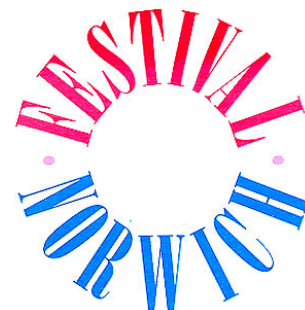


# GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH

Harvest 2008



## Norwich pastor talks of cancer battle

■ Pastor Tom Chapman of Surrey Chapel in Norwich says that faith in Christ has given him help, hope and a sense of humour through his recent brain cancer diagnosis and treatment.

With the help of his wife, Suzanne – and his redundant radiotherapy mask – he's been talking to Surrey Chapel's Activ8 Women's group about his experiences.

Tom first felt symptoms in summer 2003. "I had become the pastor of a large church at the age of 30 and was bringing up a young family," he said. "It was easy to dismiss my occasional odd mental episodes as symptoms of tiredness and stress."

But an MRI scan and biopsy last year revealed the full truth. A large tumour – low grade but malignant and inoperable – was growing in his brain. "It affected the part that thinks, reads and speaks," he said, "which as a pastor, I rather need!"

"Yes, being told you have a tumour that may well kill you in a few years is as horrible as you imagine – like a physical kick in the stomach – and it is still easy to feel gloomy," says Pastor Tom, who has three young sons. "But because of Christ we don't



Tom and Suzanne Chapman.

face these things alone, we don't face these things for nothing and we don't face these things for ever."

"All through this awful experience, we've never once had to ask the question 'why?'," says Suzanne.

"Jesus never said that we should expect an easy life. We know that God has a purpose for everything that happens in our lives. This last year has really tested out whether we really believe what we say we believe, helped us to put our faith in him and talk about him more freely."

After a good response to a six-week course of radiotherapy, and a great deal of prayer, Tom is now symptom-free and fully back in action. Although the future remains unclear for him, it is simply a more intense form of the mortality we all face. So Tom and Suzanne are keen that other people should get to hear how God has helped them through this time.

"To be diagnosed with cancer is not the worst thing that could happen," Tom says, "and to be cured of it would not be the best thing. The best thing has already happened to me – I know the love of God – and I want others to know him too."

Tom and Suzanne would be happy to consider speaking at other churches and groups if invited and they are very grateful for the support and prayer received from the wider Christian community in Norwich. Contact: 01603 619555.

### ■ in brief

## Norfolk leads way in prayer for schools

■ Norfolk has been chosen as one of the first regions in the country to launch a new initiative seeking to bring real change in the nation's schools.

Christians from across the area are being invited to Norwich Cathedral on October 13 to hear about the idea and begin to form groups to pray strategically for their local schools.

Pray for Schools is a partnership between CARE, Youth for Christ, Scripture Union, New Generation, schoolswor.co.uk and Churches together in England. The heart of the partnership is to inspire and release ongoing prayer for schools in the UK, initially through a series of events and online networking.

The event in Norwich is being co-ordinated by Norwich Youth For Christ. Mark Tuma, NYFC Director, said: "It is exciting for Norfolk to be leading the way in an initiative like this. I believe it is vital for our country that schools are given high regard by the church, and one excellent way of putting that into action is to be committed in praying meaningfully for our local schools. I hope that Christians from every church in the region will get involved in this partnership, and pray for God's blessing in every one of our schools."

The evening will give people a vision of the possibilities of such a co-ordinated prayer strategy, and reveal resources to help local groups continue in their prayer. Fittingly, for an event designed to inspire prayer, there will also be times of prayer and worship.

For more details contact Norwich Youth For Christ on 01603 620678. [www.norwichyfc.co.uk](http://www.norwichyfc.co.uk)

## Government faith minister in city

■ Government faith minister Stephen Timms (right) MP has agreed to meet with leaders of faith-based organisations, communities and churches in Norwich in December.

The meeting has been organised by YMCA Norfolk chief executive officer John Drake in his new role co-ordinating the churches' dialogue with Norwich City Council under the Transforming Norwich banner.

"I am pleased to report that Stephen Timms, the 'Government's minister for faith', has agreed to meet with leaders of faith-based organisations, communities and churches to encourage dialogue with local authorities and government-funded procurers of services," said John.

If you would like to attend, please e-mail to Susie Knights at [susieknight@ymca-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:susieknight@ymca-norfolk.org.uk). The date and venue are still to be confirmed.



# Norwich Resource Centre resurrected

By KEITH MORRIS

A new Norwich Christian Resource Centre is set to open its doors on October 1, at St Michael-at-Plea Church, Redwell Street, in the city, site of the former SPCK bookshop, after a successful rescue plan has come to fruition.

The directors, led by former SPCK bookshop manager Steve Foyster, have negotiated a lease with the landlords, Norwich Historic Churches Trust, who are said to be delighted to have the building used for the local community once more.

NCRC has been registered as a non profit-making Community Interest Company with five directors: Steve (who will also manage the centre), Clive Bolton (St Paul's Hellesdon), John Gill (Oak Grove), Ian Walters (Braydeston) and Ray Wharton (Bergh Apton).

Virtually all the ex-shop and cafe staff who were sacked by St Stephen the Great Charitable Trust (SSGCT) when the shop closed in May, will return to work at the same venue they helped create in 2004, when it traded as SPCK Norwich Resource Centre.

Lynton Johnson, Nigel Waller and Sue Thompson will serve in the Forget-me-Not Cafe, with Jim Channell, Roger Triffitt, Gill Prior and Ann Walters behind the shop counter.

Steve, who managed the SPCK Centre until June 2007, when he left to set up a new online Christian bookshop, will manage the new



Steve Foyster opens the gates at the new Norwich Christian Resource Centre.

centre. He has stayed in constant touch with suppliers and many ex-customers of the centre, who have all been amazingly supportive of the new project, he said.

"I am delighted to be able to return to manage once again what had almost become a second home for me," he said. We wanted to give a well loved and frequented resource

back to the communities of Norwich and Norfolk."

"Over the past months, an immense amount of prayer and goodwill has been given to the revitalisation of a totally ecumenical Christian resource centre, that had become a meeting place; a platform for stimulating discussion and debate; a peaceful and welcoming refuge for refreshment, open to visitors of faith or none. We thank God that we are now so close to bearing fruit," said Steve.

Following a recent appeal on the Network Norwich website the new team were delighted to receive donations of over £750, plus a free fax and computer with inkjet cartridges.

"The amount of goodwill and prayer has been sometimes overwhelming," said Steve. "The money raised will be used towards new cafe equipment and a full computer/till network as these items had been removed by the previous occupier."

The centre will have extended opening hours to 8.30am to 6pm (the cafe closing at 5pm).

They also have other plans and hopes including revitalising the garden space, more events, inter-faith events and a non-alcoholic juice bar for teenagers.

The new company would still be pleased to receive further donations via [stevenfoyster@btinternet.com](mailto:stevenfoyster@btinternet.com). Anyone wishing to be on the events mailing list can also contact Steve at this email address.

To find out more about the centre and the events it has planned visit: [www.norwichchristian.co.uk](http://www.norwichchristian.co.uk)



## NEWS

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

## GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH

■ Good News for Norwich is published by Festival Norwich, 48 St Giles St, Norwich, NR2 1LP.  
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 ■ The majority of Norwich churches are solidly behind the aims of Festival Norwich which is to give every person in greater Norwich the opportunity to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ and to bring the message of Christ to bear on the social, cultural, educational, industrial and professional life of the city.  
 In order to facilitate the communication of these aims and to improve the exchange of information, the Festival board decided to publish a periodical newspaper to keep the Christian churches, organisations and associations informed.  
 Leaders and church members are invited to send information on forthcoming events and short articles (with relevant photographs) relating to the demonstration of the Gospel in social action, community care and evangelism generally.  
 This will not only encourage those Christians involved in similar activities but also inform leaders in other churches who are contemplating similar forms of outreach.  
 ■ The deadline for material for the Christmas 2008 issue is Saturday November 1.  
 ■ While every care has been taken in compiling this publication and the statements contained within are believed to be correct, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies. Reproduction of any part of this publication without permission is strictly forbidden.



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## A dead tradition or heaven's encore?

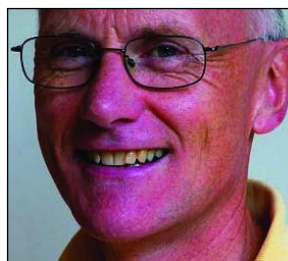
■ "This is a first for me – writing an article for Harvest. What fresh perspective can I, a city boy born and bred, bring to the occasion?"

Many of us have all but lost the connection between farming of the land and the food on our tables as we fill our trolleys at the supermarket.

Maybe it would be more sensible to move swiftly on and write a few words about the spiritual harvest that Jesus calls us his followers to participate in.

