

# Releasing Dreams & Visions

God at work across Norwich and Norfolk



dreams  
& visions





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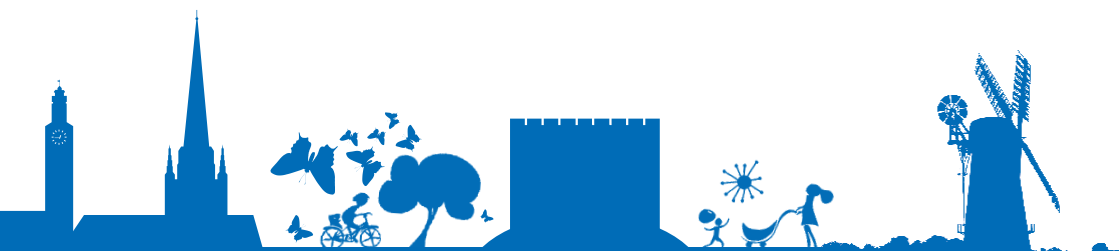
Danny, Joanne, Matt and Steph all had a dream or a vision that they believed God had given to them to make a difference in their communities. They shared their ideas with *Dreams & Visions* which aims to encourage service and unity in Norwich and Norfolk. It is particularly intended to release and support Christians, from all denominations, who see how things might be different and who want to work with others to turn these dreams into reality for their community. Here are just a few of the stories that have resulted from this over the past five years.



*Some names have been changed to protect the identity of individuals, and some photos are posed by models.*

Edited by Barbara Bryant

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# Song of Joy

The Besom helps people make a difference. It provides a bridge between those who want to give time, money, things or skills and those who are in need. The service is free and in Norwich, Besom works with members of many local churches.



Besom was helped to purchase a van rather than having to hire one for deliveries. Now the van can often be seen around Norwich delivering high quality items given by Christians to people in need in our city. One volunteer describes a delivery:

“One Saturday morning Kevin and I delivered a three piece suite to an African family in West Norwich. The sofa was a three-seater, about six foot long and we wondered if it would be possible to squeeze it through the front door of the house, especially since we then had to turn at right angles into the lounge. We prayed, as usual, in the van beforehand, especially asking for God’s help. We took the sofa first but got stuck in their small square hall and for a while couldn’t go in any direction!

“So often on Besom deliveries things work out perfectly, but here was a situation where it seemed we would have to struggle to take the sofa back out to the van. Just then however a couple of inches amazingly appeared from somewhere and we were able to slowly ease the sofa into the lounge. Would the matching chairs also fit in their small lounge? Yes, and now instead of the two old seats they had before, there was seating for all the family!

“The three children were excited and happy that they could all manage to sit together on the sofa. As we made our way down the garden path we heard the children singing an African song of joy. In the van on the way back Kevin and I rejoiced at their thankfulness and wondered how on earth we managed to get that sofa into their lounge!”



Read more at:

[www.besom.com/local-besoms/norwich](http://www.besom.com/local-besoms/norwich)



# Choosing Jesus!

Kidz Klub Mid Norfolk started with a vision to give kids outside the church environment the “chance to choose Jesus”. A monthly Saturday morning Kidz Klub, fast paced, lively games, action songs and a simple but strong Christian message combined with a home visiting programme started to reach outside their church walls.



Tim says: “We’ve been able to develop God’s vision for Kidz Klub in ways we never dreamt of. Kidz Klub now runs Saturday morning monthly Klubs and visiting programmes in two community areas, works in 14 local schools and for kids who have grown through Kidz Klub, we lead a monthly Friday evening fellowship called “Identity”. We also continue to run two-week long summer holiday Klubs. Both monthly Saturday morning Klubs have a strong young team involvement. This is a great learning and growth environment for them, but also provides fantastic role models for the kids.”

Bethany first came to Kidz Klub aged eight, now 12 she comes back every month as a young team helper and attends “Identity”. After workers got to know Bethany’s family, her Mum was keen to find out more. She has recently completed an Alpha course and now is part of a church group meeting in a home.

During his day job, Tim visited a local home on business. A six-year-old recognised him from school assemblies. Tim asked him what he could remember and he responded:

‘Don’t get mad too quick!’ – a simple Christian message from a couple of months before. “It was not only an encouragement to me, but a witness to the builder and Dad standing by and listening!” says Tim.



