

# GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK

Easter 2011: FREE

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## Texan pastor wears his heart on his sleeve

■ Texan pastor Chris Lee, who has just crossed the Atlantic with his family to help lead the Today's Lifestyle Church (tlc) in Norwich, is a man who quite literally wears his heart on his sleeve

The motorcycle-riding, Mohican-wearing, former US soldier has a number of tattoos on his body which, as well as proclaiming his love for his wife Sabrina and daughters Ana (aged 8) and Trinity (2), also declare him as a DOC – disciple of Christ. But the tattoos which draw most attention are the two on his forearms.

On his right arm Chris has a tattoo of the Green word sozo, which means "saved" and on

the left the Greek word for "to be filled", as in Acts 2 v 4.

"People ask me - do you wear your faith on your sleeve? Well absolutely I do," says Chris. "I want people to ask about my tattoos. People ask me what the ones on my arms mean and I say to them. I will tell you, then I will ask you a question - do you want to be what they mean - to be saved and to be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Chris and Sabrina

have recently arrived in Norwich where Chris is the new church family pastor at the Drayton Hall-based tlc, invited over by senior church pastor, and well-known local businessman, Graham Dacre.

■ *Story continues on page 8*



# Church is vital to Big Society vision

**T**he social landscape of Norwich and Norfolk would be changed immediately and much of society would begin to unravel if Christians were removed from the picture, the Bishop of Norwich asserted at a Norwich Diocesan Synod speech about the Big Society on March 12.

During the speech at St Luke's Church Centre on Aylsham Road in New Catton, the Rt Rev Graham James spoke of the importance of the church in society.

"It has often been said that the Church is already engaged in making the Big Society. So it is. Remove the Christians from Norwich, Norfolk and those parts of Suffolk in our diocese, and the social landscape would be changed immediately.

"It is not just the places of worship that would disappear. Faith based social organisations would go. Take away the SOS Bus, the Street Pastors, the Magdalene

By KEITH MORRIS

Group, the Matthew Project, YMCA, Pregnancy Choices and a host of other Christian agencies, and our society would shrink.

"Take away the fellowship in our churches, the luncheon clubs, the youth work, the support groups for the elderly and the bereaved - the unravelling of society would be very big indeed.

"So I am not cynical about the Big Society. We need to think big. I am glad there's a concept about how we live together which isn't simply related to the deficit our nation faces. Overall Government debt has now reached £1 trillion in the United Kingdom. It is equivalent to a debt of £40,000 for every household in this nation. Put like that it scarcely seems containable. However, in responding to it, as our Government has to do, there are some important points to

make," asserted Bishop Graham.

"The first is that the vision of the Big Society in the Big Book we know as the Bible is one in which the weak and vulnerable are protected. The people of Israel are commanded by God to care for the widows and orphans, those without family support, those with no economic power, those who are bereaved, grief stricken and poor.

"Equally in the teaching of Jesus

in the Sermon on the Mount it is the poor who are blessed, and the meek and those who mourn who receive God's benediction. The first Christians cared as brothers and sisters for those cast aside by the societies of their day. It was one of the reasons the Church grew.

"Such a big vision of humanity should inform the Big Society. The unique worth of every human person is cast aside at our peril. It happened in Germany in the

■ *Story continues on page 4*

## Writer Yancey to visit Norwich

■ **NORWICH:** Inspirational Christian writer Philip Yancey will be speaking at a Norwich church on May 18 as part of his nationwide tour which also features the Saltmine Theatre Company.

Flame Trust is hosting Seasons of the Soul; An evening with Philip Yancey at the King's Centre in Norwich and tickets are now on sale.

Philip Yancey has been described as the most popular inspirational writer of our time. With over fifteen million books sold worldwide, he now ranks as one of the most respected authors of the 21st Century.

His latest work What Good is God promises to be another bestseller, and its content will feature in the programme for the evening.

Yancey is touring the country at several venues from Exeter to Glasgow and the event in Norwich takes place on Wednesday May 18 at 7.30pm.

This tour will present an insight into Philip's writings in an innovative way. With creative input from the Saltmine Theatre Company, the presentation will examine Philip's commitment and insights into current issues in an evening hosted by Dave Pope, CEO of Flame Trust.

Tickets ( £8 or £9 on the door) from Norwich Christian Resource Centre, or 01603 619731 or at [www.saltminetrust.org.uk](http://www.saltminetrust.org.uk)

## Good Friday walk

■ **NORWICH:** Transforming Norwich is inviting churches from across the city to join it on a Good Friday silent 'Walk of Reconciliation' across the city centre followed by a service in the Anglican Cathedral.

Transforming Norwich Administrator, Clare Ingamells, said: "Transforming Norwich has organised the walk and feels that the 'Walk of Reconciliation' is still needed and valid as we explore how to work together as churches in Norwich. Surely it was on the cross that Jesus not only enabled us to be reconciled with the God but also with each other."

The walk will proceed in silence and part of the passion will be read from the KJV Bible at the Forum beside the cross.

Clare said: "We are hoping this year to have even more churches represented. We hope that people will come and join us as a sign of increasing reconciliation with each other as we work together as the body of Christ in the city."

The Walk will take place on Good Friday, April 22. Meeting at Chapelfield Road Methodist Church at 5pm, the walk will proceed via the Forum to the Cathedral for a special service at 6pm.

## Graeme's new role

■ **NORWICH-based** Christian charity, the Matthew Project has appointed Graeme Stewart as its new Assistant Director to develop its long term business plans and create new partnerships for future developments.

Graeme, has worked for The Matthew Project for over seven years in various managerial positions, including his current role as Under18 Service Manager.

Graeme said: "I am delighted to have been offered this role and view it as both a privilege and a challenge. I hope to build on the current strengths of the project and be part of the preparations that will enable The Matthew Project to continue making a difference to people affected by substances in the future."



# GOOD NEWS

**FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK**

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■ Churches, Christian organisations and individuals from within Norwich and Norfolk are invited to send news, events and pictures which relate 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 Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk edition is Friday April 22. It will be available for distribution from Friday May 13.

■ 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.

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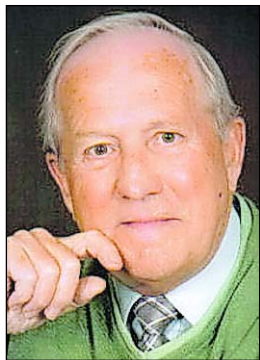
# Is Easter a holiday or a holy day?

■ Easter is a very important celebration and festival which is full of meaning. In fact, our life and our eternal future depends on our understanding and acceptance of what took place during those days in the past. For we must face up to why Jesus came, and what He did.