But no, the straightforward appeal to stop and make the connection between the seasons, the produce of the land that sustains life, and the God who as the Lord and giver of life makes it all happen, has somehow got me thinking.

For many, harvest is just old-fashioned, a boring annual repetition just like the monotonous daily rising and setting of the sun that we all take for granted. But wait a minute, what have I just said? The transition of seasons, the rhythm of life, boring, dead tradition?



Goff Hope  
lead elder  
Kings  
Community  
Church

Some insights from G.K.Chesterton: "All the towering materialism which dominates the modern mind rests ultimately upon one assumption; a false assumption. It is supposed that if a thing goes on repeating itself it is probably dead; a piece of clockwork. People feel that if the universe was personal it would vary; if the sun were alive it would dance.

"This is a fallacy.... It might be that the sun rises regularly because he never gets tired of

rising. His routine might be due, not to a lifelessness, but to a rush of life. The thing I mean can be seen, for instance, in children, when they find some game or joke that they especially enjoy. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead! It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we. The repetition in Nature may not be a mere recurrence; it may be a theatrical encore."

So, I for one, when looking at bales of hay in fields this autumn (or driving at 10mph behind an agricultural vehicle) will resist the dull response: 'oh it's that time of year again', in favour of an excited appreciation of the wonder of our amazing world and of the God who made both it and us, and declare gratefully, "God, you did it again! Thank you!"

## Caribbean mission for Norwich Street Pastors

A Norwich Christian couple flew out to Antigua on September 14 to help establish a Street Pastors scheme on the Caribbean island which earlier this summer saw the murder of a British couple. And the move even has the backing of the island's Prime Minister. Keith Morris reports.

Paula and Martin Callam, who attend Wroxham Road Methodist Church, have been working with the Norwich Street Pastors project for the last 18 months, offering help and support to people out on the streets of clubland on Friday and Saturday nights. When the chance came to go to Antigua, they felt God was calling them to do it and jumped at the opportunity.

Scores of friends, family and supporters sent the couple off with their prayers and good wishes at a commissioning service held at Wroxham Road church on September 11 with Street Pastors founder, Rev Les Isaac, from Ascension Trust, who was himself born in Antigua.

Les said: "We felt we needed a couple from England to help coordinate, administer and establish Street Pastors in Antigua as a model for other Caribbean islands.

"When I met Paula and Martin I felt very strongly that the Lord's hand was on their lives to be a part of this great work right across the Caribbean.

"The Antigua Prime Minister, Baldwin Spencer, and other Cabinet ministers, personally think this is a top initiative and they are very excited that Paula and Martin are giving up their time to go and help serve their nation through this very holistic mission."

Following the murder of British honeymooning couple Ben and Catherine Mullany on the island earlier this summer, Prime Minister Spencer called for a day of prayer and fasting. "He asked the nation to meet at the national cricket stadium to pray and fast that God would touch the bereaved family and those whose lives are blighted by crime and make the world experience the peace and grace of Jesus Christ," said Les.

At the time, Mr Spencer said: "In a concerted effort to take back our country and recapture our sense of



Paula and Martin Callam with Rev Les Isaac at their commissioning service.

security we will be conducting a National Day of Prayer and Fasting. I urge all citizens and residents of this country to join this national initiative as we seek the assistance of a higher power to aid our earthly efforts."

Paula and Martin, a pharmacist, are leaving behind their grown-up children and a very small grandchild to go to the Caribbean. Martin said: "It is a wrench to leave but we feel we have been called to this work and if we didn't do it we would regret it. We believe that the Lord will be with us."

Paula said: "I feel scared, but to soar like an eagle you first have to leave the nest and learn how to fly. It is totally different and new ground for us, but we know that the Lord has called us.

"First we will be sorting out the office and computer stuff and meeting the team already out there on the ground and building a working relationship with them. We will also be looking at what the problems and issues we need to start to address are.

"It is going to be a lot hotter than going out in Norwich late on a Friday and Saturday night. It is all about meeting people. We are the same all the world round and we will meet interesting and exciting people just like here in Norwich. I am sure we see amazing things just like we have here."

If anyone would like to keep up to date with the couple or support them either by prayer or donation, contact them at [antigua2@streetpastors.org](mailto:antigua2@streetpastors.org)

## SEASONS

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Dance classes were part of Equip during Hope on the Streets in Thorpe.

# Taking Hope on to city's streets

**W**ith a team of around 100 people, East Norwich Youth Project, St Mary Magdalene and Norwich Central Baptist Church teamed up for 'Hope on the Streets' (HOTS) at the end of July. Each of the three areas ran social action projects – designed to impact local communities – and family fun day activities.

In the Thorpe area, ENYP held Bible studies, prayer and teaching in the morning and outreach and social action in the afternoons, which included a children's dance and sports club called 'EQUIP'; a café for parents and the community; litter picking and road clearing around the streets of Thorpe Hamlet; helping in a local supermarket with bag packing and assisting customers and working on a garden project at Lionwood Infant School. The week ended with a family fun day on the Saturday when over 350 members of the local community came together for food, fun and entertainment.

Mark Tuma, Coordinator for Hope08 in Norwich, said: "The basic premise behind Hope08 is that the whole church needs to engage with the whole community and in a more effective and committed way than we have managed in the past."

Danny Doran-Smith, ENYP Senior Worker said: "HOTS brought together people, young and old from a wide range of denominations to unite and partner with local SNAP teams and services across the East of Norwich. We are thankful for the many opportunities to reach out with love and compassionate service during HOTS".

Many of the activities which worked so well during HOTS have formed the basis for ENYP's plans for the autumn, including two new dance groups (Dance Off!) for children and young people aged 4 to 7 and 8 to 18. The Art Club launched prior to HOTS, where young people created a mural of Hope, will continue in the autumn term, and expand on the creative techniques that

Hope '08 took to the streets of Norwich over the summer when several city churches and ENYP teamed up for a week of social action with young people. Gail Halley reports.



were used in previous sessions. The A Team (ENYP's social action team) will continue to finish the creation of an outdoor theatre gardening project at Lionwood Infant School. Danny added: "Thank God for all He did in the summer, for Hope on the Streets and the lives that were touched. Pray these relationships would continue to be built as we launch the new activities

that members of the community were interested in."

There are two of the Big Five left to go this year; the first is Hope Explored in the autumn which will give an opportunity to people who want to explore Christianity through programmes and courses explaining the basics of Christianity. A major part of this will be the citywide Youth Alpha course run by Norwich YFC and taking place at Norwich Central Baptist Church on Thursday nights, beginning on October 2. Part of the aim of Hope on the Street was to provide more opportunities for people to explore Christianity.

In September, ENYP will launch a Youth Alpha café, alongside an established youth club, giving time and space for young people to ask questions and understand more about the Christian faith. During October and November there will be a youth café running on alternative Sunday evenings in the Thorpe Hamlet area, to engage with young people and build relationships with them. For more information on all ENYP activities email: [youth@enyp.org.uk](mailto:youth@enyp.org.uk).

Finally, The Gift of Hope will focus activity for Advent and Christmas.



Hope participants start the creation of an outdoor theatre garden at Lionwood Infant School in Norwich.

**news in brief**

## Kings Norwich inspires church in Olympic host city of Beijing

■ The King's Centre in Norwich has inspired a similar development in Olympic host city Beijing in China in a central business district within half a mile of the famous Tianamen Square.

One of the leaders from the 1,500-strong Beijing International Christian Fellowship (BICF) visited the King's Centre in Norwich "and loved what he saw", says Goff Hope, lead elder of King's Community Church.

Goff (pictured below) and his wife, Angie, were also in Beijing for six months last year to encourage the international Christian community in the Olympic city and whilst there helped design the Crosspoint project as a mini-conference centre with adjacent internet coffee shop which together creates a facility designed for a variety of uses including cultural exchange and languages classes for overseas visitors. It has yet to reach its full potential as they seek all the necessary approvals.

There are, of course, restrictions about the location of larger BICF services, which began over a decade ago and now attract at least 1,500 people from 70 nations. They are allowed to meet in three locations around Beijing, slightly further away from the city centre and services are in English and several other languages.

Only foreign-passport holders are allowed to attend BICF meetings, but local believers in Beijing (officially numbered at 40,000) do have places of worship and are even allowed to build new ones.

Beijing, now home to 11 million people, is the political, cultural and diplomatic centre of China.

The Norwich church also has a great regard for China and has sent funds for relief work following the earthquake that destroyed 15 million homes and killed 69,000 people in May this year.

Goff was invited to China by Rob Glover who heads up Care for Children, and works with the government in the areas of child care, orphanages and fostering work.

The leaders of BICF's Central Business District congregation were inspired by the Norwich centre which is active seven days a week "seeking to connect with the community, 24/7."