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

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# The word made life

Call to Prayer is a group of Christians from different church backgrounds whose desire is to see prayer become more and more at the heart of the church's life so that it will impact our neighbourhoods, regions and the nation. Call to Prayer works to enable, encourage and facilitate prayer.



One of the many activities of Call to Prayer is Bible teaching. Jill Gower runs a weekly teaching day 'Thursdays', which is repeated on Tuesday evenings. Jill has a distinctive way of teaching the Old and New Testaments by presenting the whole Bible as one continuous book.

"Thursdays' has given me the luxury of spending a day a week to understand more of the ways of the Lord through His word," says Rebecca Taylor. "Jill has a special gift of teaching. She gives insight and opens up the Old Testament in a way I have not experienced before. It has been wonderful to discover the way in which it all points to and is fulfilled in our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Stalham Baptist church leaders, Jean and Ron Skivington, say they always find Jill's visits encouraging and inspiring. "Her teaching has always been about bringing people together," said Jean, "as well as inspiring them to pray." Not only have church members found that prayer can be lively and not boring, but also were encouraged to find they were already doing more for the Lord than they'd realised.

Jill says, "The last two years have brought such incredible changes and growth to our ministry. It is at the heart of our ministry to see people released into their gifts and callings and we really are seeing this happen as they read the word with faith and expectancy and learn to hear God for themselves."



To find out about the many different facets of Call to Prayer, visit : [www.call2prayer.co.uk](http://www.call2prayer.co.uk)





# Church without walls

In 2007, God gave a vision to Danny Doran-Smith, of a house with many rooms, and the word of being a 'Church without walls'. This, based on a Bible verse from Zechariah 2:1-5, has brought together people both young and old from a wide range of backgrounds to form the East Norwich Youth Project.



Nine churches from seven denominations partner and support the Project, as well as local schools and other organisations across the east of Norwich. ENYP offers a fresh opportunity to engage with the local community, and to make a small difference in many people's lives.

ENYP now works with around 450 children and young people every week in a range of activities, and has face-to-face contact with over 1,000 children and young people on a weekly basis.

For Danny, now the Project Director, it's been a personal journey too: "It has been a real revelation of God's love and grace to see this project form and grow. I constantly feel honoured and humbled to be trusted with my position in ENYP. I believe God has been working in the supporting churches for many years, as the faithful few prayed into the vision. After almost three years of ENYP, I am still amazed daily at the opportunities opening up and the movement gaining momentum as our reputation spreads.

"I really believe that by listening, learning from each other's experiences and embracing and celebrating diversity, we can create something that is authentic and that will last in the generations to come".



Find out more about ENYP's work at [www.enyp.org.uk](http://www.enyp.org.uk)



# Growing self-esteem on the community farm

Julie has been from foster home to foster home and school to school. She has never lasted more than a few weeks in a placement of housing or education and currently lives in a children's home. She is so used to being rejected that she sabotages any chance of a relationship that she has. Julie was referred to Kadesh – an education project



Project Worker Steve says: “For the first couple of weeks that Julie was with us she was fine, then out of nowhere she started to cause more trouble than any other student we have had. It got to the point where she would do something destructive and then start shouting at us: “If you can’t handle me then kick me out, go on; kick me out!” After quite a lot of shouting and swearing and pushing us to react, we just continued to tell her that no matter what she did, we wouldn’t be kicking her out. We told her that she needed to go home and calm down, but once she was calm again then she was more than welcome to come back.

“That day changed something in Julie. She came in on the Monday acting like a different girl. It is like there is a trust there now. She has gone from being the girl that really made you question if it was all worth it, to the girl that reminds us why we do.”

Fired with a passion to change lives and give young people a hope for the future, Kadesh started in 2007, supported by local churches in South Norfolk, providing a programme of education for students who find mainstream

school difficult for various reasons. The Kadesh Community Farm offers a different dimension for students to learn new skills: they take part in animal care, horticulture, conservation, eco-friendly building projects, as well as learning about business enterprise.



