

# GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK

Autumn 2020: FREE

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## 20,000 meals given to hungry Norfolk families

Over 20,000 meals were provided to hungry families over the school summer holidays thanks to the churches and schools of the Diocese of Norwich.

■ Over 120 families received food and resource packages through the Filling the Gap project which was born in April out of a vision from the Rt Rev Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich. He set the education team a challenge to offer a "rainbow of hope" to local families during the summer break.

Paul Dunning, Director of Education explains: "Working with our network of schools, who know their communities well, we have identified where families are going to struggle through the school holidays and would value being provided with food to help them whilst children are at home. Much of this is taking place in rural communities where no-one else is filling this gap. Local churches and Foodbanks have worked with staff from my team to organise a weekly food parcel delivered to their front door. A big thank you to all who've contributed to this valuable project."

Liaising with 110 Church of England schools and academies, Filling the Gap empowers the local church to deliver hampers to the need identified through the schools. Working with partners, food has been sourced for 128 families. The Norfolk Showground provided one of their buildings to act as a central warehouse to sort and process the packages. As well as the county's foodbanks, the Soul Foundation and the Norfolk Community Foundation assisted with the provision of food.

Alongside weekly deliveries of hampers, it was decided that an important part of the gap to fill was the social and physical provision for these families. So, each family also received weekly craft and sporting resources throughout the summer.

A recipient family said: "We have just received our food hamper and would like to express our gratitude to everyone that has been involved. You have been so generous and we are cannot thank you all enough. This is a really huge help to our family and so thankful for your generosity. As soon as we are in a position ourselves we will certainly be donating back to the community. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!"

"It has been a remarkable journey and we are grateful to all our partners from sponsors, volunteers, food providers and encouragers," said Filling the Gap project co-ordinator Jon Moule. "We truly hope that the food hampers and activity packs will be a blessing to these families over the summer holidays. Through this project we can express our mission values. In real and practical ways, we are sharing our bread with one another, loving our neighbour and acting as stewards of God's creation and provision."

## Churches into action as lockdown struck

Covid-19 and lockdown did not stop most Norfolk churches serving their communities, a survey by Christian news website Network Norfolk has revealed – they just did it in new and innovative ways. **Keith Morris** reports.

**A**mong the 90 churches which responded to the website survey, almost two-thirds (62%) said that they had been undertaking social action projects while their buildings and normal projects were forced to close their doors for almost three months earlier this year.

Stories of what many churches and Christian organisations did to help out their communities can be found on the [faithhopelovenorfolk.co.uk](http://faithhopelovenorfolk.co.uk) website, which was launched by the team at Network Norfolk specifically to tell those stories and help inspire and connect different groups.

Supporting existing Foodbanks or setting up new food parcel projects, often in association with council or community hub networks, was the most common activity.

Stalham Baptist Church was involved with the local foodbank and volunteer sys-



tem, Bowthorpe Worship Centre delivered over 80 food parcels a week and the Adat Yeshua Messianic Synagogue in Norwich set up a daily food parcel service.

Meanwhile Gateway Vineyard's Pantry project, based in Trowse, fed hundreds of people three times a week and, when coming out of lockdown, All Saints Church, Mundesley, set up a community larder and fridge to make sure food did not go to waste.

The Wymondham Community Food Project, based at Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury church in Wymondham, has been helping to support and feed 80 vulnerable families a week during lockdown – with extra help from staff seconded from South Norfolk Council and generous dona-

tions from local supermarkets.

Soul Church Foundation set up a food distribution hub in Norwich which delivered 130,000 meals each month during lockdown and afterwards.

Reaching out to help neighbours who were vulnerable or shielding at home by collecting prescriptions, shopping trips, chats on the phone or via Zoom and lifts to urgent appointments were also widely provided by different church members. Cornerstone Church in Norwich and The Open Door Christian Fellowship were good examples.

Oulton Broad Team Ministry were part of a the council coordinated community response, said Rector Helen Jary. "This involved shopping, collecting prescriptions and phone befriending. We kept the church porch open 24/7 for foodbank donations and we delivered flowers to the neighbourhood with 'we're here to help' cards."

Gardening, shopping and food distribution, meals on wheels, medication deliveries, exercise opportunities, phone calls and socially distanced door step chats and coffee were some of the activities undertaken by The Christian Fellowship, Norwich, said pastor Duane Elkins.

Oak Grove Community Church in

■ Story continues on page two

**faithhopelovenorfolk special report – see centre pages**



## GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK

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## Church action

### ■ Story continues from front page

Norwich set up a telephone befriending project and distributed food and family activities, continued its parenting programme and gave money advice.

Helping to house homeless people was also done by several churches, including St Margaret's in Old Catton. St Catherine's church, Mile Cross, did the same through Hope Into Action.

Working with people affected by substance and alcohol misuse was another social action activity. An Addiction Recovery Group has been meeting, first by Zoom, and since June, in open air, said Hope Church Thetford lead elder Nigel Worth.

Lots of other innovative ways of helping out vulnerable members of their local communities were engaged in by churches.

Phone calls to elderly and lonely people and leaving bouquets and cards on the doorsteps of those suffering was done by members at Liberty Church, Frettenham, said Barrie Lawrence.

Taverham Evangelical Church (TEC) produced 200 wash bags out of pillow-cases to three local care homes for staff to use while washing re-usable PPE.

Over 1400 invitation cards offering support, a chat or a prayer were circulated by Cliff Park Community Church, Gorleston, said leadership team member Tony Mallion.

# Essential medicine for the pandemic

■ There are many responses to a pandemic. We think of the medical response, the quality of nursing care and the longed-for vaccine.

Then come the measures necessary to contain and control the virus: social distancing, hand washing and face coverings. And with the economic challenges we have become used to the concepts of furlough, rental holidays and Eat Out to Help out.

But living through a pandemic is also a spiritual challenge. Journeying through uncertain and challenging times asks deep questions about who we are as individuals and how we will be as friends and neighbours. The word that seems to me to be so important, as we go through these uncharted waters, is 'kindness'.

Talking about kindness can appear rather 'soft', even glib, rather ephemeral as a response to a global crisis. Yet the truth is that receiving kindness is vital to our well-being and offering kindness is essential to the health of relationships. The kinder we can be, the better we will cope walking into an unknown future.

By Rev  
Canon  
Andrew  
Bryant,  
Canon for  
Mission &  
Pastoral  
Care at  
Norwich  
Cathedral.



Many churches have been trying to show kindness with shopping for those shielding, delivering parcels of food, cooking meals and gifting them to key workers. But how far have we allowed that kindness to infect the whole of our lives?