In this Easter festival we could meet God face-to-face, because he has given us the gift of His Son as our Saviour and the gift of Salvation.

So let us follow the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ as He travels along the path we call the way of the Cross. He is God's only begotten Son, who is the only one who is sinless, and challenges the whole of mankind to find any sin in Him.

If we look more closely into His life, we find it to be one of miraculous acts, including raising people from the dead. He is unique and sets out to do the will of his Father - which is to die for us to pardon and to cleanse us from all of our sins. He is God's sacrifice for sin and this satisfies all the demands of a Holy God. By



**Donald Threadgold is a retired missionary in Brazil who also help start a church community amongst Portuguese speakers in Norfolk.**

this act we can now be redeemed and saved.

In His death we see that He was as dead as those in our graveyards. A stone was laid against the tomb; and sealed, without there being any expectation of it ever being opened. It was also guarded by soldiers, but it was moved by an earthquake and angels, and the soldiers gave witness to Him being alive!

The Easter story reveals six miracles: 1. Darkness fell over the land during the daytime while Jesus hung on the cross. 2. The veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom as He died. 3. When He arose from the dead the grave-clothes were unmoved and yet His head covering was folded and placed on a ledge. 4. The graves of the saints in Jerusalem were opened and they came out alive and appeared to many in the city. 5. The stone was moved miraculously, and the tomb lay open for all to see that He was not there but had risen from the dead. 6. He was able to appear to many and pass through doors and walls and even ate with the disciples. He then appeared for 40 days and the scripture reveals 13 separate appearances.

All of this is a powerful witness of God Himself to each of us. These are facts which require action on our part and an acceptance that this is not just a holiday but a special time to receive Jesus into our lives. May we rejoice in our shared faith.

# House of Prayer opens its doors in Norwich

By KEITH MORRIS

**A** House of Prayer was officially opened in Norwich on February 2 at the Fishergate Centre as the culmination of 18 months of prayer and effort.

An audience of around 70 church leaders and supporters of Call to Prayer, which is the organization behind the Centre, heard from director Jill Gower and Jane Holloway, from the World Prayer Centre in Birmingham.

Jill said: "More than anything else we wanted this place to be somewhere where God would come and inhabit our praises – where people would just come in and sense his presence through our constant prayer, constant worship and constant seeking him.

"We believe that as we do that, we can change the atmosphere over the city and county as we stand together with churches, ministries and the body of Christ. We will see things change in the spiritual dimension.

"For the past 18 months we have been praying for this and during that time there were moments when we had to question whether it was right. But once you have seen it in the spirit you cannot unsee it – and I saw what we would be doing here with the prayer stations, the 24/7 prayer, people gathering here and God has been so faithful," said Jill.

"The purpose of the centre is just to see the body of Christ come together in a place to pray and seek him and stand and work with him. We are not independent, we are very much linking in with what God is doing in the churches and ministries in the area."

Addressing the audience, Jane Holloway, from the World Prayer Centre, said: "This is a momentous day of real significance and the



**Jill Gower and Jane Holloway at the opening of the Norwich House of Prayer at Fishergate.**

culmination of an 18-month vision.

"There are now over 50 difference expressions of Houses of Prayer in the country and one is opening every couple of weeks in private homes or public buildings. They are all becoming key to what God is doing in this nation."

Jane said that two images had come to mind when she thought about the Norwich House of Prayer: "The first image is one of a well - a place to give and receive blessing and for people to come to be refreshed and to unblock the wells of salvation. People will be drawn by the spirituality of the Fishergate Centre which has built up over the past centuries," said Jane.

"The second image is one of fire – giving light to illuminate his bride, warmth and a refining fire, burning up the dross to leave

pure gold. Fire can also burn the old away and leave room for new seeds to germinate," she said.

"Prayer is exploding everywhere in towns, cities and villages," said Jane. "When people start to pray and demonstrate their unity, then God's blessings can fall. Prayer initiatives are meant to be a catalyst, a signpost. They are not the end point but instead point to other things. We need every bit of the body of Christ to reach our nation."

Jane went on to talk about the More than Gold initiative leading up to the 2012 Olympics and Hope 2011 to 2014.

The opening event was supported by Unite and Transforming Norwich.

[www.call2prayer.co.uk](http://www.call2prayer.co.uk)  
[www.worldprayer.org.uk](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk)

<div>SEASONS</div> <div>Corporate buffets, fresh bread, cakes, filled rolls, sandwiches, Gluten &amp; Wheat Free Products, 187 Reepham Road, Hellesdon</div>	<div>  <div> <div>Cards 'n' Things</div> <div>The Specialist Card Shop</div> </div> <div>Reepham Road, Hellesdon, Norwich. Tel: 01603 442165</div> </div>	<div>Greeting Cards – Stationery Helium Balloons Cylinder Hire Party Products Christian Books &amp; Church Resources</div>
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## NEWS

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# Norwich link to the 'book that changed the world'

■ **NORWICH** has a special link with this year's worldwide celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the Authorized King James Bible - often called 'the book that changed the world.'

Even today, the Bible in many versions remains the world's best seller with more than 100 million copies sold each year.

In 1604, a brilliant 45-year-old Latin scholar, Dr John Overall, who had been born in East Anglia and was later to briefly become Bishop of Norwich, was chosen to have a leading role among a group of biblical revisers in Westminster. Dr Overall was then Dean of St Paul's, London.

In all, it took seven years for 54 scholars translators in the UK to complete the historic Authorized Version (AV).

Encouraged by the radical Puritans, King James 1, son of Mary Queen of Scotland, strongly believed the Bible should be available in English for ordinary people, not just the clergy. They were turbulent times: the 1611 Bible appeared six years after the Gunpowder Plot to blow up the King and Parliament and five years before the death of Shakespeare in 1616. James 1 died in 1625.

By **MIKE WILTSHIRE**

But there is a poignant twist in the story of Dr John Overall (1559-1619), who was admired for his saintly life and great scholarship as a professor of divinity at Cambridge. He is considered one of the early fathers of the Anglican Church and, in his day, 'the most scholarly divine in England'.

During the translating of the Bible, Dr Overall's beautiful wife, Anne Overall, ran off with a Yorkshire courtier, Sir John Selby. John Overall was a chaplain to Queen, and the scandal became well-known.

For Dr Overall, who loved the Bible and was fond of quoting the Psalms, it was a bitter blow.

In 1614, he was made Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry. Then in 1618, he was elected Bishop of Norwich and died, aged only 60, in Norwich Cathedral, just a year later. He was buried in the south choir aisle.