Find out more about Kadesh at [www.kadesheducation.co.uk](http://www.kadesheducation.co.uk)



# From Yarmouth to Kenya with love & puppets...

Ten members of Rafiki's Crew Puppeteers visited Kenya in the aftermath of the post-election riots. There they trained 11 young adults in all the skills they had learnt over the past two years, and put on a joint show in the slums of Kibera for 900 children.



Rafiki founders Karl and Tracey Goffe recount: "The whole project brought everyone together as a family; it was no longer ten people from three churches doing 'a bit' of puppetry, it was all of us working together.

"Kenya really changed the whole team. Not only did they have to learn to work out of their comfort zone, but there was a very different lifestyle and culture which they all rose to amazingly. They also had to learn what was important to them upon their return to the U.K and what they now valued. God had turned up and seriously shook all of us."

Rafiki's Crew Puppeteers started in January 2007, supported by four churches in the Yarmouth and Gorleston area. The team of 13 young people, some from church backgrounds, and others not, have produced numerous events for the local churches and the wider community, including a very adventurous production of Jonah on the Gorleston sea front bandstand.

"Our vision for this work is not only to teach the skills of puppetry, but also to introduce the team to biblical truths in a ways that are both fun but impacting and also for them to experience a wide range of events from simple sketches to full blown musicals," says Tracey.

"We are delighted to say that all our team completed a local Youth Alpha course. Our son made a commitment to Christ in Kenya and was baptised on his birthday in January 2010.

"The way the team now works as a family means we all share in decisions, we all help plan, we laugh and cry together. It really makes you think maybe this is how church should be."



To contact Rafiki's Crew, email: [karl@kgoffe.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:karl@kgoffe.wanadoo.co.uk)





# Whole woman healing and growth

Christine had been through a tough time, and turned to Donna Intera, a counselling and training service, based in Dereham. "They made me feel I had purpose in life," she says. "I realised I was not the only one who has certain issues in today's circumstances. Getting to meet other women who have been through similar difficult experiences made me see it isn't just me.



"The courses are really friendly; I felt relaxed and had a laugh. I have started to unburden and I am getting to the next step – there is light at the end of the tunnel! I am no longer staying in a black hole; a fuzzy mass of self-worthlessness!"

Joanne Robinson founded Donna Intera (an Italian term for 'whole woman') when she felt God wanting her to share her story of how to break free from destructive or abusive relationships. "This became my mission statement: that God wants to make us whole so that we can enjoy whole and healthy relationships."

Joanne's vision is to establish a dedicated counselling, coaching and training service in Dereham for women in Norfolk, which offers empowerment and education. "I work with women who want to build healthier relationships and



those who generally need emotional support or who want to sharpen their communication skills."

Joanne was helped to grow the service out of her own home and set-up an office and workshop space in Dereham. "I was overjoyed! It's given Donna Intera a better community presence," she says. "Situated among other female-targeted businesses and providing discretion for visitors, my rooms offer a safe place for women to gain support individually or in groups."

Find out more at:  
[www.donnaintera.co.uk](http://www.donnaintera.co.uk)



# Dancing to a new tune

“I had always dreamt of running dance classes but thought it would never happen. Then with a small grant, we piloted “Dance Off!” in September 2008, with two classes for children aged four to seven years, and girls aged eight to 18,” says Kate Doran-Smith, ENYP Youth Worker.



“I was amazed at God’s faithfulness, as we began small, with a borrowed stereo and notebook as a register, but by Christmas had two full classes, with 32 students in each and pulled together a uniform, logo and show.

“We quickly grew to four classes and started investing in electrical items and dance props and as our reputation grew, invites started to come in for performances at local churches and public events.

“We now have over 100 students who love to come, learn new skills, meet new friends, perfect technique and master choreography, but we also believe we are working to increase their social skills such as confidence, self-esteem, patience, discipline and commitment.



The reputation of Dance Off! has grown with sessions and workshops now being delivered on a weekly basis to East Norwich schools. Dancers have performed at Norwich Cathedral as the warm-up act for ‘thebandwithoname’, and have taken part in the Lord Mayor’s procession.