It is remarkable how quickly judgement smothers kindness. It is there in our reaction to

people who don't wear masks when we think they should or who don't keep social distance or hand wash. It is there in our attitude to those we think are too preachy about face coverings, social distancing and hand sanitising. It is there in the way churches talk about one another, whether that be those who have been too quick or too slow to re-open. It is there in our reaction to the way that shop, office, pub, café is / is not operating. And as ever we think it is open season to criticise politicians and others in leadership or offering guidance.

In our own anxiety about these present times we can lose sight of kindness. The truth is that none of us has lived through times like this before; all of us in some way are struggling. Each of us has our own complicated backstory that colours how we are reacting. In uncertain times we need to be slower to judge and quicker to understand. As we seek to give meaning to Jesus' great commandment that we should love one another, is not kindness one of its most important fruits?

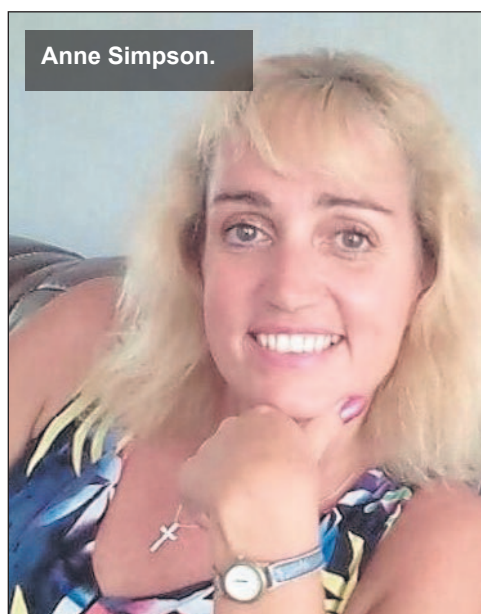
# Norfolk pastor creates family refuge in Malawi

Anne Simpson, a Pentecostal pastor living in Thrigby on the Norfolk Broads, had a vision two years ago for creating a refuge for women and children in Malawi. She is now seeing it turn into a reality. Eldred Willey reports.

**A**nne, who is currently based at East Gate Ministries in east Norfolk, has been visiting Africa for the past 10 years. During those years she has seen first-hand the poverty and struggles that the people in Africa face on a daily basis.

One of the greatest needs that Anne began to see was in Malawi, where there was a need for a safe place for women and their children who had been abused or abandoned. Many women have experienced domestic violence in a country where it is still common in the rural villages for men to have more than one wife.

At the end of 2018, Anne felt it right to buy land in Chitipa, in the dusty north of Malawi, with a vision to build a women's refuge. Kingdom City Refuge would be a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable in African society. It would be a place to train



Anne Simpson.

women escaping from domestic violence, or those who have been abandoned by their husbands and family.

With the help of generous donations, a building is slowly rising. Anne also found a house to rent that would begin housing the women on a temporary basis until the refuge is completed.

At the moment, 10 young ladies are being accommodated and there are plans to house many more as finances allow. The need in Malawi is so great and the land is big enough for great expansion. There is also a vision for a Bible school and mission house as well as a wedding dress business.

Anne says: "The vision is not only to give the women a safe place to stay but also to train them with life skills for starting small businesses to sustain them in the future."

Anne began appealing for sewing machines so the ladies could begin learning tailoring and have a small business of making or altering clothes. In June 2019, a container was sent to Malawi with sewing machines and other essential items for the refuge. The people in Chitipa were delighted with the sewing machines and the women have begun learning to sew. The ability to earn a living significantly reduces the risk of women being abused in the future. Anyone who would like to donate a sewing machine can get in touch with the project.

Donations towards the refuge can be made payable to "Overseas Missions" and sent to Mill Cottages, Mill Road, Thrigby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR29 3DY

Anne can be contacted by email at [worldarise700@gmail.com](mailto:worldarise700@gmail.com)

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Live streaming Mass at St John's Catholic Cathedral in Norwich.

# Churches in Norfolk plan digital future

Norfolk churches went digital in a very big way as the Covid-19 lockdown struck and most of them plan to continue that way into the future. **Keith Morris** reports.

**A**mong the almost 90 churches which responded to a [networknorfolk.co.uk](http://networknorfolk.co.uk) survey, an impressive 92% said that they had been doing church digitally in some way at least during the 15-week pandemic lockdown.

The responses from right across all denominational and other church groupings revealed that Zoom and other live-streaming video meetings were the most popular digital format – used by 71% of churches.

Some 54% reported placing recorded services on YouTube or Facebook and 28% said they did live-streaming on platforms such as YouTube and Facebook Live.

Other ways of keeping in touch with church members and meeting their spiritual needs included telephone conference or individual calls used by 24% of churches with drive-through prayer and car park services starting to emerge when lockdown started to ease.

Only 8% of churches said that they did not do church digitally during the three-month lockdown period.

Bowthorpe Worship Centre, which could not meet because a foodbank was occupying its premises, said they have used Zoom,

recorded services on YouTube or Facebook and telephone calls.

One small Norfolk house church said: "We now meet as usual in our own homes but nobody else comes. We visit during the week, take a guitar, socially distance in gardens, and quietly worship together."

The pandemic has also changed what the church across Norfolk will look like well into the future with over three-quarters (76%) of churches planning to continue doing church digitally even when they do return to public services.

Almost 85% of the churches which have been doing church digitally say they will continue online in some form – for many a hybrid of a smaller service and live streaming as well.

Rev Matthew Price, from St Mary's Gorleston, said: "We are resuming our Sunday morning service but will also continue to broadcast on Zoom and on Facebook Live. We are really aware that for some people they do not feel ready to come out of their homes yet and we want to continue to provide access to church for them for the foreseeable future."

"Church is going to feel different for the next wee while but I am really excited about the opportunity to gather back together again at the heart of our community in our wonderful building."

■ Read how one Norfolk company is helping churches live-stream into the future – see page 12.



## Distributors for papers are needed

■ The Good News for Norwich & Norfolk team are looking for volunteer distributors for small numbers of newspapers in the following areas: Norwich city centre, Eaton, Cringleford, Thorpe St Andrew, Heartsease, Costessey, Wymondham, Gorleston and North Walsham.

The job entails delivering six to eight small bundles of papers to churches in each local area and should take no more than one or two hours just four times a year.

If you would like to help us to spread good news stories about the Christian community, please ring Alan Lusher on 07743 926884 or email [alan.lusher@live.co.uk](mailto:alan.lusher@live.co.uk)

## Support our paper

The Good News for Norwich & Norfolk newspaper works alongside the [www.networknorfolk.co.uk](http://www.networknorfolk.co.uk) website to help tell good news stories about the life and work of the Christian community across Norwich and Norfolk.

