a reminder that God is in control," said Jane.

Any proceeds from the sale of the book are going to the charity Home of Peace Orphanage in Kenya, whose story is featured.

The book is available on Amazon at £5.95 or £2.99 as an e-book.

<http://believeinmiracles.webs.com>



Norwich plays tells story of Oscar Romero

■ Rise Theatre returns to St John's Cathedral Norwich for a performance of *Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador* – which tells the true story of the human right champion.

The production is based on the life of Blessed Oscar Romero and his heart for the oppressed people of El Salvador. Romero chose to challenge those in power and stand up for social justice. He demanded respect for human rights.

Romero – *Heartbeat of El Salvador* will be performed on Saturday September 30, with doors opening at 7pm (show starts at 7.30pm). The performance is 75 minutes long and the recommended age is 11+.

Organisers say: "Romero chose to challenge those in power and stand up for social justice. He demanded respect for human rights. We continue to draw from his example – particularly when considering and responding to injustice and oppression taking place in our world today."

Rise Theatre is a professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering exciting, original and transformative theatre and recently performed *White Rabbit* at St John's.

The play is accompanied by an original sound track from James Joshua Otto and an inspiring graffiti set designed by Gage Graphics.

The production is in association with The Archbishop Romero Trust.

Tickets at £12 per adult and £10 concessions are available at the cathedral shop and online.

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Sue has a second chance at life

Mulbarton grandmother, Sue Oxbury, loves to spend time with her family and enjoys the simple pleasures of life. But the active, young-at-heart pensioner believes that the everyday joys she once took for granted could have easily been snatched away when her life was hanging by a thread. Sandie Shirley reports.

■ Today Sue is full of gratitude, believing that miraculous intervention has given her a second taste of life after the main artery in her neck was blocked, requiring a high-risk operation in a bid to save her life.

"I was taken from the brink of death to life during eight hours of dangerous surgery when I could have died within eight seconds if my artery was severed," recalls Sue. "But the skill of the surgeon along with the hand of God, truly saved me that day and restored me to wholeness to see my daughter marry and to love and see my precious grandchildren grow, all of which are priceless to me."

"Now each day is a new blessing that has made me so much more aware of the gift of life and the joy to be had through simple things like walking, the beauty of creation and the warmth of the sun."

Sue does not dwell on what happened, although there is a risk with the main artery on the other side of her neck. Instead she lives life to the full, sharing her creative skills with others and investing in her health. "God has invested in me and I have a duty to look after myself so I have lost weight and keep active with swimming and walking."

In 2011, Sue was in constant pain for months and was plagued with visual disturbances that even resulted in the temporary loss of her eyesight one afternoon that, she explains, could have resulted in a stroke.

Despite various visits to see her doctor and hospital consultant there was no diagnosis or cure until a hospital scan. "I was told that I needed to go for walks, take regular aspirin and prepare for a major operation since there was a blockage in one of the main arteries in my neck from my heart to my brain, a rare condition for my age."

From the onset of those dark times of persistent difficulties and terrible headaches, Sue was determined to maintain a normal life with her family while working, praying and attending church.

The Swardston church member found courage and hope through her faith that had grown during various life challenges. "There



Sue Oxbury is an avid gardener.

were moments of fear and loneliness but I was not paralysed with fear because I knew Jesus was with me and that allowed me to carry on."

Eventually Sue underwent complex surgery but the night before her hospital admission she feared for her life when her fingers, mouth and nose went numb. "But when I was wheeled down to the operating theatre for the anaesthetic I felt calm as I drifted off to sleep, knowing God's hand was holding me tight. ("For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13.)

"After the surgery trauma, I was placed on the high dependency ward, since there was a risk of a stroke but that evening I was seen as the healthiest patient there and moved to another ward."

Says Sue: "My faith is important – Christ is my rock and I knew I was bonded in him and he in me. God is not just about history and what has happened in the Bible – he lives among us now walking beside us through the good and bad times offering us hope and strength for whatever life brings."

Sue is an avid gardener, growing flowers and vegetables from seed. And as a keen crafter and needle woman her labour of love three years ago was her daughter's satin and lace beaded wedding dress. She also makes hand-crafted gifts to sell at church events while passing on techniques to others to enhance their skills which proves therapeutic for depression sufferers too.

She takes an active part in church services and enjoys making church banners and is ready to begin a new design with the Bible verse: "Be still and know that I am God!"

A Way of BI

An artist and sculptor from **Banham** in South Norfolk is undertaking an epic mission to build a path of blessing for walkers and riders across the widest part of the British Isles from **Lowestoft** in Suffolk to **St David's** in Wales. **Sandie Shirley** reports.