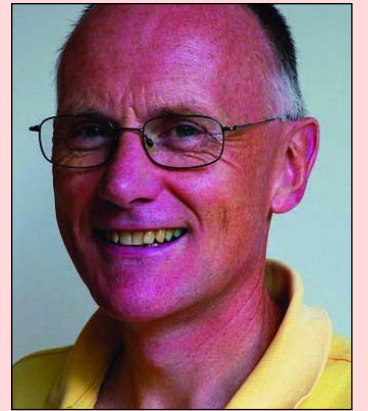
"The new and very modern Beijing facility is a mini King's Centre, planned along the same lines as our own conference centre in Norwich," says Goff.

Half a million foreign visitors, including more than 20,000 foreign media personnel, headed for the Chinese capital to watch the Olympics which during August – "it seemed that the whole world was going to Beijing," said Goff.

He adds: "It's an incredibly stimulating place, a city in a hurry, but not without its challenges."

King's Church is part of the New Frontiers international family of churches: "Our passion and privilege is to help the church at large in any way we can," says Goff, who is also due to visit the Middle East to assist a New Frontiers church in Dubai.

[www.bicf.org](http://www.bicf.org)  
By Mike Wiltshire





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## NEWS

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

# Self-help is the word for Everjoyce in development work

■ Widows, widowers and orphans across Africa are benefiting from a self-help development charity run by Norwich Christian **Everjoyce Makuve**. **Gail Halley** reports.

■ Everjoyce came to Britain in 2001 just for a holiday, but while here she was offered a job by Norfolk County Council and started work in March 2002.

A few weeks later she received the shocking news that her husband had died unexpectedly in Zimbabwe while she was flying back to see him in hospital. After burying him, Everjoyce returned to England and continued with the house purchase she'd begun earlier.

"Most people thought I was mad to buy a house," she said. But then most people don't have Everjoyce's faith. "Keep going forward towards the Red Sea, and you will find it parts before you," she says.

Everjoyce duly got a mortgage, bought the house and on in October 2002 the three youngest of her four boys – Nyasha, Charles and Tinaye (twins) – joined her here. Her oldest son, Blessing, is still in Zimbabwe, and in October 2007 she became a grandmother for the first time.

One of Everjoyce's passions is working with disadvantaged people. Her father died when she was young and her mother struggled to bring up

her seven daughters. When Everjoyce was not selected to train as a social worker, she said to the university authorities: "If you don't accept me next year, I'll be back – and the year after ...". They accepted her.

She joined the leadership programme at New Hope Christian Fellowship in Norwich – who have supported her since she arrived – and was challenged to plant a ministry. And so WORD (Widows and Orphans Relief and Development) International was born in August 2003.

WORD has a huge vision: it aims to provide education and training throughout the developing world. Besides a variety of training courses, there is a strong element of encouraging widows to be self-supporting: they are developing businesses making peanut butter, candles and soap, as well as producing eggs, vegetables and fruit.

"The widows and widowers have the skills," says Everjoyce, "but we need the equipment. My job is to preach the gospel and remind church leaders of their duty to care for the poor."

It seems to be working – there are local leaders running WORD projects in Botswana, England, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, with at least five new projects in the pipeline.

A container of clothes sponsored by the Norwich City Council-Dedza Partnership recently arrived in Malawi. "I prefer churches to run projects," says Everjoyce, "and several pastors have already caught the vision."

One of the most interesting things that



Everjoyce Makuve.

Everjoyce (and WORD) are currently involved in a pilot project recently launched by the

Department for International Development, VSO and the Diaspora Alliance, of which WORD is a member.

The WORD Diaspora volunteer programme aims to send Zimbabwean professionals back to their home country for a short spell of voluntary work.

"The country has been starved of its professionals," says Everjoyce. "They are to be found all over the world but they are needed in Zimbabwe."

She doesn't dismiss the work of the aid agencies, but she says that she and her compatriots living in the West can often go directly to where the problem is. "We don't need lots of reports and fact-finding tours," she says. "We need people on the ground who are passionate about the work and it is cheaper that way."

The work is growing so rapidly that Everjoyce recognises the need to train people to take responsibility for the projects in each of the countries concerned. "We have just done a development training course for 24 people, in partnership with Connections for Development, Outreach Management Services, and Children's Services Specialist Social Work Service/Diverse Communities Department," she says. "These people will be able to reach out and make a difference in their own countries and local areas."

Making a difference is what Everjoyce's life and faith is all about – find out more about WORD at: [www.e-voice.org.uk/wordinternational](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/wordinternational)



Pictured above are, left to right: Dr Rodney Moss, Nigel Barber, Pastor Stuart Bailey, Reverend Jackie Brown, Pastor Tom Chapman.

## New pastor flies in from RAF to packed church welcome

■ A packed church and overflow tent witnessed the induction of a new pastor, straight from the RAF, to South Park Evangelical Church in Norwich.

Stuart Bailey, who recently retired as an RAF serviceman, has also been studying Bible college courses for several years. Family and friends from various parts of the country, and guests from local churches and the South Park neighbourhood swelled the regular congregation.

The church was filled to capacity and so the service was relayed to more people who were accommodated in a marquee set up alongside the main church building for the purpose.

Stuart, together with his wife and daughter, have now moved to live near the church, so they can be part of the community with which South Park Church is involved and with whom they seek to share the Christian faith.

Pastor Tom Chapman of Surrey Chapel, Norwich, where Stuart and his family formerly worked and worshipped, took part in the induction service, which was led by Dr Rodney Moss. The encouraging sermon was preached by Rev Jackie Brown of Bridgnorth, a friend of Stuart's from RAF Cosford.

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



The combined anniversary service congregation at Wroxham Road Church.

# Celebration time

There have been double celebrations at Wroxham Road Methodist Church this year as it is celebrating its 50th jubilee, while Norfolk's first Chinese Cantonese Methodist church, meeting at Wroxham Road, has celebrated ten years of life.

Rev David Foo – Secretary of the Chinese Cantonese Methodist Churches GB – and Rev John Fenn – Superintendent Minister Norwich Methodist Circuit – spoke at the Chinese Cantonese Church celebration service on July 21.

The service was followed by a Chinese buffet banquet in the evening at the River Bank Chinese restaurant in Norwich. All proceeds from the sale of tickets were given to the Burma Relief Fund for those still suffering from the recent disaster.

Wroxham Road Church, in Sprowston,

Norwich, has been celebrating its 50th anniversary with special events between May and September, including a fete, memorabilia week, Chinese English service, Hope'08 and an anniversary dinner. The church actually opened on September 21, 1958.

Christians from the church took to the streets in social action to celebrate the jubilee as well as welcoming 200 people to a community barbecue.

"As part of the Jubilee year celebrations, and linking in with Hope 08 - and Hope on the Streets - the youngsters engaged with the local community in social action and service," said Rev Nigel Fox. "They were litter-picking, car-washing and going door-to-door, which certainly helped to break barriers and build bridges."

A service held simultaneously in both

Cantonese and English at Wroxham Road in July is believed to be a first for the county.

The first-ever joint English and Chinese Cantonese Methodist Church service was held to help celebrate the two anniversaries.

It is believed to be the first such service in Norwich and possibly Norfolk. The hymns were sung simultaneously in Cantonese and English by the 150-strong congregation and they both finished at the same time.

The speakers were the Rev Nigel Fox and Edmond Tsui.

After the service there was a free barbecue, despite lots of rain.

A retiring collection was taken for the ongoing relief work in Sichuan China following the recent earthquake and £430 was received.

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



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

## Norwich Christian refugee poet publishes e-book



**Dr Phuoc-Tan Diep.**  
Picture by Kevin Field.

■ A Christian refugee poet and doctor, based in Norwich, has just published his first in a series of free poetry booklets to wake people up to some of the profound questions of life.

Vietnamese poet Dr Phuoc-Tan Diep, who attends Holy Trinity church in Norwich with his wife Maggie, has released a free e-book of poems which aim to disturb and move people to thinking about the questions that matter. They are also an expression of his thanks for surviving the experience of being a boat person, when many of his fellow refugees died.

"My desire to wake people led me to write poetry centred on the important topics in life, exploring those places that all of us find difficult to face," said Phuoc-Tan.

"There are more important questions than what's on TV tonight. We threw it out and now talk about life and death, about

love and sacrifice, about war and freedom. Then we seek some answers to the questions that arise – before life ends."

Lights Out & Other Poems - Wake Up, is a free eBook collection of 17 poems of varying forms, some experimental. Some deal with death and war and the majority have been published in the UK or in the USA.

One of the poems won praise from the judges of The Hamish Canham Poetry Prize 2008, as runner-up.

Phuoc-Tan is a Vietnamese boat person who arrived with his family in the UK in 1978, where decided to live and succeeded in becoming a doctor. Aged 33 years, Phuoc-Tan is currently a Histopathology Specialist Registrar at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital.