The paper and website are free to read and enjoy but we need to cover the sizeable production, printing and distribution costs for each issue.

**If you appreciate what we do, we invite you to make a one-off or regular contribution to help sustain our work into the future.**

You can donate at

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

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## Conference to challenge young leaders

■ A one-day intensive Young Leaders Conference, which aims to provide a foundation for Christ-centred leadership in the community, is set to be run by Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk in Norwich in October with a high quality line-up of speakers.

Celebrate Project Director, John Betts, said: "The conference is aimed at Christians in Norwich and Norfolk aged between 18-30, who have a passion to serve Jesus Christ in their chosen profession and are prepared to confront the ideas of our culture and confidently lead others in the light of the truth of God's Word. Our aim is to provide a foundation for Christ-centred leadership in the community that the delegates serve, both in and out of church.

"The day will be filled with quality teaching, practical equipping, worship and prayer, preparing young leaders to face the issues in today's society."

The speakers come from all over the country and include: Paul Huxley from from Christian Concern; Melvin Tinker, cultural theologian and Vicar of St John's, Newland in Hull; Dave Brennan, founder of Brephos, a ministry that helps churches respond to abortion; and Nick Franks, leader of multiple online resources for the church including the Into the Pray podcast, Firebrand Notes blog and My Heart Notes Instagram page..

"This is a chance for young Christian leaders in Norwich and Norfolk to come together around the unifying centrality of the word of God, bringing together Christians of all backgrounds to advance the Kingdom of God together. Delegates will come away challenged and empowered to lead by example, standing for the truth of Christ in an increasingly hostile culture," said John.

Tickets costs £50 each, including lunch and refreshments for the day on Saturday October 24, from 10am- 4pm, at New Hope Christian Centre, Martineau Lane, Lakenham, Norwich, NR1 2HX.

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

# Norfolk connections to Mayflower voyage

Exactly 400 years ago, a group of brave pilgrims sailed from England on a hazardous journey to North America on the Mayflower in search of a new life. The group included a dozen with Norfolk roots and the colonists' influence on the future United States of America was profound. **Keith Morris reports.**

**T**he Mayflower's passengers were in search of a new life – many seeking religious freedom, others a fresh start in a different land. They would go on to be known as the Pilgrims and their story became a central theme in the history and culture of the United States.

More than 30 million people can trace their ancestry to the 102 passengers and approximately 30 crew aboard the Mayflower when it landed in Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts, in the harsh winter of 1620.

The Mayflower, leaving on September 16, 1620, took 66 days to cross the Atlantic in severe winter storms. When the pilgrims made landfall in New England, they knew they had no right to settle in the land and decided to draw up a document that gave them some attempt at a legal standing.

The Mayflower Compact, signed by 41 men on board, was an agreement to co-operate for the general good of the colony and was the first written constitution in the New World and laid the foundations for the American Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

Among the group of pilgrims who left England to sail on the Mayflower, no fewer than a dozen were believed to have Norfolk roots. However, many of them died in the first harsh winter.

There was also a significant thirteenth Norfolk connection to the Mayflower Pilgrims.

John Robinson was the Pastor to the Pil-



Mayflower replica in Plymouth. Picture by wikimedia/GmaJoli.

grims but never joined the Mayflower. He led many of the Pilgrims first to the Dutch town of Leiden, then helped to plan the pioneering journey of the Mayflower. He was instrumental in a planning a second Pilgrim voyage but tragically died before being able to live out his dream.

John became a fellow at Cambridge University's Corpus Christi College in 1599 and moved to Norfolk where he took charge of St Andrew's Church in the centre of Norwich.

His radical views on religion meant he was suspended from this role and instead, he preached to a small Separatist congregation before going to Leiden.

## Norfolk pilgrims

■ The Fuller family – Edward Fuller was the son of a butcher from Redenhall in South Norfolk. He sailed with his wife and 12-year old son Samuel. Edward and his wife both died in the first winter of 1620/21.

The young Samuel survived the winter of 1620/21 and became a freeman in Plymouth in 1634. He married Jane Lothrop in 1635 and is recorded as having 9 children. He moved to Barnstable and died there in 1683.

Edward had a brother called Samuel, also born in Redenhall, who travelled with him.

Samuel became a deacon in the Leiden Separatists church and was part of the group who decided to relocate to America. He trained to be a doctor before sailing on the Mayflower. Samuel's wife Bridget sailed over in 1623 and they had two children born in Plymouth – Samuel and Mercy.

Samuel was among other senior members of the group who bought the joint-stock company in 1626.

In 1629 and 1630 Samuel was sent to assist the colonists of Salem and Charlestown as they were sick and also needed help in organising their local Church. In 1633

Samuel fell ill himself and died.

■ John Hooke, born in Great Yarmouth in 1607, moved with his family to Leiden. After his father died, John was apprenticed as a 12-year-old to Isaac Allerton as a tailor. John accompanied Isaac and his family on the Mayflower but died in the first winter, aged just 13.

■ Thomas Williams was also born in Great Yarmouth, in 1582 and had moved to join the Leiden congregation. All that is known of Thomas was from historian William Bradford, who noted that Thomas Williams had died soon after their arrival in the general sickness.

■ Thomas Tinker, his wife Jane and son, from Thurne in East Norfolk, were among the Pilgrims who had lived in Leiden for a while. Thomas was listed as a carpenter. The whole family died in the first sickness, according to Bradford.

■ Edmund Margesson, a free man aged 34, was believed to have been baptised in Swanington near Reepham in 1586. He did sign the Mayflower Compact but died soon after his arrival in Plymouth.

■ Francis Cooke, born in Norwich in 1583, had moved to Leiden where he married Hester Mahieu, a French Protestant, and they had six children. Francis and his eldest son John travelled on the Mayflower. His wife and the rest of the children came out in July 1623 to join them. He died in 1663.

■ Desire Minter was believed to have been born in or near Norwich and travelled with her family to Leiden. After her father died she became a maid servant to John Carver who then took her with him on the Mayflower. After John Carver's death in 1621, Desire was one of the people who returned to England.

■ Much of the pilgrim details comes from contemporary historian William Bradford and more can be found on the [www.mayflower400uk.org](http://www.mayflower400uk.org) website.

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special report

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

# Church leaders back social action effort

The amazing response of churches across Norfolk when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, and the “faithhopelovenorfolk” project which highlighted those efforts, has been backed by senior Christian leaders from across the county. **Keith Morris** reports.