Many believe that it was William Tyndale's first printed translation of the New Testament in 1525 that prepared the way for the King James Bible in

1611. This in turn, became a major influence on the English language.

The English AV Bible quickly spread worldwide as British influence extended across the globe, adding richness to the English language with many phrases in common use today such as "scape-goat", "let there be light", "the powers that be", "my brother's keeper", "broken hearted", "fight the good fight", "a man after his own heart", "signs of the times", "ye of little faith", and "eat drink and be merry".

Today, the Bible has been translated into more than 3,000 languages. It remains a unique book, having been written over a period of 1,600 years, by more than 40 authors of every sort, ranging from kings to fisherman, and poets to prophets, as they were 'moved by the Spirit of God.'

Many churches in the UK are organising extended public readings of the King James Bible as a celebration of its 400th anniversary. Popular newer versions of the Bible include the New International Version and the New King James Version, the New Living Translation and The Message.



Dr John Overall, Bishop of Norwich.

## Exhibition and talks tell King James story

■ **NORWICH:** An exhibition in St Peter Mancroft Church and lunchtime talks in St Andrew's Church, are being organised to accompany the eight-day King James Bible-reading marathon in the Forum Millennium Library.

The exhibition will tell the particular story of the King James Bible and illustrate the impact of the Bible on our nation - with a number of regional connections featured. Modern translations will also be displayed, and free copies of an up-to-date gospel translation will be available to take away. The exhibition will be open to the public during church opening hours.

"This is designed to be of interest to everyone - irrespective of religious beliefs - and to young and old alike" said Dr Paddy Anstey, an elder at Surrey Chapel. Paddy is taking the lead over activities that will support the King James Bible readings.

Exhibition displays will be complemented by things to do, with the aim that every visitor will leave with a better appreciation of the significance of the King James Bible to this land and the English-speaking world, and some recognition that the Bible has important things to say to everyone - today.

"I am most grateful to the Cathedral for contributing some excellent material to this exhibition, and to St Peter Mancroft Church for hosting it," said Paddy. "But of course, an exhibition like this can really only whet the appetite - and many aspects of it are worth opening up more."

St Andrew's Church will host lunchtime talks from Monday to Friday during the period of the readings and exhibition, and take various of the themes.

■ **FRING:** All Saints Church in Fring in North West Norfolk will be the venue for a 20-hour marathon reading of the entire New Testament from 8am till 6pm on May 27 and 28.

The Bishop of Norwich will start the marathon with some prayers and will be the first reader and a local primary school will also be there for a couple of hours doing some reading according to organiser Jill Austen.

"We already have around 60 people but need 120 in total. We want people to come along and celebrate the Word of God and relish our freedom to read it."

Contact e-mail [testament.fring@yahoo.com](mailto:testament.fring@yahoo.com) or ring 01485 570004.

# Bible marathon

**A**n eight-day Bible reading marathon to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible will take place in Norwich involving 68 readers, including Bishop Graham and the Archdeacon of Norwich.

Throughout 2011 there are events and exhibitions around the country, as well as TV and radio programmes, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication in 1611 of The King James Bible (also known as The Authorised Version).

This book is widely regarded as a great work of literature and scholarship. It has shaped the English language and underpinned the values and culture of this country ever since its first publication in 1611.

In Norwich there is to be an ambitious public reading of the King James Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library in Norwich, from 12 noon Sunday 10th April to 4 pm Sunday 17th April 2011 throughout most of the Library opening hours.

This exciting event has been initiated by Dr Derek Haylock, an elder of Surrey Chapel Free Church, Norwich, and is being organised in conjunction with the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, supported by Transforming Norwich and the Diocese of Norfolk.

The reading will be done by a total of 68 readers drawn from a wide variety of local churches.

The reading will start at 12 noon on Sunday 10th April, with the Bishop of Norwich, Graham James, and 14-year-old Martin Walton from Surrey Chapel sharing the reading of the first nine chapters of Genesis. It will conclude around 4 pm on Sunday 17th April, with the Archdeacon of Norwich, Jan McFarlane, and Pastor Tom Chapman of Surrey Chapel reading the book of Revelation.

The whole reading is planned to last about 72 hours. To fit into this time frame it has been necessary to

omit short sections of some books in the Old Testament, particularly duplicated text.

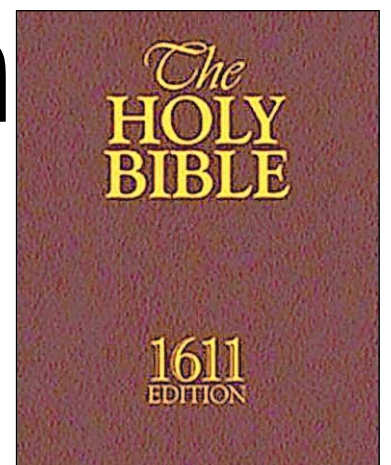
Dr Derek Haylock said: "We are aiming to celebrate this book as a great work of English literature, but also its influence in shaping what Britain is like as a nation with a Christian heritage."

"We hope that many people in Norwich will have their first opportunity to hear what this book

actually says!"

Alongside the reading there will be an exhibition of the Library's own collection of Bibles and related material, including a 14th century Wycliffe Bible, in the Heritage Centre on the second floor.

Further information from Dr Derek Haylock on telephone: 01603 615769 or [derek.haylock@ntlworld.com](mailto:derek.haylock@ntlworld.com)



## Coffee from 9 Service from 10

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## SPLAG

■ **CHRISTIAN YOUTH OUTREACH BUS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS:** An exciting new youth outreach bus project which supports marginalised young people in the community where they live has two volunteer posts for a Treasurer and a Secretary to help them take the project forward. For further information and job description, please contact Project Coordinator Peter Dinsmore at [splag@live.co.uk](mailto:splag@live.co.uk)

## All Saints' Centre

■ **NORWICH CHRISTIAN CAFE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS:** All Saints' Centre, Norwich regularly needs volunteers to help in its coffee bar. There are a range of other vacancies, both working with people and in the office. It currently needs a computer-literate secretary to its Friends. Please phone 01603 633726, email [admin@allsaintsnorwich.org.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintsnorwich.org.uk) or call in and see us. [www.allsaintsnorwich.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsnorwich.org.uk)

## EP Youth Project

■ **ARE YOU CREATIVE AND MOTIVATED?** Do you have some spare time? Are you over 18? Do you like working with young people? Do you enjoy working in a team?

EP Youth is a Christian charity which aims to make a positive difference in the lives of young people by supporting, motivating and enabling them to achieve their highest potential.

We aim to empower young people to make informed choices and increase young people's participation and volunteering in their local communities.