You can download the e-book for free at: <http://stores.lulu.com/Diep>

# Hereward leaves his mark on city

By KEVIN GOTTS

**N**orwich will soon be missing the quiet yet dignified presence of a man with many talents. Canon Hereward Cooke, a priest, cyclist, former council leader, industrial chaplain and friend to many, retired to the North Norfolk coast with his wife Diana at the end of July.

In 1989, Hereward, then a priest in London, caught the eye of Hugh Schofield, Norwich Union's Chief Executive, who was impressed with his industrial chaplaincy work. Invited to Norwich, Hereward spent the next 15 years building up a portfolio of companies across the county served by chaplains.

Eastern Counties Newspapers (now Archant) was the first company, with its print works and legion of journalists, to welcome Hereward. The next was Colman's, famous for mustard and its historic industrial site, then boasting 1,500 staff and a legacy of care for staff and training, reflecting Christian principles grounded in the Quaker movement.

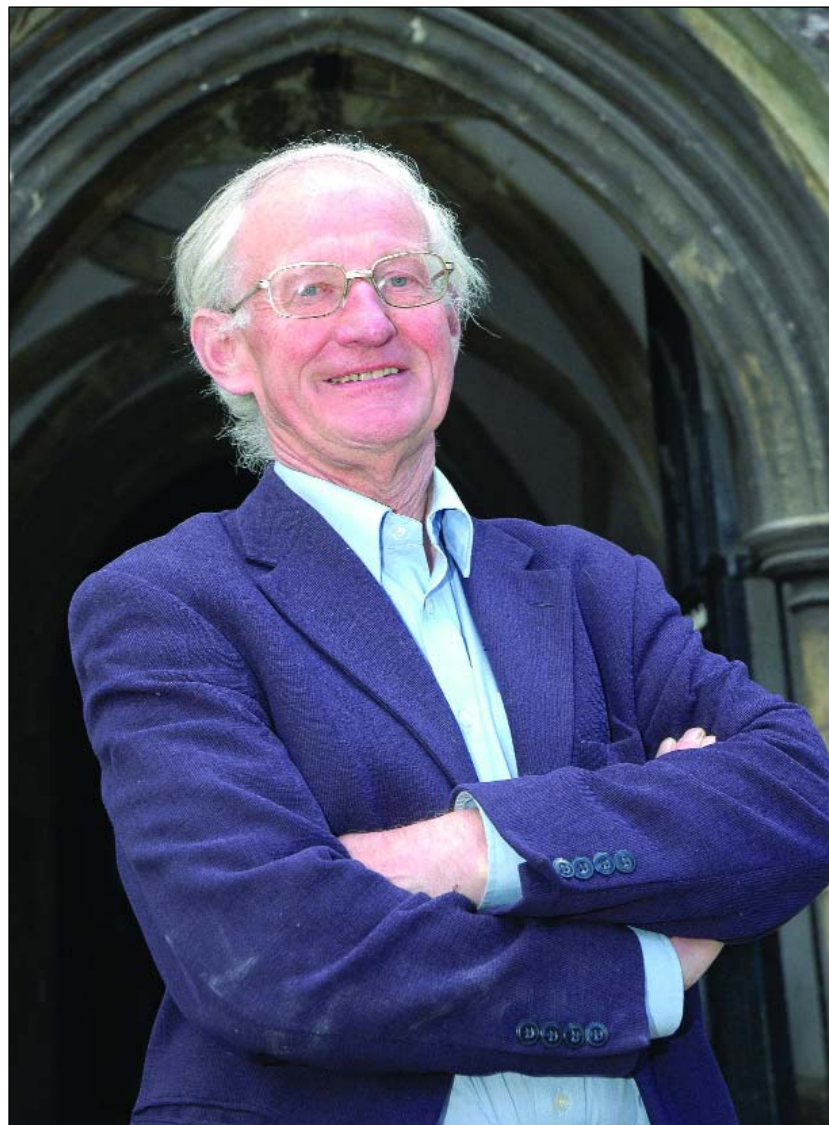
Norwich Union's Head Office involvement was, as Hereward says: "Where I met hundreds of staff, usually around the lunch table. The Christian Fellowship was a crucial ministry there with prayer and study."

Nearby, his ministry to Marks & Spencer under the pressures of retail, caused Hereward to reflect upon an incident: "A staff member was tragically murdered and the staff asked me to hold a service on the shop floor before work in memory.

"We were always there and available. The church recognizes the value of daily work, and the ecumenical team is concerned about the processes of both employment and unemployment."

The latter led to trusteeship of the Norwich Unemployment Network and involvement with the Redundancy Advice Network.

The year 2000 and disappointment at Norwich's Millennium celebrations, caused Hereward to take an active role in politics as Liberal councillor for the Lakenham Ward. He helped spearhead the "Norwich belongs to all of us" campaign, reflecting the Christian



Canon Hereward Cooke outside St Stephen's Church in Norwich.

principles of co-operation, fellowship with practical help and to encourage care for each other and the city.

During the next eight years, he spent four as Deputy Leader of the Council with responsibility for housing.

Access to the new Chapelfield Shopping Mall included the grounds of St Stephens Church, Rampant Horse Street, where Hereward became Priest-in-Charge. With 30,000 people passing by weekly, he enthused: "We made the most of this position and have opened our doors with a café, exhibitions, concerts, healing services and other ways of sharing the Good News of

Jesus Christ."

While sad to move on, Hereward remains optimistic: "We have a great ministry team here in this grade one listed building; an industrial mission in the very good hands of Rev Chris Warner and with lots of wonderful memories I pray that God will continue to bless the City in many ways."

Hereward and Diana have moved to Blakeney, where Diana's ministry, involving silence and reflection, influenced in part by Julian of Norwich and Rev Nick Vesey, will continue.

### ■ in brief

## Chance for churches to be creative



■ Ways in which the church can reach out creatively and imaginatively to those around it is the main focus of a Fresh Expressions Vision Day to be held near Norwich on Saturday November 8.

Organiser Rev Nigel Fox, said: "This is a major opportunity for Norwich and the surrounding area. In so many parts of UK, the Church is reaching out creatively and imaginatively – seeking to express faith in fresh ways as the drive for mission accelerates.

"The Vision Day is for anyone who wishes to be encouraged by what's already happening. But it's especially for anyone who wants to be inspired to be creative and equipped to make a start here."

"In essence, it's a day to hear stories and explore opportunities together which will be led by two experienced missionaries. There'll be space for group-work and thinking through local options," said Nigel.

The day itself will be run by the national Fresh Expressions Team and their associates, hosted at Hethersett Methodist Church, and run from 9.45am to 4pm (refreshments from 9.15am).

Places are restricted to 150 and there is a £5 cost to include drinks and materials. Please bring a packed lunch. Further info from: Rev N Fox (01603 426657) or Rev D Grimshaw (10603 811999).

Registration is open until Oct 25, via S M Drew (01603 812631).

Fresh Expressions is a joint Church of England and Methodist initiative in contemporary mission. There are numerous examples of exciting new communities of faith springing up around the country, each one bearing witness to a gospel breakthrough into 'unlikely' sectors of society.

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

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FEATURES

Romance Academy plan

■ A second Romance Academy is set to launch in Norwich at the start of October, organised by Pregnancy Crisis Norfolk, following on from the successful BBC2 series No Sex Please We're Teenagers. And both young people to attend the course and mentors for them are needed.

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

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

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

Youth work co-ordinator for Norwich-based Christian charity PCN, Naomi Tuma, said: "Sometimes as Christians we condemn the animal behaviour of our young people, whilst promoting angelic behaviour. But we're not angels or animals and it's a mistake to relate to young people as if they are.

"It is easy to say 'no sex before marriage'. It is less easy to really engage with what it means to be human and sexual and young in Norfolk in 2008. One way that we're helping some young people to do this is by running Romance Academy. It is a four-month course for young people to discuss sex and relationships and self-worth. It helps young people think about the practical, spiritual and emotional aspects of relationships.

"We are looking for mentors to support the young people and we also have spaces if you would like to refer a young person."

The course's weekly two-hour session cover building and sustaining healthy relationships, influences on behaviour, contraception and sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and choices, drugs and alcohol and self-image. There is also a residential at the Horstead Centre at half-term.

If you are interested or would like to find out more ring 01603 616580 or e-mail [info@pregnancy-crisis.org.uk](mailto:info@pregnancy-crisis.org.uk) or visit [www.romanceacademy.org](http://www.romanceacademy.org)

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Why every home in city is special

■ Every one of the 129,500 people and 60,000 homes in Norwich is special – that is the message of a new Christian initiative taking place across the city and county.

Rev Nicholas Vesey, campaign co-ordinator of Every Home is Special, said at its launch: "I think the way forward is for churches to go out into their communities and make contact with people".

At around the same time, Nick was given a recording by Aaron Janes, co-founder of Adopt A Block in Los Angeles where, although the details may differ, the message is the same: get out of your building to love and serve your community. This campaign is about building relationships: people taking on a street, or part of a street, and making friends with those who live there.