**L**ady Dannatt, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, said: “Any initiative that spreads faith, hope and love across this glorious county of Norfolk of ours, is to be welcomed with open arms.

“It is my ongoing hope that we will emerge from this pandemic an even kinder, less judgemental and more inclusive society; communities respectful of others and even more appreciative of this fragile, but oh, so beautiful world we jointly inhabit.

“Above all, a thankful nation for all the gifts we receive and take so much for granted on a daily basis, when other nations lack even the basics to stay alive.”

The Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Graham Usher, said: “We are each learning to be the Church in new ways, but continuing to be a people of hope, a people of prayer, and a people of loving kindness and service. Yet there are many who are still in need, and our calling as Christians is to be particularly there for the vulnerable.

“I would love to see our different churches working together in this new landscape, finding ways to meet the needs which are appearing every day. We can be so much more effective when we are one church united and the faithhopelovenorfolk resource can help enable this to happen more effectively”

Chair of the Methodist Church East Anglia District, Rev Julian Pursehouse, said: “I am delighted to support this initiative as I think it is profoundly important that we remain connected to the most vulnerable members of our community particularly during this crisis and that we seek to respond to their needs in whatever relevant ways that we can.

“Clearly the present conditions place enormous pressures on our common ways of working but the churches of all denominations are finding creative and innovative ways in which to serve the community, to preserve our Christian identity and to sustain worship in alternative ways.”

The Catholic Bishop of East Anglia, the Rt Rev Alan Hopes, said: “The different Christian communities have always found a sense of common purpose in working



## Synagogue runs foodbank

■ The Adat Yeshua Messianic Synagogue and NR2 Community Skill Share in Norwich launched a foodbank to help feed people who are going hungry because of the Covid-19 crisis.

The foodbank targets residents of the NR2 area which surrounds the synagogue who are needy and vulnerable, many of whom are going hungry during the crisis. There is normally a team of four volunteers on site each day, two from the synagogue community and the two council volunteers.

Each day (apart from Saturday) the foodbank is open for one hour, noon til 1pm and it offers the full range of food items and other sundry household items. No charge is made for anything. The project gets deliver-

ies from the central food hub in Norwich, plus many donations from local people who just want to support this vital work. All relevant social distancing and hygiene requirements are in place and the foodbank is registered with the local council as a food outlet.

Rabbi Binyamin Sheldrake, who leads the Synagogue, said: “The foodbank is in an integral part of our mission and vision for the area the Lord has placed us in. Regardless of the virus crisis we would have set up this foodbank, but the timing of the opening has met the needs of the area perfectly.”

Contact: 01603 624267  
[www.adatyeshua.co.uk](http://www.adatyeshua.co.uk)

together for the good of all, and especially in moments of real need.

“The coronavirus is indeed just such a moment – a time which is frightening many and causing much grief and distress in our local community.

“I am sure that this new project to help us to tell our stories of how we are supporting and encouraging the most vulnerable and each other will both inspire and help us to work for and achieve these ends more effectively.”

## West Norfolk teacher is a global star

■ A Diocese of Norwich Primary Academy teacher’s maths and phonics lessons have been a hit on YouTube, reaching across the globe from her base in West Norfolk.

Jackie Patnell is a teacher at the tiny school of Sandringham and West Newton Church of England Primary Academy, which has under 100 pupils on its roll. But that hasn’t stopped her YouTube videos on maths and phonics from attracting 1,300 subscribers during lockdown.

“I knew my Reception class wouldn’t reach their full potential if I simply gave them worksheets for maths and phonics,” responded Jackie Patnell. “Four and five-year-olds would benefit more from seeing their usual teacher teaching in a similar way to what they were used to in the classroom.

“I had to adapt the lessons quite a bit in order to make them entertaining but still educational. This proved trickier in some more than others, especially during a lesson on time, when I had to time my chicken racing round my back garden (this took several takes - never work with chickens)!

“I received thank you messages from people on several different continents and this was when I felt really proud and extremely happy to be helping out so many people that were suffering from the same struggles all around the world.”

## Church launches free larder for its community

■ A community larder was set up in Mundesley by the local parish church for anyone to collect food that would otherwise go to waste..

The larder was set up by All Saints Church, Mundesley, and the first distribution session was held on Friday July 17. It now operates every Friday morning from 8.30am to 10.30am at the All Saints Community Rooms.

Anyone can add to the larder from their allotment/vegetable patch, and anyone can take away regardless of circumstances. Take away coffee and cake are also available.

The organisers say: “The larder has opened to receive food and give food so that we can all reduce food waste. Anyone can bring food, and anyone can take food away. Food that would normally be thrown away needs to be put to good use.”

Contact: 01263 722218  
[www.facebook.com/communitylarder](https://www.facebook.com/communitylarder)



## Crisis team aids vulnerable

■ The Crisis Care Team at St Thomas Norwich church supported people who had been impacted by Covid-19 who were self-isolating, unable to get out or are vulnerable, by picking up prescriptions, shopping, telephone support and prayer.

The STN Crisis Care team supports people in the local community through a practical help and chaplaincy model and this was extended to cover needs emerging with the Covid-19 crisis.

Julian Bryant from the team, said: "The Crisis Care Team works through over 30 volunteers many of whom have been DBS checked. We accept self-referrals and referrals from groups, churches and agencies. We have supported people who are in self-isolation by picking up prescriptions and keeping in touch through the telephone.

"We can also shop for people or liaise with other groups to ensure food is given. We will also encourage our team to volunteer with other groups and charities. We will match volunteers with requests to ensure there is a good match."

Contact: 01603 624390

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

## Community support

■ Cliff Park Community Church in Gorleston has been active in supporting the local community during lockdown, helping with food and meals distribution, as well as on-line services and an Alpha course.

Tony Mallion, from the church leadership, said: "We have twice sent out invitation cards to 2,000 homes in the area. We partner with other churches particularly working with the local emergency foodbank delivery service through lockdown and continuing to help with a weekly distribution of hot meals during the school holiday. We also support the Identity Youth Project which is currently actively reaching out to young people using social media."

"As a church based in a local school (Cliff Park Junior) we are unable to meet until September or later. But using Zoom we are able to have regular Sunday services."

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

## Dereham churches

■ Churches in Dereham have united to provide emergency help to families and individuals who have been cut off by the crisis. In its first two weeks alone the project helped 45 households by running 80 errands.

Trusted volunteers from Dereham's churches called people back to chat if they want to hear a friendly voice. Or volunteers will also do a simple errand, whether going to shops or pharmacy, for example.