If you answered 'yes!' to the above questions, call us: 01328 851020 or email [office@epyouth.co.uk](mailto:office@epyouth.co.uk)

## Explore

■ **COULD YOU BE THE ANSWER?:** We're looking for: couples brave enough to answer questions about their marriage; Adviser-coaches; Prayer partners; Fundraisers and Management committee members

Explore is a unique, national, schools-based educational charity. For more information, please contact Karen Nice at [explorenorfolk@ntlworld.com](mailto:explorenorfolk@ntlworld.com), tel: 01603 470731 or visit [www.theexploreexperience.co.uk](http://www.theexploreexperience.co.uk)

■ The Norfolk Christian Volunteer Link is a service provided by the [NetworkNorfolk.co.uk](http://NetworkNorfolk.co.uk) website which aims to promote volunteering opportunities to people who have the time, skills and passion to fulfil the roles offered. We recognise that many Christian groups rely heavily on volunteers to ensure that their work continues and thrives.

Subscription to the volunteer link scheme costs £100 for the year and includes: up to six volunteer vacancy 50-word adverts on the website; entry in the Projects Directory on **Network Norfolk**; inclusion in the weekly e-newsletter; inclusion in a special regular volunteer e-newsletter; 50-word advert **Good News for Norwich & Norfolk newspaper**; promotion at annual **Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk** event

Or... advertise a one-off volunteer vacancy for £35

To add a vacancy or for more details email [helen.baldry@networknorfolk.co.uk](mailto:helen.baldry@networknorfolk.co.uk)  
[www.networknorfolk.co.uk](http://www.networknorfolk.co.uk)

## Big Society needs church says Norwich Bishop

■ **Story continues from page 1**

1930s, in China during the Cultural Revolution and we've seen it played out on our television screens in Libya in recent weeks. The people of Israel were not always wealthy. They were exiles. Yet they still cared for their widows and orphans. The test of the spending cuts will be whether as a nation we grow harder-hearted towards those in greatest need."

The Bishop pointed out the importance of volunteers and that most voluntary organisations require infrastructure and management. "That is the unglamorous bit when it comes to fund raising. "That's where local authority grants have been so

significant. The massive cuts in funding to local government are likely both to reduce the care of some of our most vulnerable people through the statutory services but also remove some of the infrastructure support to our voluntary agencies.

"It may not even be cheaper in the long run if one of the consequences is a dislocation in our society which leads to more crime and disorder.

"There are no easy choices, nor simple answers. And the consequences of all this will need to be tested. The Big Society itself needs to be examined against a Big Vision. Is there a large enough one in circulation and accepted by the majority of our

people?" asked the Bishop.

"In some ways the establishment of the Welfare State was a living expression of the Judaeo-Christian ethic put into practice. My concern is that the loosening recognition of the Christian faith as the holding framework shaping our society is that this ethic is increasingly denuded of what gives it shape, depth and vision.

"Attention to the Big Book's message in this celebration of 400 years of the King James Bible is needed more than ever. After all, the translators did not set out to write a masterpiece of English prose, but to tell the biggest story of all. We still need to hear it," concluded the Bishop.



Magdalene Group manager, Suzi Heybourne.

# Street girl project has a new vision

By KEVIN GOTTIS

**N**orfolk Christian charity the Magdalene Group, has a new team and a new vision for its future work.

The Norwich-based charity was formed almost 20 years ago to encourage the spiritual, physical and educational well-being of people working within the sex industry in the area.

Suzi Heybourne, a former director of a mental health support charity, felt a call to return to delivering front line services and in September last year, took over as manager of The Magdalene Group.

A working mother of two children, and married to Mark, Suzi is passionate about her new role and is supported by two new staff members and has added eight more volunteers to the existing team.

Sarah Tremayne is responsible for delivering the Jigsaw Schools' Prevention Programme in partnership with the Matthew Project. The priority is going into schools to highlight the issues of sex exploitation to High School children.

Helen Watson is the new Client Services Administrator.

"Volunteers are so important for deliver-

ing our services," says Suzi, "which includes the 'Drop In' open three afternoons a week where we aim to promote a safe and positive place that offers a hot meal, a meeting place, a listening ear, support and friendship; the outreach where we go and meet with street based sex workers; and prison visiting for women from the Norfolk area."

Suzi has found the role a steep journey: "One I feel compelling and consuming for me and the team. We work with other agencies to ensure that pathways and opportunities are there when the women are ready to take them."

In the first few months the new team has attracted funding from Money for Mission to offer the women a chiropody service, which echoes a significant biblical activity of Mary Magdalene. Women who attend the Drop-In are involved in compiling a charter of how they want it to run. A Move On group has also been set up which helps in confidence building to pursue social needs like going to coffee bars and cinemas in the early evening for those that have moved on

from serious drug use.

Suzi has developed a love for the women and sees this equally demonstrated by the staff and volunteers. She adds: "I honestly feel that I could not do this job without a Christian faith, and absolutely understand that God loves everyone of us and wants the best for us."

Looking to the future, the Group has begun working on:

■ Developing an Intensive Befriending Scheme to ensure that women released from prison have continuity of support for the first few weeks.

■ Working with NOMS - to National Offender Management Services which delivers sex worker training to prison staff.

■ Further develop the Jigsaw Programme in terms of education and prevention.

■ To continue being available for the needs of women already caught up in these lifestyles, or at risk of being involved in abusive or exploitative relationships.

Besides welcoming ongoing prayer for this work, Suzi is seeking a couple of male drivers and can be reached on 01603 610256.

[www.magdalenegroup.org](http://www.magdalenegroup.org)  
[www.jigsawprogramme.org](http://www.jigsawprogramme.org)



## NEWS

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# Queen approves naming of new Lynn Bishop

■ **WEST NORFOLK:** The Very Revd Jonathan Meyrick has been named as the next Suffragan Bishop of Lynn after his nomination was approved by the Queen on March 14.

Mr Meyrick (58), who is currently Dean of Exeter, will succeed the Rt Revd James Langstaff who is now Bishop of Rochester.

Jonathan Meyrick trained for ordained ministry at Sarum and Wells Theological College and served his curacy in the Diocese of Oxford, followed by three years as Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford. After a spell teaching in Barbados, he returned to Oxford to serve in two rural team ministries before becoming Canon Pastor of Rochester Cathedral. Since 2005 he has been Dean of Exeter and Priest-in-Charge of Central Exeter.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Meyrick said: "My family and I are excited by prospect of life in a new county which we know slightly, but not

yet well. I am relishing the prospect of new challenges and look forward in particular to working with ministerial colleagues and with the people of north-west Norfolk for the common good of all in our communities, and to playing my part in this new role in helping to make real the love of God in Jesus Christ."