Steve Eggleton is pioneering a unique pilgrimage with regular stops of rest and spiritual refreshment along a 400-mile route using Christian artwork to tell the nation about God's love.

Via Beata – A Way of Blessing – began as a valiant faith venture with wife Gill but now there is growing widespread support as it continues to blaze a trail of hope.

The initial concept was plotted on Ordnance Survey maps using rural footpaths and quiet roads before Steve learnt that the line cut straight through his property, which later became the site for the first 'way station', or resting place, in 2009. Since then another 14 have been added and others are under construction.

"As the project has developed we are constantly surprised by the way this blessing has touched individuals, churches, groups and events. It has been far beyond our wildest dreams," says Steve.

While marking and changing lives, Via Beata has also brought new spiritual injection to many rural churches and centres as they become part of a collaborative venture that includes dedication services and annual celebration weekends.

Interest and involvement has come from every facet of society including a Dereham youth camp, ex-offenders and a man who carved one of the plaques to pay tribute to his now late father who was a keen walker in the area.

Creative ideas and connections have dovetailed as the vision for a 'way station' approximately every ten miles of the route gathers pace to build a 'belt of truth' and blessing across the nation.

"We could never have done this on our own – it has been a chapter of miracles," reflects Steve who is supported by a 44-strong prayer team and a weekly group of apprentice woodcarvers that include a local Anglican minister!

The woodcarvers, taught by Steve in the barn alongside his home, help design, carve, oil, paint and erect some of the artwork installations including a giant oak cross and brightly painted plaques depicting some of Jesus' parables.

Past workshops have been attended by women from Norwich's 'Step' project, who receive support after abuse, and who painted and carved the birds in the mustard seed parable depicted at Roundham near Thetford.

Ex-offenders and struggling addicts have developed new job skills to help them back into society during numerous workshops involving 'Days of Creation' and the lettering and carving depicting Jesus' rest for weary souls (Matthew 11:28-29).

Some of the men also cycled the entire Via Beata route from St David's Head in West

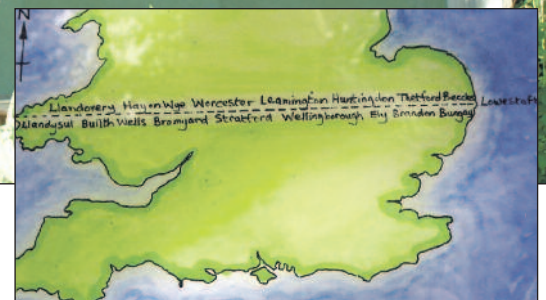
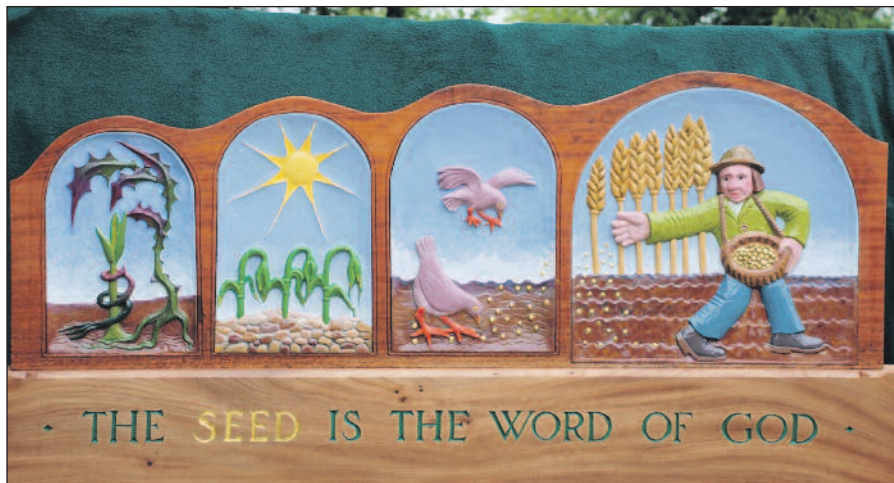


Wales wearing jumpers bearing the words: 'A Way of Blessing'. During the nine-day trip to Lowestoft Ness they found blessing and hospitality from those they met along the way.

Artwork has also been created by members of a Christian youth camp and made, in part, by visitors at a Christian music festival; others have been commissioned.

Says Steve: "Producing the artwork brings great joy and it is a wonderful way to share the gospel and we pray that it will increase touch people. We want everybody to know that God loves them and sent his only Son, Jesus, to die for them. Whoever they are and whatever they might have done they can be forgiven and welcomed into God's eternal family."