The project is especially supporting people who are isolated at home and can't get out.

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

Some of the team behind the Wymondham Community Outreach Project emergency food service at their base at Wymondham Catholic church.



# Crisis food project fed families during lockdown

A community outreach project based at Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic church in Wymondham, has been helping to support and feed 80 vulnerable families a week during lockdown. **Keith Morris** reports.

**T**he Wymondham Community Outreach Project has been providing a much-needed community help point and foodbank service since late March with the help of parishioners, staff seconded from South Norfolk Council and generous donations from local supermarkets.

Prior to lockdown, the church-based project ran a Community Fridge and Community Kitchen service helping to feed vulnerable local people and save food waste at the same time, with support and guidance from Fr Pat Cleary and Fr Denis Gallagher. But many of its volunteers were older parishioners who have been self-isolating and unable to help during the crisis.

South Norfolk Council generously seconded members of staff from its nearby Wymondham Leisure Centre, who joined younger parishioners to launch the lockdown service which currently provides food parcels and a contact service for many desperate and needy families across the town.

The project is co-ordinated by parishioner Arnie McConnell, who was having to work from home: "Sometimes people fall through the safety net and sometimes the net is insufficient to adequately deal with the hardship experienced," he said.

"Either way, we will do everything possible to ensure that people, and often families,

in difficulty are helped in a full and effective way. All of our volunteers are committed to that way of working.

"Recently I was alerted by social services that a housebound person in the community with complex needs had run out of food. On that particular day our Help Point service was closed.

"I managed, however, to contact Deirdre Marr who immediately dropped everything she was doing, gathered together a parcel of food and made a contactless delivery to a very grateful individual."

Parishioner Deidre Marr, and her two teenage daughters Bryony and Catherine, from Attleborough were among those making vital deliveries of food.

"We don't just drop off the food though," said Deirdre. "One man did not have either a fridge or freezer working, so we were able to help him. For many people we are the only people they see all week. People really value having a chat, having been locked up and sometimes frightened throughout the lockdown.

"All our lives have changed through lockdown – many for the worse. However, most would agree that taking the opportunity to look out for others is hugely gratifying. Certainly, all those working tirelessly, either behind closed doors, like Arnie, who constantly fights the causes of many, or those who are dealing directly with the foodbank

users, are really making a difference."

Normally a receptionist at Wymondham Leisure Centre, Karen Brindle led the team organising the huge amount of work needed to provide a twice-weekly food delivery and collection service direct from the church.

"We were feeding 80 families a week," said Karen, "and anyone who is in need can come in and collect some food – which is free. There are lots of people who cannot leave their homes and families with young children who are really struggling. We personalise the boxes for people according to their needs."

Food donations come from Waitrose, Morrisons and Lidl and Co-op in Wymondham as well as lots of local people from the church and elsewhere bringing in boxes of food and essential items.

"Karen and her team have been fantastic," said Arnie. "They have been extraordinary when there was a lot of fear and uncertainty about, reassuring people – they have been inspirational."

"The project has been working in partnership with South Norfolk Council, Wymondham Town Council and Norfolk Police who have been able to identify people in crisis who we are able to give prompt support to."

If you might be able to help you contact the project on 01953 603104 or at [community@wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk](mailto:community@wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk)

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# Norwich church sets up free community pantry

A Norwich church's free community pantry scheme has fed hundreds of people from scores of families during lockdown and beyond as it expanded to meet rising demand.

**G**ateway Vineyard Church, in Norwich, set up a new emergency food and essential household items project called The Pantry to meet growing need arising out of the Covid-19 crisis.

The Pantry provides food parcels, free of charge, to those who have found themselves affected by the current situation and operates on a self-referral basis.

Pantry founder, Katie Lillystone, said: "Every single week we have different teams working inside our Trowse headquarters, packing, sorting, counting and planning. People in their homes answering emails, families collecting donations in their local communities, deliv-



ery drivers from stores and food hubs bringing us food to distribute as well as our own delivery drivers taking out our parcels and lots of other people pitching in alongside all

of these.

"Our food parcels are available to anyone on a self-referral basis. People who self-refer can send us an email directly, they will then be sent a link to fill in for the next available delivery or collection slot. In this form, people are able to choose which items they would like, including food, baby and household essentials.

"We aim to provide some fresh food as part of the parcel as well. We are a team of volunteers running the operation remotely and from our church offices in Trowse. We operate a click and collect service, as well as having an amazing team of delivery drivers who deliver parcels across the city and beyond.

"We love our city and we want to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the people of Norwich. Jesus fed people, we see it in the feeding of the 5000, and that's why we are doing this. We're doing what Jesus would do and showing the love of God in a practical way during this time."

Ring 01603 920045 or visit: [www.facebook.com/thepantrygtwy](http://www.facebook.com/thepantrygtwy)

## Church uses imagination to inspire

■ St Mary's Church in Kenninghall has been putting on some imaginative activities to inspire the local community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The church stands in the centre of Kenninghall village in the Breckland district with a population of just under 1,000 and is very much at the centre of its community's life too.

Rev Canon Lorraine Summers reports: "We've distributed 48 packs of playing cards to the elderly and couples in the village and ladies toiletry or chocolate gift bags were left on doorsteps of single parents and female residents and so far we've dropped over 50 packets of biscuits on residents doorsteps, with more still to be delivered!

They held a 'Great British Lockdown Bake Off' contest by putting up wartime recipes for the locals to try, who then uploaded their efforts to the church Facebook page. It was timed to coincide with the planned VE Day 75 celebrations.

Keeping the younger residents occupied has also been an ongoing aim. An Easter colouring competition proved very popular with lots of entries shared via Facebook.

"We've sent out over 200 craft bags to local children," said Canon Summers. "We theme the bags, so there was a general craft one, Easter one and an 'under the sea' theme. We also left left bubble wands on doorsteps for 100 children in the village. Families are very grateful, and the children love getting doorstep deliveries from church!"

Two batches of craft bags were given to Kenninghall primary and Spooner Row primary for key worker children who are still in school. The children loved them.

All of these activities have fostered a real sense of community through this difficult time, with many people posting grateful comments on St Mary's Facebook page.

In partnership with the Parish Council, the Church has given key workers in the village a financial gift and has financially supported a few families that were struggling.

## Food and firewood

■ Members of Worstead Baptist Church have been supporting their local community during the current pandemic, with the benefits reaching out across North Norfolk.

The church is based at the chapel in the tiny village of Meeting Hill, near North Walsham. Minister Rev Patrick Coghlan has been sending out a weekly letter of greeting and ministry material.