Kate continues: “At ENYP we believe in bringing young people into roles of responsibility and leadership, so at ‘Dance Off!’ we now have a team who volunteer and help with the younger age groups. Jo, aged 16, attended a public council meeting with me last month to try and gain some funding. She even spoke on the stage with me, it was such a pleasure and a honour to stand alongside her as she spoke with maturity and admitted that “I can’t believe I am doing this, I would never have had the guts six months ago!””

To read more about Dance Off! see [www.enyp.org.uk](http://www.enyp.org.uk) or to contact Kate: [dance@enyp.org.uk](mailto:dance@enyp.org.uk)

# Standing together encouraging people

Theresa, Sarah and other STEP volunteers, all have a God-given heart and call to work with vulnerable and exploited women in Norwich.

“We are all born with huge potential to have fulfilling lives and good relationships,” says Sarah. “Sadly, however, many women grow up in environments where they are undervalued and exploited. This can cause lasting damage to their self-esteem and ability to lead a “normal” life. Many look to alcohol, drugs and relationships to find the security they yearn for. This in turn can cause more damage and will often become a vicious circle from which they find it difficult to escape.”

S.T.E.P. stands for Standing Together Encouraging People. Supported by volunteers from several different churches “we attempt to provide a safe and secure environment where vulnerable women can heal and regain their confidence by learning to trust us and one another. We visit women in their homes, have meals together, hold groups where people can share safely and a weekly Bible study for those who wish to join in. We have had some wonderful days out for women and their families and we offer advocacy and support for those going through crisis situations.”

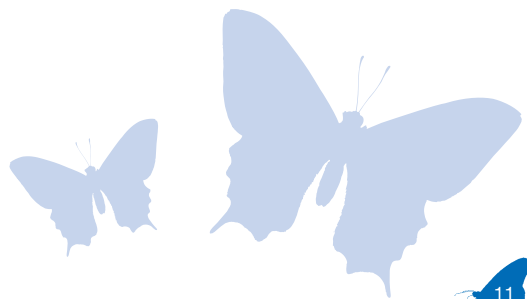
Joanna has moved from being helped to being a helper: “I am humbled to part of the team and to be a “mum” to some of our women. Having been there, done that and



worn the T-shirt, I am now able to help others along life’s path and this means so much to me. Treat others as you would like to be treated and you won’t go far wrong in life – it’s great to see our ladies doing that for each other – showing respect, love and support. What a wonderful calling I have. God is awesome!”



To find out more: call Community Action Norwich **01603 617771** or email [communityaction@virgin.net](mailto:communityaction@virgin.net)



# Meeting Christ in Costa Coffee...



Every week up to 30 young people turn up at the “Exploration Station” at Costa Coffee in Diss. This ten-week “Alpha”- type course is run by youth organisation Integrate YFC.

Offering a relaxed atmosphere, the sessions follow a similar pattern each week, starting with half an hour to get drinks or snacks and chill out with friends and youth leaders. A short up-front section with a roving mike, a chance to see video footage from the previous week, and a brief talk follows.

The final half hour encourages the young people to respond to the subject at different ‘stations’. Steph Richardson of Integrate explains:

“There is the ‘Booth of Truth’ where they are videoed giving answers to various questions relating to the topic (some more serious than others!) to be shown the following week. They can visit ‘Speakers Corner’ if they have questions for the speaker; have random conversations designed to make them think at the ‘Conversation Station’, or post deep and meaningful questions (or not!) in the ‘Brain Box’ – a selection of which are then answered at the beginning of the next session by a different ‘Brain’ each week. Finally the ‘Creation Station’ is for those who want to respond more creatively, with activities such as graffiti walls, play dough, scratch art and newspaper collage.



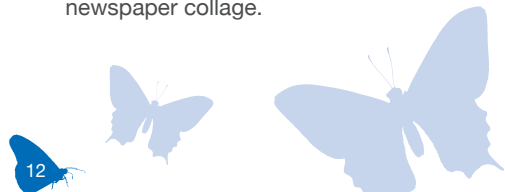
“We’ve been impressed with how attentive the young people are and the depth of some of the questions they are asking. The success of the event is also partly due to the number of youth volunteers who are helping to run the sessions.”

Volunteer Eliza, 18 years, says: “I’ve enjoyed being involved in leading some of the different stations at the sessions and the informal setting has made it easier to talk to people about my faith.”