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James, said: "I'm delighted that Jonathan Meyrick is joining us as Bishop of Lynn. He has a rich and varied experience in ministry and knows what it is to lead a group of rural parishes as well as lead a cathedral. He has many gifts which will be well used here and I'm confident he will soon be greatly appreciated. I look forward to welcoming him as a colleague."

Jonathan Meyrick is married to Rebecca, who is a specialist palliative care nurse, and they have one son and two daughters.



The new Bishop of Lynn, Very Rev Jonathan Meyrick.

## news in brief

### Church base opens over coffee shop

■ **SOUTH NORFOLK:** A Diss church is celebrating the opening of its new town centre base which offers counselling, prayer and practical help to the community.

A first floor office on Mere Street above Costa Coffee in Diss has been turned into a community resource by the DC3 Diss Community Christian Church.

The "Number 7" centre will offer free counselling on bereavement, budgeting and pregnancy advice. It will also be open on weekdays as a prayer room and will be the base for street pastors. The centre will enable church members to meet the needs of the community including offering practical services such as DIY, ironing, cleaning and shopping for people who need help with these tasks.

Contact Ruth McAllen on 01379 644223.

### Prayer for revival

■ **NORFOLK:** Over 20 Norfolk churches have been joining in simultaneous prayer for revival meetings in Norwich and Great Yarmouth over the last few months.

Pastor Kingsley Armstrong, from Norwich Family Life Church, said: "It was so exciting to be in the midst of Christians from about 15 other churches in the city. God has promised that if we dwell together in unity that He will command the blessing and that is what I am believing for."

Organiser, Phil Thorne minister at City Church, Norwich, has a vision to see Prayer for Revival meetings simultaneously in strategic centres across Norfolk and beyond. Phil said: "I would be delighted to meet with church leaders in south, west and north Norfolk who have a passion for revival and who would like to connect with Norwich and Yarmouth to see the whole county praying in unison simultaneously for our region."

Contact City Church office (01603) 632901.

### New gospel choir

■ **SHERINGHAM:** An exciting new youth gospel choir has just started in North Norfolk and the choir are encouraging more young people of all abilities to join in.

Gospel Voices has been set up by Sheringham Baptist Church for people aged 11 to 18. Any young people who enjoy singing are encouraged to join up. Contact Jenny Skivington on 07900246292.

# Celebrate appeals for churches and volunteers

The Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk event, which is set to take over the Forum and Millennium Plain in Norwich from June 10-12, is appealing for churches and volunteers to support the event.

Celebrate Norfolk is looking for churches to partner with them this year by offering to stage partnership events, which Celebrate will help them to promote as part of its marketing programme. It is also looking for churches to display A1 posters on external church noticeboards.

Project director, John Betts, said: "Our aim is to gain publicity, and attract the attention of the general public for our main event and partnership events. Your support will be a positive contribution to our exhibitors who are working hard to serve the Lord and the people of Norwich and Norfolk. You can enhance our event, partner with us and all at no cost to you, simply by displaying our posters for a few weeks leading up to the event."

Celebrate is also looking for volunteers who are prepared to lend a helping hand by giving an hour or two during the event to distribute promotional leaflets and newspapers in and around the city centre during the three-day event in June.



"This is a great opportunity to support our many participating organisations by drawing attention to the amazing work which they are doing," said John. "Come and share the event, experience, the excitement of being there, and bless many by this act of service."

Exhibitors include Eckling Grange, Prospects, Community of All Hallows, Norwich FGB, Call to Prayer, Good Work and Gideons among many others. A special Celebrate edition of Good News for Norwich & Norfolk will be available in churches a few weeks before and during the event including exhibitor profiles and a programme of events.

John said: "I am delighted with the way Celebrate has developed in such a short time. The prospects of being a major influence for

Christian unity in Norfolk, and of helping to raise the public awareness of the work of the churches in the city and county, is a great privilege."

Partnership events include a high profile dinner on June 10, organized by Norwich FGBMFI, to which local VIPs and community leaders are invited and a combined prayer event on Pentecost Sunday June 12, on Millennium Plain to mark the Global Day of Prayer. This is being staged in conjunction with Unite, Call to Prayer and Transforming Norwich, from 3pm to 4.30pm.

A prayer event leading up to Celebrate; will be held on Wednesday May 18 at 7.30pm at the House of Prayer, Fishergate, Norwich.

Celebrate Norfolk is also in the process of registering as a charity and trustees have been appointed including Network Norfolk publisher Keith Morris, Rev Janet Wyer, associate priest at St Peter Mancroft and Aliona Laker, manager and fundraiser.

If you would like to offer a partnership event, church noticeboard or an hour or two as a volunteer, please e-mail event administrator Tanya Lynn at [celebratenorfolk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:celebratenorfolk@yahoo.co.uk) or ring her on 07415 692758.

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

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	<p><b>THE HAYES</b> Swanwick, Derbyshire <b>01773 526000</b></p>	<p><b>HIGH LEIGH</b> Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire <b>01992 463016</b></p>	<p><b>BELSEY BRIDGE</b> Ditchingham, East Anglia <b>01986 892133</b></p>
<p><b>HIGH QUALITY AFFORDABLE CONFERENCE CENTRES</b></p>			



## FEATURE



Dr Richard Kent with wife Val

# Doctor tells of life after death

By MIKE WILTSHIRE

■ Is there life after death? A Norwich audience recently heard amazing evidence that there is, given by a well-known Christian doctor.

Popular speaker Dr Richard Kent, a Death Row doctor, who has researched more than 300 people who have had extraordinary near-death experiences, presented evidence from both scientific and biblical viewpoints.

As the author of the book, *The Final Frontier*, Richard is a retired GP who has spoken in 27 countries on the theme of near-death experiences and life after death.

He is a regular presenter on Christian TV, but his main work is now among 1,100 prisoners on Death Row and a Maximum Security Building in Manila, Philippines, the largest prison in Asia.

Two cinema documentaries, *Return from Eternity*, and *The Lazarus Phenomenon*, have featured the work by Dr Kent and other Christian medical researchers. Dr Kent's teaching website attracts at least 500,000 visitors a month. His books have been translated into eight languages, including Chinese.

In his talks, he uses remarkable recorded testimonies of people who believe they've had near-death and after-death experiences. These include those who have died from heart attacks, a road accident, a suicide attempt, a Vietnamese bullet wound, on the operating table, of pneumonia, and many other lethal conditions.

Dr Kent says: "These individuals have amazing stories of the afterlife, having crossed the final frontier of death. Some tell of their wonderful experiences in Heaven, and the love, joy, and peace they found there. Others recall terrifying images of hell, which is very real, according to the teachings of Jesus."

He adds: "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the heart of the New Testament, celebrated by millions of believers all over the world every year."