Patrick has also been phoning round people on the 'list' offering support and encouragement – and praying with those who would like it, whilst his wife June has been cooking and delivering meals.

One of the deacons, Andrew Squirrell, delivered boxes full of firewood during the colder part of the lock-down.

Contact: [patrick@acsmail.net](mailto:patrick@acsmail.net)

## Matthew Project goes extra mile with packs

■ The Matthew Project sent out activity packs during the school summer holidays to 200 children across Norfolk who are affected by someone else's substance misuse.

Each young person got four themed packs (one a week) delivered throughout August to their homes by the Unity Team. Each of the packs contained something new and fun to do in the summer holidays. The packs include baking ingredients, materials for growing your own food, art and craft activities and some gifts, including a letter to the children from the former Norwich City Captain, Russell Martin. There was also a surprise book for the children in final pack.

The Matthew Project is aware that with fun places closed and a global pandemic happening, this summer holiday could be very challenging for some children.

George Harmer, who leads the Positive Activities Programme at The Matthew Project, said: "We know that it is a tough situation right now. It is hard to see all the young people we work with. We have been able to do things as a charity virtually or over the phone, but we wanted to show each young person that we really do care about them and willing to go the extra mile... literally."

The Matthew Project wants to thank Children in Need and Norfolk Community Foundation for the funding to allow this summer activity.

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



George Harmer with one of the activity packs.



## City church delivers 800k lockdown meals

■ Soul Foundation, the outreach arm of Soul Church, Norwich, has delivered around 800,000 meals to people in need across the area during lockdown.

The church says it has seen unprecedented need across the city. With schools closed and many people unable to work, there's been a steep increase in people going hungry, whether through lack of money, access to food or the inability to travel to the shops.

During this time, Soul Foundation have been able to step up to meet the need for many, partnering with 30 schools across the area to identify those families who need practical support and to deliver food to them, as well as pro-actively seeking referrals for individuals in need.

"We have been blown away by the response from school staff, our own volunteers and local businesses alike," confirms Sam Mooney, who has been running the initiative. "We've been given eight vans, so we can collect three tonnes of food each day from FareShare in Ipswich before sorting it at our warehouse (also donated by a local business) and distributing it on to families and individuals. We want to say a huge 'thank you' to all our partners and sponsors!"

The team are hoping to increase their capacity over the coming months, and are also looking to offer a number of courses, with parenting, cooking, budgeting, CV writing and more in the pipeline.

"We believe Soul Foundation is an essential part of our church – it takes the message that Jesus cares outside the four walls of our building and gives us the chance to show his love to the people around us in ways they can really appreciate. It's love in action," explains Pastor Jon Norman, Senior Pastor of Soul Church.

If you'd like to find out more about Soul Foundation, make a donation or become a corporate partner or sponsor, visit: [www.soul-foundation.org.uk](http://www.soul-foundation.org.uk)

**Pictured below is the Soul Foundation warehouse.**



Hope Into Action volunteers equipping a home.



# Charity gives chance to help house homeless

Christian charity **Hope in Action** is planning to expand its work to house the homeless to two more towns in Norfolk and continue despite the Covid-19 pandemic. **Tony Gray**, Norwich Coordinator for the charity, tells the story so far.

**W**hile the Covid-19 lockdown significantly affected us and restricted how we work, we have continued to take in new tenants. It has been a wonderful opportunity for churches to show love to our tenants through food parcels, presents and help with internet access.

However, the impact of the virus to our society is likely to increase unemployment and homelessness, and the period of temporarily placing the homeless in hotels is coming to an end and there will be a far greater need for our services. We are earnestly seeking to work with more churches that feel called to help the homeless so we can expand our work.

In 2012, Hope into Action started work in Norfolk with one volunteer approaching churches asking them to commit their time to help house the homeless. Now, after nearly eight years, Hope into Action is

working with 11 Norfolk churches and housing 40 tenants in 11 houses, with two more in the pipeline.

Hope into Action provides the properties, professional support and expertise which can enable a church to engage with homelessness and help them to meet the vital, basic needs of vulnerable people living within their community. Our tenants are drawn from the homeless or would-be homeless with support needs. Our current tenants are ex-offenders, those recovering from addictions, those with poor mental health, and refugees. The churches we work with are of all shapes, sizes and denominations.

Church leader Rev Martin Hartley said: "Hope into Action has given St Catherine's an opportunity to put our faith into action. To see God's people using their gifts and skills to support our tenants is a real blessing." A tenant who had been rough sleeping for many years and had lost everything through addictions said: It was the first time in nine to 10 years that I'd actually had a key to the front door and somewhere I could call home. Where I had given up hope, I then had hope."

The Hope into Action model started in Peterborough in July 2010. The charity encourages an investor to buy a house to home the homeless, or if possible, an existing or new church property can be used. The charity then partners with a local

church, which forms a group of 6-8 people committed to providing friendship and support to the tenants within that house.

A support worker is employed by Hope into Action to provide professional support such as organising tenancies, benefits, risk assessments and liaising with other agencies, involving formal meetings with the tenants once a week.

Hope into Action provides introductory training and ongoing support for the 'Friendship and Support group' made up of the 6-8 members from the church. In return this group gives practical and emotional assistance and prayer support to the tenants. The help can include showing tenants how to cook, being on hand to garden, talk through issues or drive them to a meeting.

Hope into Action founder Ed Walker said: "Churches are full of gifted people with so much to offer." It is this church involvement in the lives of tenants that crucially sets Hope into Action apart from other housing associations or supported housing.

In Norfolk, Hope Into Action is working in Norwich, Wymondham and soon plans to expand the work to Great Yarmouth and Sheringham.

For churches and individuals wanting to engage with the homeless, you can email: [info@hopeintoaction.org.uk](mailto:info@hopeintoaction.org.uk) ring 01603 927271, [www.norwich.hopeintoaction.org.uk](http://www.norwich.hopeintoaction.org.uk)



Survey reveals 55% of Norfolk churches re-opened for public worship in July and August

# Churches cautiously re-open doors for public worship

Churches across Norfolk started to emerge from an historic 15-week lockdown and closure of churches over the summer – some cautiously and some much more confidently. But almost half will not re-open until September at the earliest. **Keith Morris** reports.

**A** Network Norfolk survey of churches across the county has revealed that 44% of churches re-opened during July with a further 11% in August and 18% not until September at the earliest.

A further 27% said (in August) that they had no idea when they will be able to or want to re-open their doors for public worship – one even mentioned next year.

Of the 44% of churches which re-opened straight away in July many are Anglican and Catholic churches – guided by their national leadership.