When visiting people, part of the plan is to identify areas of need and find ways of helping where possible. Sally Simpson, part of the Bowthorpe team, warns however against the church being seen as some kind of 'Jim'll Fix It'. She said: "Rather, we can help people to take responsibility themselves, to support them and build their confidence in doing that ... and put them in touch with others ... who can help."

June Gibson of the Tas Valley group added: "We are not going round offering to cut grass for people," though that might happen with some EHIS groups.

Adopt a Block started small – seven people, two blocks – and so did EHIS. In April, the plan was adopted by four churches which, after some training, ran a pilot project. When they came together to share their experiences in July, the feedback was encouraging. Clare Elkins of New Hope Christian Centre was very enthusiastic. "It can be risky," she said, "because you get complaints about what the church should be doing but isn't!" But she and her small team persevered. "It's just a case of serving, serving, serving," she said. As a result their children's club grew from 30 to 75 in three weeks!

The experience of the Tas Valley, as a group of rural churches, was obviously different, but June Gibson, who with her husband Andrew leads their team, said the response had been positive: "People feel it is good that we are doing it, which gives us an opportunity to heal the hurts and start to build bridges ... there is one lady who has asked if someone would keep an eye on her elderly mother when she goes on holiday."

The EHIS team put together a short film of some of the participants in action which they showed at the Global Day of Prayer in May; as a result, six more churches have signed up to the project. Not everyone wants to knock on doors, but an important part of EHIS is having people back at base praying while the door-knockers are out. Both Sally and June testified to the value of this, and they also felt it useful to pray and prayer-walk their chosen streets before knocking on doors.

The progress is slow but steady. Aaron Janes was dismissive of people who said this isn't their culture. "Rubbish!" he says, "Relationships is everybody's culture. We in the church have got to offer people something better than what they've got."

By Gail Halley

Outreach ■ Christians reach out

Summe

Summer 2008 has been a busy time for members of **Norwich Central Baptist Church** who have taken up several opportunities to do missionary work. All the activities involve working with vulnerable children and have made a positive and ongoing impact on their lives. **Helen Baldry** reports.

**M**embers of Norwich Central Baptist Church and Limes Avenue Baptist Church in Aylesbury joined together on a trip to support the evangelistic children's work of Copii pentru Christos (Children for Christ) in Romania. The charity was set up in 1991 when a group of youth leaders and children (many of whom are still involved with the work today) started praying that a Christian holiday camp could be built so that the children in the locality could learn more about God.

Their prayers were answered and today the camp is a thriving and expanding project where across ten weeks each summer over 450 children come together to play games, sing songs, study the Bible and learn about Jesus.

Val and Roger White, Chris Brown and Catherine Lansdown travelled 15 hours out to the rural village of Virfurile, near Arad in Transylvania, where they spent 10 days on the camp, helping other volunteers with housekeeping, maintenance and building work. "A lot of work is needed to keep the camp running to a high standard," Chris says, "and the work we do allows the Romanian leaders to focus all their energy on the youth work, so it's the children who get the benefits." The team feel blessed to be involved with this God-driven ministry and the work of bringing God's gospel message of salvation to the children, as well as His love.



■ Becky Gathercole spent some time working at the Morning Star orphanage in Nepal. The orphanage offers security to street children who would otherwise be begging on the streets and getting high on glue. Morning Star gives these children a place to stay, food, clothes and education. They also have specific Christian teaching as well as seeing Christianity in action through the love and care shown to them by Bishnu and Muna who run the house. Morning Star also operates outreach to street children around Kathmandu offering education, support and health care.

Becky describes a typical day at the orphanage: The kids get up about 5am and wake me with shouts of "Ista, Ista-kum", followed by "How are you?!" At 8.30 I wash outside under a hose – there are usually arguments between the children



Becky Gathercole at the Morning Star orphanage in Nepal.



Bob and Linda Humphries at the Kedesh Drop-In Centre.



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

to neighbours in Norwich homes and across the globe

# r of mission



Left children and volunteers in Romania, above orphans in Soweto, South Africa and, below, the Sunday School at Rock of Salvation Baptist Church.



over who gets to do my hair! We then eat daal bhat, which is lentil soup and rice eaten with my hands. We then walk to school which starts at 10.30. After lessons and devotions and an afternoon meal, I usually help the kids with their homework and then watch Nepali TV, chat to the children in their rooms or play hide and seek – except only one of us is hidden and everyone else has to try and find them!

There are some truly inspiring stories of some of the children at Morning Star:

Mangila was born to a deaf and blind mother and was showing very poor development when she arrived. She can now walk and talk as well as anyone else.

Susmita's father was killed in the 'Peoples War' and found it very hard when her mother left her

in Morning Star as she didn't feel able to look after her. She settled in very quickly with the love and care of Bishnu and Muna.

■ In August, nine people from NCBC embarked on a two-week mission trip with BMS World Mission to South Africa. Based with the Rock of Salvation Baptist Church in Soweto, the visit was a huge success and greatly blessed those who were able to take part.

The team was involved in a wide variety of activities, many of which were a completely new experience. Evangelism is a big part of the make up of the church and the team shared and preached on the streets, and more unusually some were also involved in evangelism on the train to Johannesburg.

There was time spent at an orphanage helping to serve food and playing with the children. Regular visits were made to a local Christian radio station and various people were involved in the Hour of Power - a time when listeners ring in with prayer requests and are then prayed for on air. The prayer life of the church was inspiring and this impacted everyone who was there. People used many words to describe the trip: inspiring, encouraging, stimulating, emotional, overwhelming, humbling, exhausting, blessed, and many more besides.

Other missions this summer included a team visit to Bursitsa Orphanage in Bulgaria through the Christian charity Saltmine. You can find the full details at: [www.norwichcentral.org](http://www.norwichcentral.org)

## New Christian drop-in centre

■ A new Christian Drop-in Centre has opened its doors on Magdalen Street in Norwich offering a warm welcome to anyone who wants a chat, a cup of tea, a listening ear or a word of prayer.

The Kedesh Christian Drop-In Centre has been opened by Norwich-based missionary couple Bob and Linda Humphries who have a vision to reach out to hurting and needy people across the city. They also have a vision to network with other Christians, churches and organizations across the city and link up people who come to them with these groups.

Bob said: "We offer a free cup of tea and a listening ear to anyone who wants to come in. If people would like prayer or counselling we can offer that. We also believe in full body

ministry, which means we want to link up with and use the full resources of the Christian community in Norwich.

"We are keen to link up with other Christian ministries and would like them to get in contact if they are interested. We are also looking to build up a team of volunteer workers to make tea, to chat to people and to pray," said Bob.

"We want to help to be the church on the streets and to reach out to the lost. We will put anyone we come into contact with in touch with local churches."

The couple returned to their Norwich roots last year after a number of years working in Wandsworth Prison in London and at a hostel for ex-offenders. They have also been involved in prayer walking across England

and Europe.

The Magdalen Street premises have been made available to the couple by landlord David Vignaux, himself a Christian with a ministry visiting and supporting churches in India and Pakistan that work with orphans.

Bob and Linda are supported by their home church, Elim Pentecostal and its pastor Gerry Turner.

The drop-in centre has received backing from a number of local churches including Elim, Surrey Chapel, Wroxham Road Methodist, The Redeemed Christian Church of God and Bungay Liberty Church.

You can contact the centre on 01603 615100 or 07729 263650, at 148 Magdalen Street, Norwich, NR3 1JD or [lindybob40@hotmail.com](mailto:lindybob40@hotmail.com)

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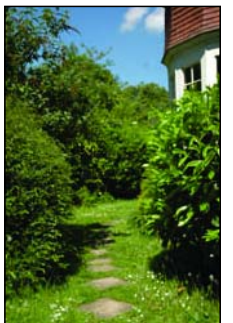
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NEWS

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

# Academy opens its doors

Norfolk's first Academy school opened its doors to pupils for the first time on September 3, with staff promising a more personalised approach on how to work - and look - smarter.

The Open Academy, which replaced Heartsease High School in Norwich, is being backed by Christian businessman Graham Dacre and the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Graham James.

Classes got under way for the youngest year 7 children and also the year 11 pupils, with consultants brought in to offer older teenagers tips on how to organise their studies most effectively.

Parents were also invited to the school to find out what role they could play to help their children do well.

Staff, who were also looking smart, were manning the school gates to set straight ties and upturned collars as part of the new Academy ethos.

The school has switched to a vertical system, which means form groups contain a mix of ages.

There are also four new houses, Inspiration, Destiny, Challenge and Respect.

The school is introducing a boy-girl seating system in class, amid evidence that a mix improves concentration levels.

Graham Dacre said: "Bishop Graham and I are delighted the Academy has opened its doors.