Blessing crosses Britain



Pictured clockwise from far left, the 15ft olive tree cross, the carving at Sedge Fen in Suffolk, the way station at Banham and at Ringsfield Hall near Beccles and, centre, Steve and Gill Eggleton.



This vision was sparked in 2000 when Steve, a former art school teacher, was impacted by a large exhibition showing artwork of Christ that spanned the centuries, at the National Gallery in London and spearheaded by its Christian director.

"It attracted millions and it made me think that I would love to do something big and special for God," reflects Steve.

A few years later he was asked to design and build a town memorial with a Christian message for a cemetery opposite a small industrial estate. "The result was an oak pavilion with relief carving on the interior walls that spoke about Christian hope in Jesus. There was a grand opening with a Salvation Army band and many thanked me for the memorial

pavilion where industrial estate workers eat their sandwiches."

The carving included a biblical scene of Thomas the 'doubting disciple' who placed his hands in the nail marks of the risen Christ and people who see the sculpture place their hands on the nail marks in the carving explains Steve.

As more commissions followed, his vision heightened until work began on the first 'way station' at 'Rowancroft', Kenninghall Road. It received an unexpected publicity boost when an Eastern Daily Press reporter visited Steve's home while the 'Prodigal Son' installation was being built by his son.

The reporter interviewed Steve about the book he had written and was due for publication but she was also curious about the 'way

station' which soon led to a further story about the Via Beata. When the report included the dates Steve and Gill planned to prayer walk along the route in East Anglia, looking for suitable way station locations, they were joined by others.

The story of blessing and support has continued with 'way stations' at a guest house in Great Moulton, one at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre in Ditchingham and another at Ringsfield Hall near Beccles. The trail continues east and west and includes further artworks in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Warwickshire. A massive 15ft high cross carved with an olive branch and scripture, was erected this summer, marking the mid-way point and the 25th anniversary of a Christian

centre in the Midlands.

Further afield in Wales the retreat centre at Ffald-y-Brenin allowed us to use their high cross as part of the trail explains Steve. At the Christian conference centre and international movement, it's reported that the deaf hear, the blind see, the lost are found and the broken receive healing.

Says Steve: "Christians will be able to travel this trail and pray for the nation. The 'way-stations' are sited on church land, public land and private land bordering a footpath or public rights of way. We are always looking for suitable sites within a few miles of the Via Beata line where further ones might be placed."

www.viabeata.co.uk

www.rowancroft.net/faith.asp

Events

Sheringham churches to join in 1940s weekend

■ Many of Sheringham churches will be putting on special events for the town's annual 1940s weekend on September 16 and 17.

Many of the resort's shops and businesses will reflect a wartime theme, and the town will be packed with visitors and locals wearing 1940s outfits.

Lighthouse Community Church on Cromer Road will be holding a Naafi Café on Saturday September 16 from 10.30am to 5.30pm. The café will be serving 1940s-style food, served up by the Lighthouse Land Girls. There will be live music and, hopefully, a great atmosphere. Lighthouse will also be having a 1940s style service on Sunday morning from 10.15am.

St Andrew's Methodist Church on Cromer Road will be holding a 1940s style Harvest Festival service at 10.30am on Sunday September 17. The theme will be Dig for Victory and the congregation are invited to wear 1940s dress. Professional singer Rachel Eyre will be taking part. After the service, the celebrations will continue on the front lawn, with spam sandwiches, bully beef sandwiches and root vegetable soup.

St Peter's Church on Church Street will once again hold its vintage wedding celebration on the Saturday, but this time, with a real wedding, as Sarah and Thomas are marrying in 40s style, and they want as many people as possible to join them. There will be an opportunity for everyone who wishes to renew their vows to do so.

All those attending are invited to wear 1940s dress, and there will be certificates for those renewing and tea and cake after the wedding service. For further information, please contact Jenny Comper on 07780 926876 or at macjack007@hotmail.com.

Sheringham Salvation Army, on Cremer Street, is holding a Brass Band Concert "The Wartime Spirit" with Norfolk Wherry Brass on Saturday September 16 at 7pm, with guest vocalist Major Barrie Sampson. Admission is £6 on the door. The following evening at 6pm, there will be a special Songs of Praise, 1940s style, led by Majors Barry and Maria Sampson.



Dave and Mandy Scott-Morgan.

ELO's Dave is still writing love songs

Dave Scott-Morgan, the singer-songwriter and one-time musician with the world famous **Electric Light Orchestra (ELO)**, now writes love songs about God rather than girls. **Mike Wiltshire** reports.

Dave felt the service was planned just for him - "I knew the message was for me."