St John the Baptist Catholic Cathedral in Norwich was one of the first in the whole country to re-open its doors with a public Mass on Saturday July 4, followed closely by Norwich Anglican Cathedral which resumed services on Sunday July 5.

Dean of St John's, Canon David Paul, said: "We have now come back as God's family to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacraments. Let us all see this as an opportunity to renew our faith and grow in love for the Lord with one another. We have been prepared over the last few months for this new beginning."

Dean of Norwich Anglican Cathedral, the Very Rev Jane Hedges, said: "We were



delighted to be able to open Norwich Cathedral's doors once more for public worship and looked forward to welcoming people to our daily services."

Other churches which told us they re-opened their doors in July included Cornerstone house church, the Open Door Christian Fellowship in Norwich, St Stephens in Norwich, Salhouse Baptist, North Walsham Methodist and The Way in Hunstanton.

Richard George, pastor of Cornerstone house church said: "We've been open

throughout the lockdown. We have no building and have been meeting as before – but on Zoom."

Simon Gay, pastor of Salhouse Baptist, said: "Nothing is stopping us – we've opened the first Sunday, July 5, that we've been allowed."

The 11% of churches who were planning to re-open in August include Great Moulton Evangelical Church, St Andrew's Eaton and St Nicholas Salhouse and the Fountain of Life church at Ashill for a limited number – they add.

Some 18% of churches are planning a September re-opening of their doors. They include Bowthorpe Worship Centre, Kingdom Life in Norwich, Trinity URC in Norwich, Cliff Park Community Church in Gorleston and Heartsease Lane Methodist in Norwich.

The final 27% of replies said that they just don't know when they will be able to re-open with some saying October and one

even mentioning next year. They include Hope Church Thetford, Stalham Baptist, Gage Road Chapel in Norwich, Lighthouse in Sheringham and Taverham Evangelical Church.

When asked what was stopping them from re-opening straight away, 49% said taking appropriate precautions re sanitizing, cleaning etc; 41% said social distancing; 37% said the ban on singing; 34% said the ban on coffee, chat and socializing; 11% said that their premises were unavailable to them and 4% said that their staff were still furloughed.

Darren Woodward, from Oak Grove Community Church in Norwich, said: "We don't know when we will re-open but the no singing and no coffee and chat is stopping us."

Norwich Central Baptist Church do not know when they will re-open and quoted "most of the above" as to reasons why.

Several churches said the reason they could not re-open earlier was because the premises they use are not available to them. They include Cliff Park Community Church (Anglican/Baptist) in Gorleston and Gateway Vineyard in Norwich which both meet in schools and Taverham Evangelical Church which meets in a community centre.

Bowthorpe Worship Centre has a different issue – they been running a food parcel service so the church itself was still full of boxes and long life food.

Wellspring Family Church (Relational Mission) in Dereham are another church which does not know when it will re-open. Elder Jon Beardon said: "Along with many other local churches, we are looking ahead and trying to discern the new things that the Lord is doing now rather than simply trying to return in haste back to where we were.

"Perhaps smaller in-person gatherings in more places combined with larger online meetings might help us to overcome the difficulty of not having a spacious enough venue to meet in altogether under current guidance? This might lead to an season of unanticipated opportunities for the churches to expand their mission all over the county and beyond."



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# Couple build bridges from Norwich to Tokyo

A group in Tokyo is aiming to build bridges between Norwich and communities in Japan and English couple Liz and Mike Jeggo are at the centre of this unusual project.

**L**iz and Mike arrived back in Japan for the start of a second term with Christian missionary charity OMF International. They were based in a place called Chofu, in the western suburbs of Tokyo, and half of their time would be spent in reaching out to the local community. For the remaining time they would be working with Japanese people who return to the Tokyo area after living abroad.

Often such returnees struggle to integrate all that they have learned, culturally and spiritually, into life back in their native country. Instead they simply revert to an old and impoverished version of themselves.

From 2001 to 2007, while working for Friends International, Liz Jeggo saw a number of Japanese friends return to Japan and go through this process of loss. She sensed a calling to go to Japan to support and encourage these returnees.

Within a few weeks of arriving in Chofu, Liz received a message from Rebeca Sanchez, a lady she'd met at a Friends International conference a few months earlier. Rebeca had been leading a group for international students in Norwich, whose used to read the Bible together. Many of them



Liz and Mike Jeggo with their children.

were Japanese.

Rebeca's message said that a Japanese friend, Ayaka Handa, had returned to Japan, and was living within walking distance of Liz and Mike's new home. They found Ayaka and began to meet with her regularly.

Two years later Rebeca came out to Japan to visit her Japanese friends and brought a group of

them to Liz and Mike's house for a meal. As they shared memories of their time in Norwich, it was clear they missed meeting up and reading the Bible together.

Over the next two years, the group gradually grew as Rebeca, and others reaching out to Japanese in Norwich, sent other returnees in the direction of Liz and Mike.

The purpose of their now thriving group is to be a bridge between Norwich and Tokyo. Liz and Mike connect with the returnees' overseas experience by talking in English and eating western food and cakes. They also use bilingual Bible passages and encourage members to apply what they have learned to their lives in Japan.



Captain Marie Burr.

## New captain for Salvation Army in Great Yarmouth

■ The Salvation Army corps in Great Yarmouth now has a new captain at the helm, and is inviting the local community to pop in and say "hello".

Captain Marie Burr arrived in Great Yarmouth at the end of July, in the midst of all the work going on to serve the community during the pandemic, so she has needed to hit the road running.

Marie says: "I was born and bred in Whitstable in Kent, so I come from a seaside town and I am very happy to be back by the sea to work. Before coming to Great Yarmouth, I was appointed to the church in Leytonstone in London for twelve months and, before that, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, for five years. As you can imagine Great Yarmouth is very different for me.

"Despite the differences, I absolutely love it here; the people are so kind and generous. I love the location, and all of my church folk and the local community have been so helpful. I am starting to find my way around."

During the current restrictions, the Salvation Army in Great Yarmouth has been giving out about 120 food parcels, around 100 hot meals, and 60 family picnics each week. They are seeking more volunteers to deliver parcels to people that are still shielding, and assisting the local council hub with their deliveries as well.

The church has not returned to live Sunday worship but they have two services online each week - anyone can join on Great Yarmouth Salvation Army YouTube channel on a Wednesday and Sunday. It is hoped that the charity shop near the market place will re-open in September.

Marie said: "I hope to be in Great Yarmouth for a few years to come. If you would like to pop along and meet me, please do."