The students appear pleased with the new uniform and the improvements made to the school over the summer.

"The road to success may be a long one but in 24 months the new building will be ready. In the meantime there is much that can be achieved. The future will undoubtedly be exciting."

Principal Lindsay Knight said it had been a smooth start to the new term.

"The big talking point has been the new uniform," she said.

"We are making it quite clear to the students that our expectations have risen in terms of how we treat them and how they treat each other. That's part of the new house system.

"There's a really good atmosphere."

Campaigners, including some

parents fought the switch from local education control to the academy system.

Ms Knight hoped that now the school was up and running, everyone will get behind it, while the new ethos was aimed at fostering a more personalised approach.

The next task facing the school will be developing the site with new buildings. Staff will also look at an overhaul of the curriculum, which may see a switch to more vocational subjects. "I know there have been real concerns in the community and we will spend time listening to what parents have to say and reflecting on their ideas," added Ms Knight.

"The point is all parents are supportive of their children and I am sure the vast majority will be behind us."



Picture courtesy of EDP

Open Academy pupils in the new uniform, and above left, an artist's impression of what the new school will look like in 2010.

## Church's Narnia visit draws the crowds

A Norwich church's latest visit to Narnia drew large crowds to the Hollywood Cinema to watch a special preview of Prince Caspian.

Seeking to follow up on their successful public screening of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, the members of Surrey Chapel once again offered their friends the opportunity to revisit Disney's version of CS Lewis's fantasy world.

Over 270 people - most of them guests - crammed the big screen at Hollywood Cinema in July 19 to see the movie adaptation of Prince Caspian. As it was a private screening, there was no need to sit through the trailers - and instead, Pastor Tom Chapman gave an introductory talk explaining the spiritual basis of the Chronicles of Narnia.

"Such events are always a gamble," he said, "as you don't know what they have done with the story when you make the booking. But while changes from book to film are inevitable, CS Lewis was never so preoccupied with battles and romantic interest, the movie still retains much of the original magic.

"The children arrive in a Narnia under the thrall of evil men and their machinations, not a wicked witch and her magic. Aslan is all but forgotten - or has he forgotten Narnia? Even the children find it hard to see him. It's not too hard to find parallels with our world today."

"But you won't find out whether there really is a forgotten spiritual dimension to our present world by going to the movies," he says. "For that kind of magic, you have to come to church!"

# New central Norwich YMCA is set to open for residents in January

YMCA Norfolk and its development partners have announced that the new central Norwich YMCA, on Queens Road near the bus station, will open on schedule in January 2009. Despite challenging times the project is due to be completed within budget.

The provision will focus on serving the critical needs of 16-25 year olds, both male and female, from across the county. The new YMCA will provide 34 en-suite bedrooms and support facilities including a restaurant, communal lounges and a fitness area.

YMCA Norfolk chief executive officer John Drake, said: "our mission is to invest in the most vulnerable in our community. We realise the desperate need for accommodation for these young men and women at risk. At long last we are glad we can offer quality en-suite accommodation for both young men and women."

The second phase of the imaginative and forward-looking project to replace the existing 90-bed hostel on St Giles, has been temporarily delayed as the sale of the existing premises cannot be completed at this time. The second phase intends to provide 40 self-contained flats on a site at Music House Lane.

Mr Drake said: "We are optimistic that despite these challenging times the sale will be concluded in the foreseeable future. The commercial property market has, like the residential market, been affected by the uncertain economic conditions and we know that it is a very different marketplace in which to be selling such a large property compared to six months ago.

"We wish to make it quite clear that this delay will not in any way affect the current delivery of services to over 80 young people currently receiving support 24/7 at our St Giles premises, it does however mean that our second site of 40 new move-on units will have to sit on the drawing board a little longer than we had anticipated.

"We still need to raise around £800,000 to



Pictured above is the new central Norwich YMCA being built next to Norwich Bus Station.

complete the second phase and we are appealing to local people and businesses to help us reach our final target, said John."

"YMCA Norfolk is appreciative of all its development partners: Flagship Housing, the main contractor Lovells and the support received from Norfolk County Council, Supporting People, Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council, South

Norfolk District Council and local businesses, trusts and individuals who have contributed in helping us meet the challenging financial costs."

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Nick Nundy at [nicknundy@ymca-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:nicknundy@ymca-norfolk.org.uk) or on 01603 621263.

For further information contact Susie Knights on 07967 741103 or [susieknights@ymca-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:susieknights@ymca-norfolk.org.uk)



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

# New adventure for ex-Policeman

By MIKE WILTSHIRE

**A** former Norfolk police officer has spoken frankly of the radical changes in his life that have led him into a new career in Christian community service.

Malcolm Reeve joined the police as a cadet, which led to a 30-year career until he retired as chairman of the Norfolk Police Federation.

Early in his training – as someone who loved sport – Malcolm was part of a four-man police team in a national running competition over seven mountain peaks in Snowdonia.

The Norfolk team won even though the group came from one of the flattest areas of the UK.

Malcolm's future was bright as he thrived on his varied police work, but like many colleagues in public and emergency services, he faced intense pressure at times.

In his 20s, he ran into personal problems when a relationship collapsed. He also 'felt wretched' when his parents divorced. Then his beloved grandfather, Peter, found he was dying of cancer in his mid-60s.

"I sat with him in the early hours as his life ebbed. But at 4am, he suddenly sat up and swung his legs over the side of the



Malcolm and Cecile Reeve.

bed. His eyes seemed bright with renewed hope. I reached across to him – then he died in my arms.

"I noticed there was a great sense of peace in the room. I didn't know then that my grandad had a life-long faith in God. I

found out later that he had told my mother: 'Don't worry, Eileen, the Shepherd has come to see me'."

Peter's death made Malcolm think deeply about God, though he wasn't a churchgoer. "I felt I was beyond God's reach," he recalls. "My personal life was a mess and I was looking for hope and a way out."

Later, he talked with a Christian lady friend who had answers he had never heard of – "very simply, she explained who Jesus is."

The friend led Malcolm to faith in Christ: "I felt as though someone had lifted a huge burden off my back. Then a sense of lightness, peace and joy flooded my life."

It was not just a passing emotion. As he joined a local church and grew in faith, his life was "radically changed". He thrived on new challenges in his police work.

"I discovered amazing opportunities to help people in trouble," he recalls. During his diverse police career he also helped to start a Christian police fellowship. Now he is in training with the Methodist Church to serve the community in pastoral care. Malcolm's wife, Cecile, is a graduate in world development studies and helps promote Fair Trade products.

"Being a Christian is the best adventure anyone could experience," said Malcolm.

## Norwich church plans to drill for green energy

■ A Norwich city centre church has launched an ambitious and innovative £75,000 plan to heat the building using only free green energy it will extract from the ground beneath it.

The forward-looking plan is to drill five 100-metre boreholes deep into the ground near the medieval St Stephens Church, which is right next to the Chapelfield shopping mall.

The system will then extract the heat from water that rises up through pipes to a ground source heat pump and into a new under-floor system of pipes under the wooden pews.

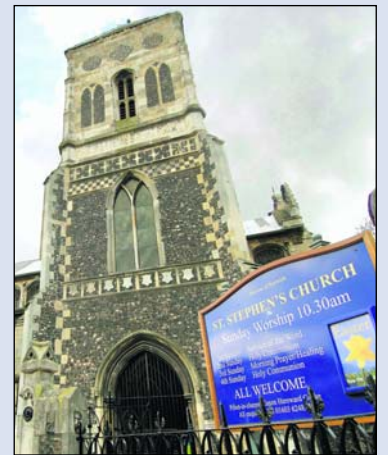
The heat will rise to warm church-goers where they are and take the chill off the church in the winter, making it fully usable all-year round.

Church warden, Peter Carroll, said: "The vision is for the church to be open every day of the week throughout the year. The temperature needs to be sufficient to allow people to enjoy their visit and make use of the other facilities we are planning as part of our over-all £620,000 project for the church.

"The present heating system is inadequate and ineffective, preventing us from taking advantage of our prime location with 30,000 people passing our doors each week. During the winter, this restricts the way and the time in which we can fulfil our role of serving the community."

The £75,000 appeal will cover the costs of drilling, installing and connecting up the heat pump and the under-floor heating system. The church is offering local companies the chance to sponsor the ground-breaking operation at £100 per metre of drilling. They will also be applying for government grants and the congregation has started its own fund-raising.

Contact Peter at [peterjcarroll2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peterjcarroll2000@yahoo.co.uk) or ring 01603 617697 or visit [www.ststephensnorwich.org.uk/future.html](http://www.ststephensnorwich.org.uk/future.html)



# First Sundays with the Salvation Army



## Christmas 2008 Advance notice

**Sunday 7th December:**  
"Christmas Joy" featuring Salvation Army Band

**Sunday 14th December:**  
"Carols by candlelight" featuring S.A. Songsters

**Sunday 21st December:**  
Salvation Army Community Carol Service featuring all Salvation Army musical expressions.

Tickets available from mid October.