Dave had lost his Christian dad at the age of 13 through illness. This added to Dave's deep sense of disappointment because he had "blamed God for taking his dad away".

Later, after years in the heady world of pop music, Dave's faith was awakened after hearing about the unconditional love of God at the worship service in Birmingham.

"Strangely, I felt right at home in that worship service," he recalls. "There was something so different about these people. I even wondered, 'What are they on?' Yet I was struck by the authentic joyfulness and reality of their faith."

After hearing the pastor's words on the way out of disappointment, Dave later prayed: "God, if you're really there, then come and sort me out, 'cos I can't."

The change in Dave's life was dramatic in more ways than one - he even met Mandy at the meeting, the lady who would later become his wife.

Mandy, a Christian, had felt that one day she would marry a minister, not a rock-musician.

As Mandy prayed about it, she felt very strongly through a message in a Christian book that Dave was the man for her.

The couple were married in 1996 and so great was the change in Dave's life that he felt God was calling him to Christian ministry and church leadership.

Today, Dave and Mandy share the story of their faith-journey in a musical presentation called Rhythm and Joy at venues across the world in the UK, Europe and North America.

Dave's story is told in his autobiography, *Patterns in the Chaos*. He said: "Nowadays I write love songs about God . . . where before I tended to write songs about girls."

Dave and Mandy also have a pastoral ministry - and Dave is a qualified pilot and flying instructor.

He was speaking at a recent dinner meeting of the Norwich FGB at Mile Cross.

www.davescottmorgan.com

As we walked through the bluebell woods, I thought he'd like this

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Search for mystery home of Norwich wartime heroine

Mystery surrounds the exact location of the **Norwich** home of **Elsie Tilney**, an unlikely World War Two heroine who rescued Jews from the Nazis. **Mike Wiltshire** reports.

All we know is that Elsie lived somewhere on Bluebell Road, Norwich, says Prof, Philippe Sands, QC, a London barrister and leading human rights lawyer, who describes Elsie's extraordinary story in his international best-seller, "East West Street," on the origins of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Prof Sands' outstanding book is now in 15 languages and he was recently awarded an honorary degree by the University of Anglia. Famous author John Le Carre, describes Prof Sands book as 'a monumental achievement.'

Prof Sands mother, Ruth, as a year-old baby, was rescued by Elsie Tilney, a Christian missionary, 78 years ago, when many Jewish families were being sent to concentration camps.

In 1939, as many Jews were being cruelly rounded up by the Nazis, Norwich-born Elsie risked life and limb in German-occupied Vienna to collect baby Ruth from her Jewish mother, Rita, at an Austrian railway station and take the child to relative safety in Paris, where the baby's father, Leon, was then located.

There, Elsie handed the baby over to Leon, quickly writing her name and Norwich address in pencil on a scrap of paper, two inches square. It said simply: 'Miss E.M. Tilney, 'Menuka', Blue Bell Road, Norwich, Angleterre.'

For more than 60 years, the baby's father, Leon, treasured that slip of paper. After Leon died, the yellowing paper fell out of an old suitcase as Prof Sands was researching his family history. For two years, the scrap of paper hung above his desk as he sometimes wondered about the person who wrote it.

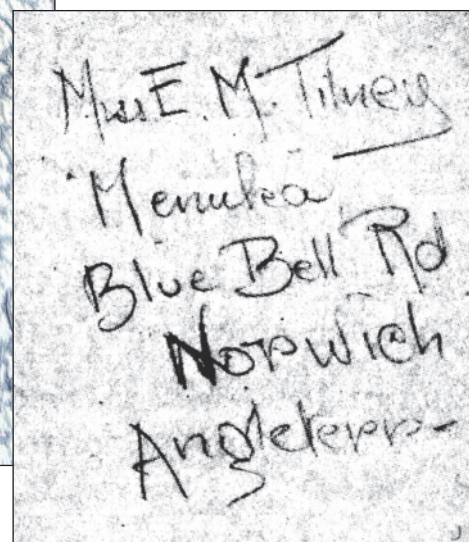
No-one has so far been able to find the house, 'Menuka', on Bluebell Road, where Elsie lived before the war.

Two years ago, Elsie was formally honoured as 'Righteous Among the Nations' by the official Holocaust remembrance authority at Yad Vashem in Israel – as one of those who risked their lives to save Jews during the darkest days of the war. Elsie was only the 21st British recipient of the honour.