“Exploration Station is really great fun to help out at,” adds Katy, another young volunteer. “The atmosphere is so lively, and everyone’s so good at including each other that 7pm rolls right around almost before we’ve begun. I’ve learnt a lot more than I thought I would.”



Read more at: [www.integrateyfc.org.uk](http://www.integrateyfc.org.uk)





# Making a difference on the streets

Derek lost his mother at a young age, ran away from care and became homeless in his very early teens. Although he now has a home, he particularly dislikes being alone, and is prone to hang out with people of poor influence rather than not hang out with anyone at all.



Sometimes he has allowed others to take advantage and take over his flat while he sleeps rough, or sofa-surfs to avoid being there with them. Derek feels he owes them for past help, but their influence has led to petty crimes. Sometimes these have been influenced by alcohol, drug use or desperation to change his situation – feeling that prison would at least mean a change to having to cope with life as it is at the time.

Derek is just one of the people Street Pastors have built up quite a friendship with over a long period of time.

“We provide a listening ear for him to air his problems, provide moral support at court hearings, encourage him to keep up with probation requirements and various appointments, and seek advice from other agencies to help him,” explains Street Pastors’ Paul Rendell.

“Derek’s situation is gradually improving. He’s also been encouraging and supportive of us, vouching for us with his peers, enabling us to be in a trusted position to help them. More recently he has been attending Alpha meetings and asking various faith related questions of several Street Pastors. We hope to have the privilege to help him further.”

Norwich Street Pastors work in teams of four from 10pm to around 3.30am on Fridays and Saturdays in Central Norwich and regularly in Dereham, Great Yarmouth, East and South Norwich offering care, concern and a listening ear to anyone in need. They work on the street, visit nightclubs and work in partnership with the club staff, the Police, ambulance and the SOS bus. They are supported by Prayer Pastors back at base.



To read more, visit:  
[norwich@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:norwich@streetpastors.org.uk)

# God's love reaching young people on the East coast

“Imagine being in a room with someone who stands about six feet away from you and just starts to dance. Imagine if that dancing really wasn't very good but you knew this person was trying their utmost to impress you. You have to take it seriously, don't you?”

“This is the scenario that faced Unite youth worker, Paul, during a youth club one evening. When Dan eventually stopped dancing he looked at Paul nervously, who quickly told him how great the dance was. Dan produced the biggest grin known to man. He said that he really enjoys dancing but people only ever laugh at him, that no one had ever said he was good at it before. He then said that he loved coming to this youth club because he saw Paul as a brother. The incident lasted less than five minutes, but it paved the way for many more in-depth conversations and has allowed Paul to play an important part in the life of this young person.”

This story is not a big one, no lives were saved, it's not even that exciting, but Director Matt Gooch wants to share it because it is real and it was significant, and it's the type of story that Unite believes can and should be being replicated across many churches and community groups across the east of Norfolk.

“Unite started up about three years ago with the vision of reaching every young person in the East of Norfolk with the love of God,” says Matt. “All our work is either done in



partnership with or to benefit the local church. We are involved in many different types of projects ranging from youth clubs to schools work, and from cafés to gig nights, all of this with the aim of encouraging a stronger relationship between local Christians and local young people, to allow the love of God to be demonstrated.

“When we reflect on stories such as Dan and Paul, we realise, all we need to do is show this love that we already have to young people.”



For more stories like this, see: [www.unitenorfolk.co.uk](http://www.unitenorfolk.co.uk)



# dreams &visions

is keen to release other people across Norfolk and Norwich to realise the dreams or visions God has given them. We are also keen to share these stories as widely as possible.

Network Norwich & Norfolk is an extremely popular website that is supported by *Dreams & Visions* and is constantly communicating these good news stories to the Christian community and beyond.

Please take a look at [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk) for more about the stories in this booklet and many more, plus news and views from the Christian community across the county.

God is making a big difference in Norfolk through His people – read all about it!



*“To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:12-13



# dreams & visions

To find out more about *Dreams & Visions* please visit our website at: [www.networknorwich.co.uk/dreamsandvisions](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk/dreamsandvisions)

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