## Sunday October 5th 6.00pm "First Sunday" event

**Special Speaker: Dr. Ian Manifold.**  
Consultant Cancer Specialist from Sheffield  
**Theme:** "The hitchhikers guide to mountains & hills"  
Followed by Q & A and refreshments.



## Sunday 2nd November 6.00pm "First Sunday event"

**Special Speaker: Cyrille Regis MBE**  
Cyrille was the first black footballer to play for England.

He will speak about his football career and how he became a Christian following the death of teammate and fellow England international Laurie Cunningham.

He will also give us an account of the wonder goal he scored against Norwich City.

Followed by Q & A and refreshments.

For further information on all events contact [alisongibson@norwichcitadel.org.uk](mailto:alisongibson@norwichcitadel.org.uk), ring 01603 620747 or visit [www.norwichcitadel.org.uk](http://www.norwichcitadel.org.uk)



The Salvation Army  
34 St Giles Street,  
Norwich

**Watch out for next year's First Sunday special guests including Paul (Manfred Mann) & Fiona Jones; Syd Little (Little & Large) and Jimmy Cricket**



## NEWS

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

# Men stand united

**J**ohn Lind, a former business man and Norfolk publican, is the key person behind a new Norwich initiative 'to empower men for the needs of daily life'.

The initiative, called MenUnited, is catching on as Christian groups elsewhere in the UK welcome the diverse programme of events which range from ten-pin bowling nights and outdoor sports events to power breakfasts and inspirational retreats.

Earlier this year, 170 men from all walks of life met for an inaugural dinner at Drayton Hall, near Norwich, to hear Paul Scanlon, one of Britain's top Christian communicators and senior pastor of the 3,000-strong Abundant Life Church in Bradford.

"Because there are already plenty of women-related events in churches, MenUnited seeks redress the balance of events for men – whether they are churchgoers or not," says John Lind.

By MIKE WILTSHIRE

The initiative was born when leaders of Norwich Family Life Church (NFLC) met to brainstorm ideas to re-launch a men's programme that would have broad appeal. They wanted a project that would complement - but not cut across – other initiatives in the region.

Hosting the planning meeting was Graham Dacre, well-known businessman and Christian philanthropist. Graham's wife, Julie, casually mentioned Men United – and this triggered the idea of 'MenUnited' for the new group's name.

Graham Dacre has paid a warm tribute to John Lind for "the huge amount of work" in launching MenUnited in Norwich.

As the idea has caught on, Graham Dacre has, for example, spoken at a well-

attended MenUnited breakfast for young business men in Bath, Somerset. This event was sponsored by the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship which has local chapters across the UK.

John Lind, born in New Zealand, came to the UK on holiday in 1977 and liked it so much he decided to stay. He became managing director of a thriving motor company in London, but in a big career change moved to Norfolk in 1989 when he and his wife, Sara, ran a pub in South Walsham.

John and Sara are the parents of two sons and two daughters.

Later this year, MenUnited is taking a large group to the popular 'XCEL' national men's conference in Bradford's Abundant Life Church, (November 21-22). All men are welcome.

For details of this and other events, contact John Lind at 5, Burlingham Road, South Walsham, NR13 6DJ or on 01603 270079.



John and Sarah Lind.

# Steve learns lessons the hard way

Baptist minister **Steve Chalke** is a world record holder, UN special advisor, head of Oasis Trust, Academy provider, church leader, TV presenter and controversial author. But he found time to give an exclusive interview to **Network Norwich** when he was in Norwich recently promoting his new book **Change Agents**. **Keith Morris** reports.

■ It is difficult to know where to start when interviewing Steve Chalke as there are so many subjects he is the master of.

He is no stranger to Norwich and was a regular visitor when working for Anglia TV making a series of regional TV shows and standing in on the ITV morning chat show *The Time, The Place*.

He also opened the Catton Grove community hub hall, where Oak Grove Chapel now meet, last year and was there again earlier this year speaking to church leaders about his book *Change Agents: 25 hard-learned lessons in the art of getting things done*.

Steve could certainly be described as a Change Agent and the book is full of strategic management lessons for church, or any other sort of leader, written in an easy popular style.

The lessons are ones that Steve has learned the hard way over the last four years and a half years since he was invited to take on Christ Church and Upton Chapel in London. The church has an illustrious history and was known as The Nonconformist Cathedral with a one-time congregation of 2500 people and speakers such as William Wilberforce and Roland Hill.

But when Steve took it on, it had a congregation of just 20 and was open for one single hour each week. Today, the church is called church.co.uk, with a very successful coffee bar and a real community focus and an aim to be open 24-hours a day.

The congregation now numbers around 400 and some of the lessons Steve has learnt so far include: "you can't be everyone's best mate", "vision and frustration are the same things", "people follow people not disembodied principles" and "you can't do what you can't imagine".

Steve is probably best known for leading the Christian Oasis Trust which now works on five continents and in 10 countries around the world, to deliver housing, education, training, youth work and healthcare.

In Britain, Oasis is the second largest provider of the new government educational academies with three open and ten being built.

Steve said he had spoken to Norwich Open Academy sponsor Graham Dacre about academies, when they met at a government event. He strongly believes that Christians should be involved in running



Steve Chalke while in Norwich.

academies but, he said: "We need to remember that we are being trusted with public money to provide education not indoctrination." A sentiment with which Graham, and his co-sponsor the Bishop of Norwich, certainly agree.

"We enjoy a good relationship with the local authorities with which we work," said Steve. "Every one of them has invited us back to build another academy and Oasis has just been approved by the Government to build up to 25 academies

"Our schools are inclusive, we do not select by faith and accept people of all faiths or no faith, nor do we select by ability.

We teach the National Curriculum. Our schools are community ones and we provide a huge array of youth clubs, health services, community cafes and community centres alongside them.

"I think that the Academies scheme is a fantastic one and brings opportunities where there were none before. Our schools were empty before and now they are full, staff turnover was high now it is low, attainment levels were low but now they are above the national average and the youngsters are passing exams. They have become schools of first choice not last choice. It is a huge responsibility and we

must be accountable for what we deliver."

Steve is also leading the way in the campaign against human trafficking. As chairman of the Stop The Traffik coalition, Steve has now been made United Nations Special Advisor on Community Action against Human Trafficking.

"Stop the Traffik is a coalition of 1000 organisations across 52 countries," said Steve. "We presented a petition of 1.5 million people to the UN calling for victims of trafficking to be protected, trafficking to be prevented and the traffickers to be prosecuted. I delivered the petition before 192 nations at the UN itself.

"Five jumbo jet loads of people go missing every day across the world, 80% are female and 50% are children. It is the fastest rising crime in the world and is bigger than drugs. The profits from people trafficking are bigger than those of Microsoft and twice that of Coca Cola.

"People are trafficked for sex, domestic service, for body parts such as livers, kidneys and hearts and even for human sacrifice. And it is even happening in Britain: a few years ago the torso of an African boy was found in the River Thames with no arms or legs," said Steve.

Steve is no stranger to controversy and his 2003 book, *The Lost Message of Jesus*, provoked considerable debate and opposition within evangelical Christian circles because of his rejection of a conventional evangelical theological understanding of the atonement, known as penal substitution.

But Steve does not regret writing the book and says: "I have no regrets as it is what I believe; it is good theology. It has also opened up enormous opportunities and the chance to speak at churches all over the world. I am glad that the church is debating this important issue.

"What we believe about God and what happened on the cross is fundamental to what we believe about our mission in the world. I believe that the cross was the act of a loving God not an angry God.

"What we believe is fundamentally important to the way we behave and reach out and the role we take in society. The Christian faith is an invitation to participate in life before death.

"I am really pleased to have written about it. I would just ask people to read the book and find out what I actually said before coming to a judgement."



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

# Norfolk Christian authors go into print

■ **Gary Moore**, Norwich taxi-driver and YMCA Norfolk furniture project worker, has always had a sense of adventure. At the age of 8 he ran away from home, heading for Africa. His mum caught up with him at the bus stop.

His thirst for foreign shores has never left him though and after a troubled youth, he joined the Royal Military Police and then the French Foreign Legion. Neither worked out and Gary headed for home, ending up in the Norwich YMCA, where his biggest adventure yet began when he met a whole bunch of Christians.

A thrilling true life account of how one man's life was turned around by an encounter with God.

**Gary's Story** by **Gary W Moore**, published by Kingdom Come Publishing, is



## book reviews

available at £7 from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) or contact Gary at [garymoore1961@hotmail.com](mailto:garymoore1961@hotmail.com)

■ Retired Norfolk minister **Martin Down** argues that the Old Testament is a book entirely about Jesus and describes the centuries-long process of God's preparation for the coming of his Son to earth.