Born in Norwich in 1893, Elsie Maude Tilney became a member of Surrey Chapel in 1903 as a ten-year-



Pictured above, Philippe Sands, QC, with his mother, who was rescued as a baby by Elsie Tilney, top right, Elsie Tilney in 1920 and, right, the slip of paper that Elsie gave to Leon after handing over baby Ruth in Paris in 1939.



old. In 1919, as 'a pretty young lady with a sweet mellow voice' Elsie was a Sunday School teacher at the Chapel where she spoke of her great interest in Africa.

Eventually Elsie became a missionary in North Africa, where she spoke of the love shown to her by Jewish families.

Elsie worked in Algeria and Tunisia for more than a decade, but stayed in close contact with the Chapel's pastor, David Panton, who wrote wartime articles denouncing Hitler's 'irrational and insane anti-semitic fury' after The Times in 1933 reported a speech by the Fuhrer with the headline: 'By Fighting Against The Jews I

Am Doing The Lord's Work.'

Towards the end of the war, as Elsie continued to help Jewish families leave mainland Europe, the Germans sent her to an internment camp at Vittel, in northern France, along with hundreds of other foreign nationals.

Elsie's selfless bravery grew out of her love for Jewish people – for example, for 16 months she hid a young Jewish soldier, Sasha Krawec, in a camp bathroom, thus saving him from being deported to Auschwitz with 400 other prisoners.

Elsie's courage was immense, as she was selected to work in the German Commandant's main office, sorting records. People who knew Elsie describes her as 'a quiet, gracious lady, a remarkable, compassionate woman,' deeply motivated by

her love for Jewish people and her Biblical understanding of God's purposes in human history, based upon such verses as Romans 1:16 and Romans 10:1.

One internee said Elsie was "one of the bravest people I've ever met."

Prof Sands was greatly helped in his research on Elsie by the archivist at Surrey Chapel, Dr Rosamunde Codling.

After the war, Elsie returned to missionary work in South Africa in the 1950s.

As far as we know, Elsie never spoke about her wartime bravery. Upon retirement, she went to Miami, Florida, to live near her brother Fred. She died in 1974 and her ashes were scattered over Biscayne Bay on the Atlantic Coast.

Can you help?

■ Philippe Sands is professor of law at University College, London. His book, *East West Street*, won the Baillie Gifford Prize for non-fiction in 2016. The book is part detective story, part family history, part legal thriller.

Any reader who can shed any new light on the location of Elsie's former home on Bluebell Road, Norwich, is invited to contact keith.morris@networknorwich.co.uk

YMCA needs volunteers across Norfolk

YMCA Norfolk is looking for a range of volunteers for its work with vulnerable or homeless young people in projects in Norwich, North Norfolk and East Norfolk including youth work, gardening, befriending and retail. Current opportunities include:

■ **Youth Club Volunteers** – Acle, Hopton and Catton Grove – adult youth club volunteers needed to assist Youth Club Leaders running weekly youth clubs.

■ **Accommodation Reception Volunteers** – required to man reception desks for a few hours each week. Full training is given.

■ **Volunteer Befriender** – at evening mealtimes at the Central YMCA in Norwich between 3.45 – 5.30pm. Flexible volunteers are needed with previous experience of supporting and empowering people, and who have good engagement skills to be a befriender on a regular basis.

■ **Positive Activity Engagement Volunteer** – to get involved with positive activities at YMCA Norfolk accommodation facilities. These can vary from jobs clubs, creative activities, sports, woodwork or any other skill you can share with young people. Availability for a couple of hours each week is sought.

■ **Garden Volunteer** – garden enthusiasts who could spare a few hours to assist and develop the garden at one of the YMCA accommodation facilities. Also to help young people be able to grow produce.

■ **YMCA Shop Volunteers (Holt)** – volunteers who may be able to spare a few hours each week to work in the YMCA charity shop in Holt. Skills such as organising the items for sale, operating a till and greeting customers are required.

■ **Engagement Volunteer, Umbrella Housing** – needed to develop client engagement and group activities in the Umbrella housing team.

■ **Move On Befriender** – volunteers who can work with young people as they transition from supported to accommodation to their own accommodation. This may involve helping individuals overcome barriers to moving on in a supportive way.