"Resurrection from the dead to a new life in heaven, in a resurrected body, is the most cherished hope of all Christians. Based on Jesus' promises, all true born again believers in Jesus Christ can confidently look forward to an eternity in heaven!"

Dr Kent once led a large medical practice in the UK with eight partners and 18,000 patients. His own journey to faith began after a four-year-old patient died at home with leukaemia. Upset by this experience, Dr Kent and his wife, Val, a casualty nurse, both began studying the Bible and eventually became convinced Christians.

Now, as ordained ministers, they speak at conferences all over the world and give away thousands of teaching DVDs and CDs via their non-profit charity, the *Final Frontier Trust*, and website: [www.freechristianteaching.org](http://www.freechristianteaching.org)

# Art, faith and f

Artistic ventures that break with tradition are helping Norfolk Christians meet with God in unexpected ways. From a creative writing vicar, to a Methodist quilter, budding film maker and a theologian who meditates on fine art and literature – all are intent on sharing God's message with new understanding and flair. **Sandie Shirley** reports.

**S**arah Hobday failed to make sense of the illness that sapped her energy and muddled her thinking until her revelations of God's love turned her into an amateur film maker with a world-wide audience.

"I was sensitive, compassionate and artistic but how could I use this to bring glory to God when I was in the wilderness?" recalls Sarah who suffers from ME.

The resulting years, when she was too tired to continue as a nursery nurse, brought a treasury of insights from God's heart. "They helped me cope with depression and short-term memory loss while renewing my mind," says Sarah, from Downham Market Christian Fellowship.

Now they form the basis of short, three-minute films that are used at church meetings, women's conferences and are widely viewed through YouTube on the internet. Sarah uses video footage, photographs, Bible text and music to convey the prophetic, personal messages that have given her courage and hope for the path ahead and now inspire others. She also produces a series of biblical stop-motion animations for youngsters.

"In my late-thirties God has

used my creative urge in his timing for a mission which I love. Eventually I would like to launch my own website and create a library of short films for other Christians to access easily," says Sarah.

Without training or experience, Sarah has made six films, in colour and black and white, as well as a variety as gifts for friends and acquaintances. Her new avenue for creative outreach began a year ago at a church prayer day when a potter was on hand.

"I stood in front of the potter's wheel, as the clay was being worked, and knew God was telling me to make a film which came so quickly and clearly without a hitch. At the end of the day I used my daughter's video camera to film a pot being thrown."

Sarah continues: "Returning home, there were more clear instructions from God to use the *King of Wonders* track by Matt Redman and Tim Hughes from my new CD compilation as background; it was the exact length of the video footage."

With help from her husband, the film was complete within a few hours and shown at the church service the following day.

"There are so many references to



clay in the Bible as we have an awesome God who shapes and forms us as he is intimately involved with our lives," says Sarah, who is a living testimony of being re-shaped for divine purposes.

■ *Tripodtriumph* - *King of Wonders* Potter Video, *Brave* by Nichole Nordeman and *You Are* by Ben Cantelon are among Sarah's films that can be viewed on YouTube.

# Love of literature brought to heart of church

■ **KING'S LYNN** vicar, Corin Child, from St John's, brings his love of literature to the heart of church culture and is encouraging others through the Association of Christian Writers and the new Norfolk Writer's group. He has written and performed plays, sketches, poems and songs and leads creative writing workshops across the UK. With an English degree and an MA in Applied Theology that included a study of Christian creative writing, he sees the pen (or computer) as a vital tool for today's world.

"It can be a powerful way of expressing ourselves, meditating on life, organising our thoughts and even hearing from God," says Corin, who has produced the Grove leaflet: *Telling Ourselves in Ink: Creative Writing in the Church* (£3.95), to help put this into practice.

Writing can be therapeutic, explains the Anglican vicar. "It brings people out of themselves and can help with counselling. Thoughts can be expressed at one's own pace in an ordered, careful way, without necessarily voicing them. Writing a journal at the end of the day can also be a useful pressure valve."

He is currently writing a resource for pre-teens to deepen their faith. "Children aged nine to 12 are



Rev Corin Child.

at an important stage of their development and learning to live in the world with a Christian understanding," says Corin, who is writing to bridge the gap in the market to equip youngsters for the faith road ahead. The resource details the special encounters individuals had with Jesus and encourages a practical response to God through prayer.

The church minister who is on the national board of the Association of Christian Writers is also part of the new Norfolk Christian Writers that currently attracts seasoned poets, authors, playwrights and a journalist. Says Corin: "The creative spirit seems to bubble away in Norfolk church life. Those with talent, enthusiasm and energy, have turned their writing interest into an opportunity to express their faith which is exciting."

The Norfolk group was founded last autumn by Angela Hobday, a clinical psychologist and writer with an MA in creative writing. It has proved a 'shot in the arm' for lonely scribes who can suffer writers' block. The monthly meetings provide encouragement and prayer as members discuss the pitfalls and joys born from experience and share samples of their work. "There is also the opportunity to discuss marketing, publishing ideas and retreats as well as pointers for writing secular books and articles with a Christian influence," says Angela who includes practical writing exercises for both experienced and inexperienced members.

The future Tuesday meetings include: May 10 at 10.30am (51 Drewray Drive, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6XS.) For details contact Angela Hobday: 01366 501504 or [hobdayangela@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hobdayangela@yahoo.co.uk)



# Quilts combine

## Quilts tell of a living message

■ **MID-NORFOLK:** Jackie Smith's quilts are colourful, pictorial landmarks of her journey with God and a living message for others at cathedrals and art galleries across the UK. With a developing talent for textiles, she has charted her faith through heartache, trial and joy.

She is also a popular speaker and passes on her skills through various workshops and will recently led a Methodist District Conference at Belsey Bridge.

Jackie's labour of love began over three decades ago when she joined neighbouring quilt makers at the chapel near her former Dorset home. She helped make 24 quilts. Although she moved to Southampton and Wales, the Isle of Wight and Norfolk, when her husband became a Methodist minister, Jackie's quilt making continued. She practised her art and found a new, alternative niche for her faith that has opened doorways at secular and Christian exhibitions across the country.