He takes a very careful look at the relationship between the Old Testament and the news. Also, the difference Jesus makes to our understanding of the Old Testament and how Christians should read the Old in the light of the New.

He goes on to look at the difficult question of the relationship of Israel and the Church to help us define the nature of the Church as a distinct community from the Israel of old as well as from the natural communities to which we belong.

**The New Jerusalem: Israel, the Church**

and the Nation By **Martin Down**

Published by Vineyard International Publishing and distributed by Kingsway.

■ Norwich author, presenter and motivational speaker **Dr John Clements** aims to help his readers find personal peace in a world full of stress and anxiety and the answer is free.

Through a series of short meditations, designed to remind us of some of the fundamental bases of calmness in daily living, John offers some useful pointers on the way to a more peaceful life.

In his foreword, the Bishop of Norwich says this is a simple book which draws its inspiration from one of the simplest and wisest teachers the world has ever known, Jesus.

**How to get what money can't buy: personal peace in a world of unrest**, by **Dr John Clements**. Published by LifeWise Press at £12.95. Readers of GNFN can order the book post-free from Dr Clements on 01603 436658 or [john@lifewisecoaching.org](mailto:john@lifewisecoaching.org)

Reviews by **Keith Morris**

## Action group appoints Karen

■ The Norfolk branch of Christian action group on marriage, Explore, has appointed a new co-ordinator, launched a new DVD, organised a fundraising meal and is looking for volunteers.

Explore provides opportunities for students, and young offenders, to consider their own thoughts and feelings about marriage and relationships, and to explore the issues that particularly concern them.

Karen Nice (pictured right) has been appointed as the new local co-ordinator. Karen moved to Norwich from Glasgow in 1991 at the age of 16. She has worked in retail management, customer services and as a teaching assistant. She is married to a church leader at Meadow Way Chapel in Hellesdon, where she is involved in the music and worship team and the youth and children's work.

Karen said: "My job involves me liaising with local high schools to set up Explore events and then bringing in volunteer couples and adviser coaches to participate in these events. I also look after the administration for the Norfolk local community action group."

Karen is on the lookout for more people to volunteer as adviser coaches and couples at events looking at marriage and relationships.

Contact Karen on 01603 470731 or at [explorenorfolk@ntlworld.com](mailto:explorenorfolk@ntlworld.com)



The European-wide Eurochor

# Massed choir set for Norwich

A choir made up of 300 young Christians from across mainland Europe is set to play two dates in Norfolk.

The 'Eurochor' is an international choir of enthusiastic young Christians. About 300 voices between the ages of 16 and 35 form this dynamic choir, with most of the members coming from Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Their repertoire of songs includes musical understanding as well as the colourful and captivating arrangements of the various rich European languages. During the choir's 2004 tour of South Africa they even included a Zulu song, much to the delight of local audiences.

The choir was formed in 1999 at an international Christian Youth Conference and is under the leadership of the musicians Marc Remond and Daniel Kalisky. The international coordinator is Michel Hege from France.

About 120 members of the choir, (with orchestra) will be visiting East Anglia at the end of October. They will be performing at 7.30pm on Friday October 31 at Norwich Central Baptist Church, and also at Cromer Church at a date still to be fixed.

Entrance to all performances is free of charge. For further details ring 01263577646 after 6pm or e-mail [peter.wrighton@virgin.net](mailto:peter.wrighton@virgin.net) [www.eurochor.com](http://www.eurochor.com)

## events in brief

### Matthew Project's real life stories

■ Real Lives, the stories of service users of Norwich's Christian Matthew Project told through poetry, art and story, will be the theme of the charity's annual meeting on Monday October 13.

The event starts at 6pm at St Luke's Church, Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2HF and is preceded by the AGM at 5.30pm and tea and coffee at 5.45pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all parts of the event. If you know if are attending, please let organisers know by e-mailing [agm@matthewproject.org](mailto:agm@matthewproject.org)



### Big questions of life

■ Explore the big questions of life and find out about the Christian faith at Norwich Central Baptist Church on Duke Street.

The 10-week Christianity Explored course is happening every Thursday, 7-9pm, starting on October 9.

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

The course is free of charge and is open to all. To reserve your place – or for more information email [office@norwichcentral.org](mailto:office@norwichcentral.org) or ring 01603 760497.

### Last rock in Norwich

■ The East Anglia premier of Roger Jones' musical 'Rock' will be produced on Saturday March 28, 2009 at the Salvation Army Citadel, St Giles Street, Norwich.

This is not only Roger's latest musical but also his last. If you would like to be part of the choir for the musical – based on the life of Peter the Rock – or require further information, then contact Jenny Osborne on 01603 867692.

The first rehearsal will be with Peter Winter at 3pm Sunday January 11, at Meadow Way Chapel, Hellesdon.

### An Angel's delight

■ An Angel's Delight is the latest Christmas production by the Saltmine Theatre Company, by David Robinson, and a sequel to his hilarious Christmas comedy, 'Three Wise Men and a Baby'.

It will be performed on Saturday January, 3 at Norwich Central Baptist Church at 7pm.

For more information contact Peter or Wendy Barnes at 113041.1117@talktalk.net or on 01603 743786.

### Series of concerts

■ St George's Catholic Church, 223 Sprowston Road is holding a series of concerts to show off its new three manual Rodgers Digital Organ.

The inaugural concert is on Saturday October 4 at 7.30pm starring David Dunnett, the well-known organist at Norwich Cathedral.

The entry price is £10 which includes refreshments at the interval. The other concerts follow on the October 11, 18 and 26, all at 7.30pm, pay at the door, £6. All are welcome.

For more details contact Paul Allen on 01603 423518.

### Bonhoeffer is subject

■ A talk by Canon Gordon Dodson on 'Dietrich Bonhoeffer' is the subject for the next meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship.

The meeting takes place on Thursday, October 16 (2.15 – 4.30pm) at St Andrews Church, Eaton, Norwich.

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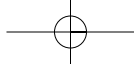
## network:norwich



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

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




**NEWS**

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

# From postie to toastie

By GAIL HALLEY

**N**orwich Royal Mail postie, Bob Lloyd, has now become a professional toastie, after putting down his church worship guitar in favour of a gavel.

When Bob stepped in at short notice to MC a friend's 50th birthday party last year, he had no idea where it was going to lead. "Thank you," said the friend. "You do that sort of thing very well, don't you?" Modestly, he agreed! This was the nudge that Bob needed to take him a step closer to becoming a professional toastmaster.

Since becoming a Christian and subsequently learning the guitar in the 1970s, Bob has organised and been part of many events including wedding receptions and other celebrations. For 19 years he worked as a baker which included making and decorating wedding cakes. However, when Bob and his family returned to Norwich over 20 years ago after a year at Bible College, he joined the Royal Mail where he has worked ever since in various different roles.

In recent years, Bob had begun to feel restless, and confessed to his pastor, Richard George, that he no longer had the vision to lead worship at Cornerstone Church, which he had been doing since the church began in 2005.

When he shared his toastmaster dream with Richard, the reply was, "If you don't do this, you'll die." So Bob realised the time had come: "to lay down my guitar and pick up my gavel".

**Bob Lloyd who is now a professional toastmaster**

*Picture courtesy of EDP*



Bob went ahead and enrolled on a Professional Toastmaster course which was run at Park Farm, Hethersett in April. It was incredibly hard work, with a lot of theory as well as the hands-on part, he said.

After the course, Bob set about marketing himself and the work is now coming in and he loves it!

"As I have stepped out in obedience," said Bob, "the Lord has opened doors, and my heart for worship has been revitalised". He hasn't given up the day job, which is actually a night job, yet and continues to juggle two careers, but the future looks promising. As Bob says, "Every couple whose wedding I do get prayed for".

**weblink:** [www.toastmasterbob.co.uk](http://www.toastmasterbob.co.uk)

## Archdeacon Jan is a first

■ The Bishop of Norwich has announced the appointment of the first female archdeacon ever to be appointed to the Diocese of Norwich.

The Revd Jan McFarlane, 43, currently Director of Communications and Bishop's Chaplain in the Diocese, is to be the next Archdeacon of Norwich, while continuing her communications role.

Jan will become the most senior female appointment ever in the Norwich Diocese and succeeds the Venerable Clifford Offer, who retired from full-time ministry at the beginning of August.

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James, said, "Jan is exceptionally able and has had a high profile in

Norwich and the wider diocese over the past eight years. She is much appreciated for her work with parishes and through the local media and her new role as Archdeacon will enable this to develop further. She will be the first female priest to take up such a senior position in this diocese and I'm sure she will be a great support to clergy and lay people alike."

Jan said, "I am honoured to accept the invitation to be the next Archdeacon of Norwich. Norwich is a vibrant and friendly city and I'm delighted that I will be able to continue to serve the clergy and the people of the diocese in such a challenging and yet exciting new role."



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