For more information on any of these roles or to apply to be a YMCA volunteer please contact: volunteer@ymcanorfolk.org

Businessman who gave away millions

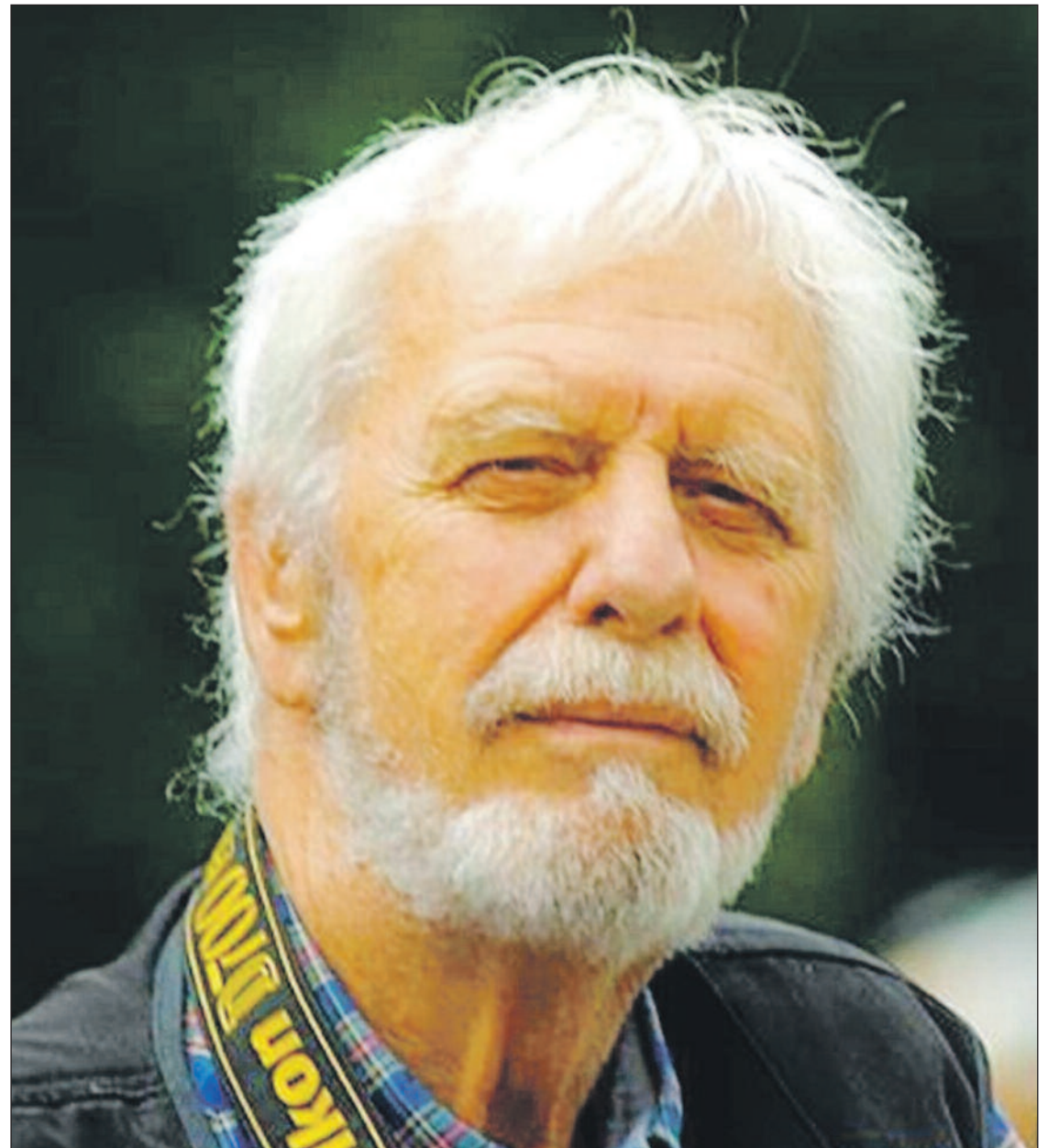
Bruce Wick, a former 'hell-raising' businessman who surprisingly gave away millions after he came to personal faith in Jesus Christ, told a Norwich audience of the day he 'felt God was asking him to give away a fortune' to people in need. **Mike Wiltshire** reports.

Born in the US, in Washington State, Bruce had amassed a fortune as he developed his business in 63 nations – "money was my god and king," admits Bruce who manufactured logging equipment and sawmills for use across south-east Asia.

Bruce and his wife, Caroline, had three sons. The family lived in the Philippines in a luxurious villa with 17 bedrooms and had more than a dozen household staff. Then Caroline, a former atheist and communist, had a dramatic conversion to Christ – and one week later led her husband Bruce to faith as well.

At the time, they were living in Davoa City, one of the largest cities in the Philippines. In the mid-1980s, it had a grim reputation as "murder capital" of the nation with dozens of killings each week.

Today, however, Davoa City has been transformed into a thriving commercial centre. The city has long had Christian influences, too, including a group of Christian business men, part of a global net-



work of ordinary laymen in the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship (FGB). "I was mentored and discipled by these men," says Bruce. "Their faith was so real and down to earth. They also inspired me to share the good news of the Gospel with others. I've been an active, lifetime member of FGB ever since."