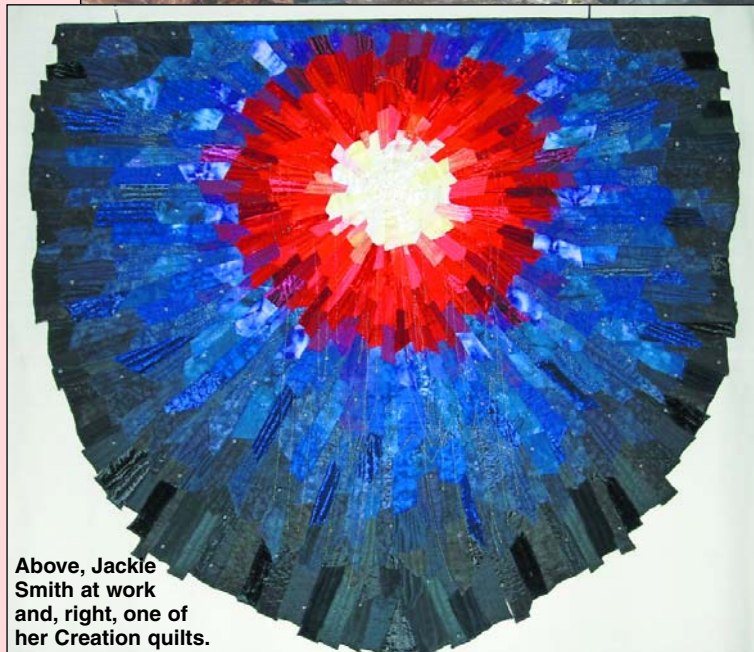
"I can usually picture the completed quilts in my mind's eye but they often change before I finish," says Jackie, who spends a year planning each design. Worked with silk, sheer, velvet and brocade fabrics and glistening metallics, most are also painted, dyed and sewn by hand and machine.

"People quite often see things that I have not seen as the quilts say something to them and that is what they are about," says Jackie, from Coney Weston near Thetford.

Her quilt making took a new direction when she moved to Wales and saw the breathtaking Snowdon scenery from the manse where she lived. The area was also steeped in Celtic spirituality and she felt the pilgrimage treks were a reflection of her own life journey. It soon became the focus for her first spiritual quilt called Pereindota with Celtic symbols of Church and eternity and the misty grey colours of Wales.

"I have always found God in creation," says Jackie, who has since made eight quilts depicting creation, which have also inspired some accompanying prose.

Now she is busy experimenting with a quilted journal and quilting trees in a new 'Revelation' series "to explore a gradual revealing of God alongside the heartache of being a distance carer for my daughter who suffers mental health problems," says Jackie. The dark, winter artistry will change, as the series unfolds with joy and hope. "During the darkness God takes us through our trials and temptations and when we get to rock bottom we discover that the rock is God, as we are rooted in him." Contact: [jackie.ks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jackie.ks@hotmail.co.uk)



Above, Jackie Smith at work and, right, one of her Creation quilts.



Christian writers group members.

## The passion in art

■ **NORWICH:** Dr Chris Joby has harnessed theology and fine art to explore the deep issues of faith to help strengthen and promote Christian learning at Norwich Cathedral. His one-day study of The Passion in Art on April 18 (10am - 3pm, £20) brings a new awareness of the Easter Story with paintings from the Last Supper to the crucifixion by Flemish Primitives, Venetian masters and artists from the Dutch and Spanish Golden Ages.

"Engaging with art in this way often opens up questions that are central to faith," explains Dr Joby who studied at Oxford and Durham Universities and wrote his PhD thesis on the relationship between theology and fine art in the Reformed tradition.

For more information contact: Gudrun Warren, 12 The Close, Norwich, NR1 4DN, 01603 218327 [www.cathedral.org.uk/learning](http://www.cathedral.org.uk/learning)

## Christian destiny fair

■ **SOUTH NORFOLK:** An innovative Christian healing and destiny fair in Norfolk, believed to be one of the first in the country, has been hailed a big success.

The Destiny Fair, held at the Poringland Community Centre, near Norwich, on Saturday February 5, attracted over 100 visitors from as far as Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, and aimed to provide a Christian alternative to New Age and psychic fairs.

There were 23 stands offering services such as dream interpretation, prophecy, healing prayers, massage, manicures, prophetic art, psalm cards, house cleansing and art therapy.

Organiser pastor Michelle Smith, of the village's Wellspring Church, said: "We had a fantastic response and people were queuing for dream interpretations, healing prayers and destiny readings. The atmosphere was fantastic with great unity amongst all the exhibitors. Many of the exhibitors had encouraging stories to tell after the event, explained Michelle: "I have already been asked to consider doing something at a Christian 'hippy festival' reaching out to New Age type people and others from Wisbech and Cambridge want to connect and do fairs in their areas."

Contact Michelle on 01508 494211 or [michelle-smith@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:michelle-smith@tiscali.co.uk)

## Making a difference on the city streets

■ **Every weekend Norfolk Street Pastors are out on the night-time streets of Norwich, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Diss providing a helping hand to all those in need.**



This is what people have said about our work in Norfolk:

"The street pastors are doing a fantastic job."

**General Sir Richard Dannatt**, ex head of the **British Army**

"The Street Pastors know what friendship is and that is what they are offering in some of the busiest places which are also some of the loneliest."

**Bishop of Norwich, The Rt Rev Graham James**

"The Street Pastors really are 'the stars of the night'. It was a pleasure and a privilege to go out with them for an evening."

**Charles Barratt**, High Sheriff of Norfolk

"They are an inspiration to everyone."

**Jemma**, Norwich nightclubber

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e-mail: [hailgail@btinternet.com](mailto:hailgail@btinternet.com)

or ring 01603 617598

Registered charity number 1122478

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## NEWS

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## ■ Texan pastor who wears heart on his sleeve

### ■ Story continues from front page

Chris has been a student ministries pastor in the enormous Eagle Mountain International Church (EMIC), Newark, Texas, which is based on a self-sufficient 1600-acre site, has a congregation of several thousand and is part of Kenneth Copeland ministries.

But life has been far from plain sailing for Chris. As a teenager, Chris struggled with severe depression and three times tried to kill himself - he took an overdose, drove into a telephone pole and put a knife to his wrist.

"I was put on medication and got put into a hospital for a while because of it," said Chris. "It was an extremely rough time in my life and my family's too. Now I try to help people going through that because I know what worked for me."

A month after graduating from High School, aged 17, Chris signed up to be a US soldier - his life ambition - until a medical condition meant he was given a year out of the army to try to sort it out.

"In that year I met Sabrina, I was saved and I received the call to go into ministry, so even though the paperwork was just waiting to be signed to go back into the army, God said I did not tell you to do that, so I didn't," said Chris.

Instead he got married and joined the staff at EMIC, deep in Bible-belt America - that was until he met

Graham Dacre, who was visiting the church in September 2009. They had breakfast and Graham invited Chris to come over to England and visit tlc.

Chris said: "Graham said come over, look at the church and see what your heart says." So they did and while they were in Norwich, they had spiritual encounters in Norwich Cathedral and at Chapelfield outside St Stephens.