The Salvation Army centre is on Tolhouse Street, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2SQ. You can email them at: [great.yarmouth@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:great.yarmouth@salvationarmy.org.uk)

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**SIM**





# Time capsule marks exciting moment

A commemorative time capsule has been hidden in the new YMCA Norfolk Community Hub currently being re-developed on Aylsham Road in Norwich to mark an exciting moment in the Christian charity's history.

**T**he capsule was installed by YMCA Norfolk CEO Tim Sweeting in a small false wall at the new Community Hub on August 13.

It included a collection of YMCA memorabilia, stories, drawings, observations, poems and testimonies collected from YMCA clients and staff from their different locations across Norfolk.

Tim Sweeting said: "YMCA has been in Norfolk for over 165 years and has a long and varied history. We are excited to leave a time capsule that will commemorate this exciting moment in our history and act as an important piece of heritage. It will provide a snapshot of this unique time for future generations to explore."

"Through our ambitious Community Hub we are making a long-term commitment to the local community that will enable us to serve and support families and youth in the area for many years to come."

Also present at the installation were sisters and local residents Amelie and Cora Bailey, who are excited about the new hub and its facilities.



Tim Sweeting with Amelie and Cora Bailey and the time capsule at the new Community Hub.

Amelie, aged 9, said: "I am looking forward to going to the soft play and café as a treat after school if I have been good."

Cora, aged 5, said: "I am excited because it is right next to my school

and Nana can take me there when she picks me up from school."

The renovations to the building are being conducted by building contractors Cocksedge. Commercial Manager Darren Reeve said: "It's

great to see a time capsule being placed here at the new YMCA Hub as we reach a mid-point and now start to close up areas of the refurbished building."

"Keeping the project on track with new ways of working through the pandemic has certainly been a real team effort, and one which will see the local community, especially young people, benefit from the services that will be on offer at the Hub."

Once renovations are completed in early 2021, the Hub will feature community café Williams' Kitchen, an Explorers Soft Play Centre, and Muddy Puddles – an Ofsted registered nursery with an inclusive and compassionate approach to childcare. The nursery aims to encompass a reduced technology approach to childcare, encouraging outdoor play and exploration.

Members of the public who would like to offer financial support are invited to visit the public appeal page on Just Giving:

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/ymcanorfolkcommunityhub](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ymcanorfolkcommunityhub)

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# Live-streaming will remain a big part of churches' future

When the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown came into force, closing churches overnight, the Catholic Diocese of East Anglia had only two out of over 100 churches with the capacity to live-stream Masses – that was to quickly change. **Keith Morris** reports.

**A**t the start of lockdown, even the flagship St John's Catholic cathedral in Norwich had no means to broadcast its Masses to thousands of parishioners at a time of unprecedented spiritual need.

Director of Music, Daniel Justin, stepped into the breach and quickly set up a home-made web-cam system, right in front of the altar, to provide a picture and rather echoey sound. But it worked and online audiences, which reached over 3,500 for some key Easter services, demonstrated the strong demand for online Masses.

Within a few weeks, up to 20 Catholic churches across East Anglia had set up similar home-made solutions, broadcasting from churches (when internet connections permitted) and even presbytery hallways.

Pretty soon, Daniel realised that a more professional and permanent solution would be needed as, even when lockdown has eased, restrictions will remain and there will still be a need and a considerable audience for online Masses and other services.

Daniel turned to Darren Butler, owner of South Norfolk-based Audio Electronic Design which, over 30 years, has supplied audio and audio-visual systems to literally hundreds of churches across East Anglia, including St John's



Darren Butler from AED at St John's Cathedral in Norwich with the simple remote control for the video camera system.

and two other cathedrals.

As soon as churches were forced to close their doors in March and live streaming became the hot topic in church circles, Darren started thinking hard about what he could see was going to be an urgent need to provide a more professional, and permanent solution, for churches across the region.

When Daniel contacted him and he went back to look around St John's, Darren was already working on creating a cost-effective twin camera system that he says can be adapted to churches big and small. Once set-up, it can provide multiple camera views and angles, yet be controlled simply with a small remote control device and no other operators needed to replicate what much more expensive systems offer.

"The beauty of the PTZ system is

that it provides up to 16 different shots from just two fixed cameras," said Darren. "They can zoom, pan and tilt and are fully controllable from a small hand-held radio-controlled remote control, that the priest or a member of the congregation can easily operate. There is no need for camera or control desk operators as all the shots from the cameras are pre-programmed and transition automatically at the press of a button.

"I see this system being a simple long-term solution for those churches which want to stream services but want to do so with as little involvement as possible. It offers a sustainable solution which is both cost-effective and much more engaging for the viewer," said Darren.

"We use two high-definition

cameras in fixed positions, one close-up to the altar and the other one further back in the church to ideally give a wider view of as much of the church as possible. We can include a small TV monitor so that whoever is controlling the system can see what is being broadcast and also a small computer to control the system, with a joystick if required, unless a church already has one which we can adapt."

Darren says the system can be adapted to suit the needs of everything from a cathedral to a small chapel and, because of his good connections with suppliers, can provide and install it at a very a cost-effective price. He is also working on a smaller single fixed camera solution which can be upgraded at a later date if required. Years of experience

means he is also used to installing the equipment discreetly and in line with any historic buildings regulations.

The system can broadcast live online and be recorded and, Darren believes, will also come into its own for events such as weddings.

Cathedral music director Daniel has certainly been won over: "The real benefit of the AED system is the ease of use as it is totally automatic and allows the cameras to move seamlessly from one close-up shot, via a wider shot, to a different close-up position. This gives not only a professional edge, but an incredibly simple user experience."

And, he believes, the system will be of great benefit long after lockdown ends.

"I think it has become very apparent that many people have gained a lot from our broadcasts," said Daniel. "People who have not been able to attend Mass for many years before this pandemic have been grateful for the opportunity to do so. We will be continuing broadcasting Masses from the Cathedral now we have returned to public Masses, as it is clear they have meant a great deal to a great number. We have had people watching from America, Canada, the Philippines, Australia, and Dubai – it's wonderful to be able to share our liturgy and our wonderful building with all these people."

"The work of Darren's team has been exemplary, and their sensitivity to installing in a Grade 1 Listed building has been really careful. Every detail has been attended to, and the system has been a real investment. I have recommended AED to anyone who has enquired, and I will continue to do so."

AED have also recently installed video systems in the Catholic churches at Dereham and King's Lynn and at St Peter Mancroft Anglican church in the centre of Norwich.

■ Contact AED at: 01953 860074 or [www.audioelectronicdesign.co.uk](http://www.audioelectronicdesign.co.uk)

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