Bruce, then in his mid-40s, was shocked when he felt God leading him to give away millions. After "an argument with the Lord," he didn't know how to tell his wife about giving away a fortune, but to his amazement he discovered that Caroline, too, had felt exactly the same way. Today, Bruce

advises with a smile: "I don't recommend this extreme action to everyone – you need to clearly hear from God!"

Bruce adds: "We saw revival in Philippines with many miracles."

One of his sons, Alwood, is a businessman involved in Christian work there today, helping underprivileged families.

Bruce's conversion would have surprised those who taught him as a child – he was expelled from a Catholic school as a teenager after getting work on a burlesque show where he was paid three times more than his teachers were earning. After a violent row with his teachers, Bruce announced to the principal nun, Mother St Germain: "I'll never set foot in this place again!"

He left, but years later, at the age of 52, felt led to re-visit his old school, expecting to hear that Mother St Germain had long passed away. The staff said: "No,

Pictured above, businessman Bruce Wick who was speaking in Norwich recently.

she's still alive – we'll call her."

Bruce was amazed to see the very frail and elderly nun, appear at the door. "You're Bruce Wick!" she declared with a smile. "And I've prayed for you every day since you left us. I'm so sorry we treated you so roughly!"

Bruce and his family lived in south-east Asia for 23 years, before moving to Europe where Bruce was director of FGB in Spain and later became a leader of the fellowship in the Newmarket area. He now lives in Hastings, East Sussex, where a new FGB chapter has just been established.

Bruce Wick was speaking at an FGB dinner in Norwich, one of a regular series of events at the Mercure Hotel.

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Katherine Gray, below and, left performing with the South Norfolk-based High Oak Music Group.

Inspiration behind Norfolk music group

The inspiring lady behind a South Norfolk music group, which has just celebrated its 25th anniversary, has spoken of her 30-year battle with ME. **Sandie Shirley** reports.

Katherine Gray's life changed forever when she was virtually bedridden with ME nearly 30 years ago and it ended her short-lived career as a South Norfolk primary school teacher at the age of 30.

Despite despair, terrible fatigue and pain, she went on to develop a music career – inspiring both young and old despite having no formal qualifications. In 1992, she founded the High Oak Music Group - now based in Deopham near Wymondham - which celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer with a garden party and concert involving current and former members including three founder ones.

The group brings together a melodious and rhythmic mix of singers and instrumentalists of mixed experience including those who play guitar, recorders, flute, clarinet, trumpet and Hand Chimes. "It's like one big family that currently ranges in age from seven to 70 plus," said Katherine.

She has prepared musical arrangements and planned rehearsals for more than 200 events including festivals, fetes, holiday clubs, church services and charity gatherings at Christmas. The group, totalling more than 130 members over the years, has also played at the Bishop of Norwich's charity garden parties and busked in Wymondham.

While continuing to grapple with ME, Katherine's Christian faith has given her strength, ability and determination not to quit. She has also mounted fund-raising initiatives when necessary and together with donations and grants, there has never been any charge to join the music group.

"I have learnt to trust that if it is meant to happen it will and, from experience, I have seen that I am given unexpected inspiration to write and arrange things that I don't think I can do and it ends up sounding great," says Katherine.

That certain hope and ability also comes in the face of struggle and difficulty during her early school years. "I did not play an instrument, knew nothing about composers and failed all my aural exams despite my interest in music," recalls Katherine.

But she proved to be a late developer, teaching herself the guitar and passing her A/O level music with the help of a supportive school music teacher.

While training as a primary school education teacher, with a special interest in remedial teaching, she began flute and singing lessons and became part of a female quartet as well as leading church worship and performing at events.

Despite no formal training, she also joined an orchestra and played in shows and later learnt the early stages of violin, developed as a recorder teacher and joined the local Society of Recorder Players.

"Because I have struggled, it has helped me become a better teacher. I was not a high-flyer at school so I developed building blocks to help me learn and now I can teach those to others," she said.

Some group members have since played in

local and national orchestras, forged music careers (one with the Household Cavalry) and even studied at the Royal College of Music. She adds: "I see myself as an enabler rather than a musician and more often than not those I teach end up better than me!"

"While she was a teacher, Katherine was struck down with ME: "I realised it was a long-term problem that still haunts me to a degree," she said. "I spent a lot of time in bed and could barely walk. I was unable to return to my job and I missed the teaching, the school orchestra, the children and the opportunity to help them develop."

Several years later, while still battling the effects of ME, she advertised in a local community magazine for musicians and singers for a forthcoming Mother's Day church service. Fourteen volunteers of mixed age and ability met for five rehearsals in her front room in Wickelwood heralding the formation of the music group.

"We often play in church but I have never seen it as a church group since some members have nothing to do with church. It has been important to make church a positive experience and no-one has not come because they don't want to play in church."

"I know many people of many faiths and none but, to my mind, it is an experience of God that counts and that cannot always be put into words. I became a Christian at 14 following a Cliff Richard youth event at Norwich Cathedral. There were no flashing lights but I knew from that point that God was in charge of my life although things don't always work out how you think. When my life stopped, I became a new me and now I can see that all things work together for good with God," says Katherine.



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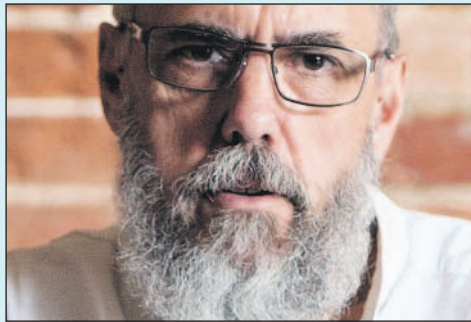
Can ethical business succeed?

■ A debate on 'Can doing business ethically really pay' is set to be held at OPEN in Norwich, thanks to a partnership between Norwich Quakers, Norwich Anglican Cathedral and the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) on October 3.

Cadburys and Rowntrees chocolate, together with Lloyds and Norwich-based Gurney's Bank were all businesses that very successfully balanced their Quaker values with the need to make a profit. They were known for being fair, honest and caring for their workforce.

Event organiser, Robert Ashton (pictured right), said: "Today commercial pressure is too often cited as justification for unethical business behaviour. Yet increasingly, consumers are choosing to do business with those they believe to be ethical. The debate will address what exactly is ethical business and how can we influence it?"

Norwich Quakers, in partnership with Norwich Anglican Cathedral and the RSA are staging the debate on business ethics at OPEN Norwich on Tuesday October 3 at 6pm. This free to attend event, chaired by the Dean of Norwich, the Very Rev Jane Hedges has speakers from Quakers in Britain, East of England Co-operative Society and local investment



specialists Investing Ethically.

Also speaking will be Loughlin Hickey, co-founder of London based charity Blueprint for Better Business who will spell out some of the simple steps we can all take to create a more ethical local economy.

"As a social entrepreneur and Quaker I am increasingly seeing businesses differentiate themselves by their social impact," said Robert. "Attending this event will help you see how you can play your part, as a business leader or consumer, in creating a fairer local economy."

For further information and to register your free place contact: robert@robertashton.co.uk



Former Norwich vicar Andy Kelso in his tribute act to Elvis Presley.

Ex-Norwich vicar's own tribute to Elvis

While Elvis Presley fans worldwide have been remembering the 40th anniversary of the death the King of Rock n' Roll in mid-August, East Anglia has its own share of Elvis 'tribute artists'. **Mike Wiltshire reports.**

As Andy's faith grew, he decided to train for ministry in the Anglican Church and served in a number of parishes. He also became Chaplain to Worcester Warriors Rugby Club.

Andy, a father of five, admits he was "terrified" when he felt led to take his first Elvis tribute to a packed out concert in 2011. He was surprised by the positive response – "it's been amazing and very humbling."

He finds the Gospel songs "really touch hearts". He recalls that Elvis was the best-selling solo artist in the history of recorded music, with sales of 600 million albums, but his three Grammy Awards were all for Gospel music.

Despite the many struggles that Elvis faced, his deep rooted faith in Christ was very evident towards the end of his life. Rick Stanley, the step-brother of Elvis, and the late Rex Humbard, an evangelist and friend of Elvis, tell how the singer spoke backstage in 1976 "about spiritual things and prayed in a quiet room

where he recommitted his life to Jesus Christ."

The last song that Elvis ever sang in public was his own passionate version of his favourite hymn, 'How Great Thou Art'.

Rick was with Elvis just hours before his death on August 16, 1977. Rick says Elvis prayed, "Dear Lord, please show me a way. I'm tired and confused, and I need your help." A few minutes later, Elvis looked at him and said, "Rick, we should all begin to live for Christ."

Just one day before, Rick heard Elvis praying, "God, forgive me for my sins. Let people have compassion and understanding of the things I have done."

Thousands of fans who recently visited Elvis's gravesite, joined together in singing the ever-popular 'How Great Thou Art' – the words were written by a young Swedish preacher, Carl Boberg in 1885, and the melody adapted by Stuart Hine, an English missionary, in the 1920s.



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