"It was Murray Norman's funeral service in the Cathedral," said Chris, "and during the worship it just hit me that the same God that I had been worshipping in America was over here as well. I was looking at the tombstones on the floor of the Cathedral and God said to me: 'The roots of Christianity go deep in this country but they have been covered up and I want them to be uncovered.'"

"We walked around the city centre and when we were outside St Stephens we just knew this was where we were meant to be."

"As soon as we touched down back in Fort Worth we just knew we had left our hearts back in England. We had a hunger and desire to come back and be with the people we had fallen in love with."

Now in Norwich, Chris is part of the existing pastoral team of Graham and Julie Dacre and John and Dodie Davies. He is responsible for the under 35s, children, young people and young adults. "We are very much social

media driven - we will be using Facebook and Twitter, Skype and everything like that," said Chris.

"As a church we are very cell-group driven, we believe that they are the life blood of the church. The real growth of the church takes place in these groups during the week - eating, meeting and praying together. We want to appeal to all age groups - we want to be a real family church. Mentoring and spiritual parenting is very important."

"The Church is hungry for fellowship and for God, they like to do life together, have fun and meet Jesus. Our vision statement sums it up: Love God, love people and love serving - we want to look outward and serve the community."

"We believe in the Gifts of the Spirit. Our worship is loud but intimate. We are very much multi-media with lights and TV screens, lots of energy on stage - I play the bass and acoustic guitar. Our praise and worship should appeal to all ages."

There are family services on a Sunday morning attracting up to 150 people and also youth services, with numbers growing all the time.

Chris and Sabrina are in it for the long-haul: "We have a three-year visa, which we can renew," said Chris. "This is not a tour of duty - we are here until God speaks. As far as we are concerned we are here for the rest of our lives."

# Night highlights homeless plight

Norfolk Street Pastor and teenager **Aaron Curran**, joined 55 others sleeping rough on the **Norwich streets** on January 29 at the **YMCA Norfolk Sleep Easy** event to raise awareness for the homeless and to raise money. This is his personal account of the event.

**W**hat really compelled me to sign up for the 'Sleep Easy' event was the experiences I've encountered whilst out as a Norfolk Street Pastor. It truly is a unique opportunity to be able to help the homeless on a Friday or Saturday night and get to know them and their stories. This is what led me to putting myself in their shoes for one evening.

The event began at 7pm when people starting arriving and finding their pitches in-between the gravestones of the St Peter Mancroft Church graveyard. After setting up bed I soon realised how long the night ahead would be as I looked down to see my sleeping bag lying on a bit of cardboard on the ground.

A number of icebreakers and games were put on throughout the night to keep us both warm and entertained but also gave us the chance to get to know one another. Examples of these games included a 40-person rock, paper, scissors tournament and a game of people bingo

which turned into a hunt for the person who owned a Cliff Richard album.

I also really appreciated Rev Janet Wyer, priest of St Peter Mancroft, inviting us into the church for a candlelight service which included prayer for the night ahead, not only for the participants of the 'Sleep Easy' event but for all the homeless in the city, I did feel a lot safer under God's blessing.

The weather stayed nice for the duration of the night and was warmer than I expected but I was still happy to receive a warm cup of soup nonetheless. I managed to get to sleep at 11 and slept through until 4 even though it wasn't the best night sleep I had ever experienced.

Coming away from the event, it really opened my eyes to what the homeless go through night after night. It almost felt disrespectful to go home, have a warm shower and get into bed to have a nap.

The 'Sleep Easy' event is certainly something I would do again and would recommend to anyone.

To see a video of the Sleep Easy visit [www.ymca-norfolk.org.uk](http://www.ymca-norfolk.org.uk)



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## NEWS

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### Youth outreach project provides a listening ear

■ **BRECKLAND:** With Government cutbacks in Norfolk Youth Services and Police ASBOs coming to an end, a Christian-based youth outreach project in the Breckland region of Norfolk is providing a vital service.

SPLAG is an exciting new project aimed at going out to young people where they are at, whether that be hanging around on the streets or on recreational grounds. The aim is to work alongside Councils, Police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams to help combat anti-social behaviour.

The SPLAG bus visits where there is a need and wants to involve the local church in any area that it goes, as it's important for the young

people to build relationships with people local to them, according to the project's Lyn Milns.

The project is being run by Lyn and Chris Olley who have nine years experience of doing youth outreach work. The scripture that fuelled their passion for this outreach work was: "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Matt 9:36. The Biblical Greek for compassion is Splagcnizomai, hence the name.

Lyn said: "The bus will primarily be used in the Breckland area but would work with churches in other areas if there are anti-social behaviour problems there. The bus will be a mobile venue

that young people can come to. It may be that they just need shelter and a hot drink, somewhere to socialise with their friends or maybe some initial advice; the SPLAG bus will have leaflets and information available on health matters including drugs, alcohol and STDs."

On the bus will be the PM Listening Post to provide a way for young people to get help.

"This project is being run in faith of God's provision so is receiving gifts rather than applying for funding grants," said Lyn. "We would love your prayers as we still need a bus."

If you need to know more, please contact coordinator Peter Dinsmore at [splag@live.co.uk](mailto:splag@live.co.uk) or ring Lyn Milns 01362 851158.

### People are key in church plans

■ **DRAYTON:** Plans for a new 800-seat church near Norwich have finally received official approval, but Graham Dacre, the man behind the scheme, says people are more important than buildings and his tlc church will not be moving there anytime soon.

The finer details of a plan for a church building to cater for 800 people on the former David Rice hospital site in Drayton near Norwich were approved by Broadland District councillors on March 9 after previous plans for a larger building had been turned down in 2009. The smaller facility already had outline planning permission.

The plans were submitted in 2007 by the Lind Trust, backed by the millionaire Christian businessman, who said: "It's obviously good news and especially as the Trustees have been trying to secure planning permission for the best part of 15 years. The 'reserved matters' application that has now been approved simply facilitates and secures the permission for the smaller facility. We now have two years to start the development."

Graham is one of the leaders of the growing Today's Lifestyle Church (tlc), which currently meets at Drayton Hall.

"Over the coming months we are unlikely to be moving anywhere - and all the more since we are currently enjoying a newly refurbished facility," he said.

"That said we are happy to have planning permission under our belt and when the time is right for us to move we will surely know what is right for the future of tlc. Until then we are looking to put in place all required to grow the church and to put the needs of people before new buildings," said Graham.

# Norwich church that puts faith into action

## church profile: by Mike Wiltshire

**A**lthough it is a relatively small church, the Christian Fellowship Norwich is making a significant impact among the 14,000 residents of Lakenham.

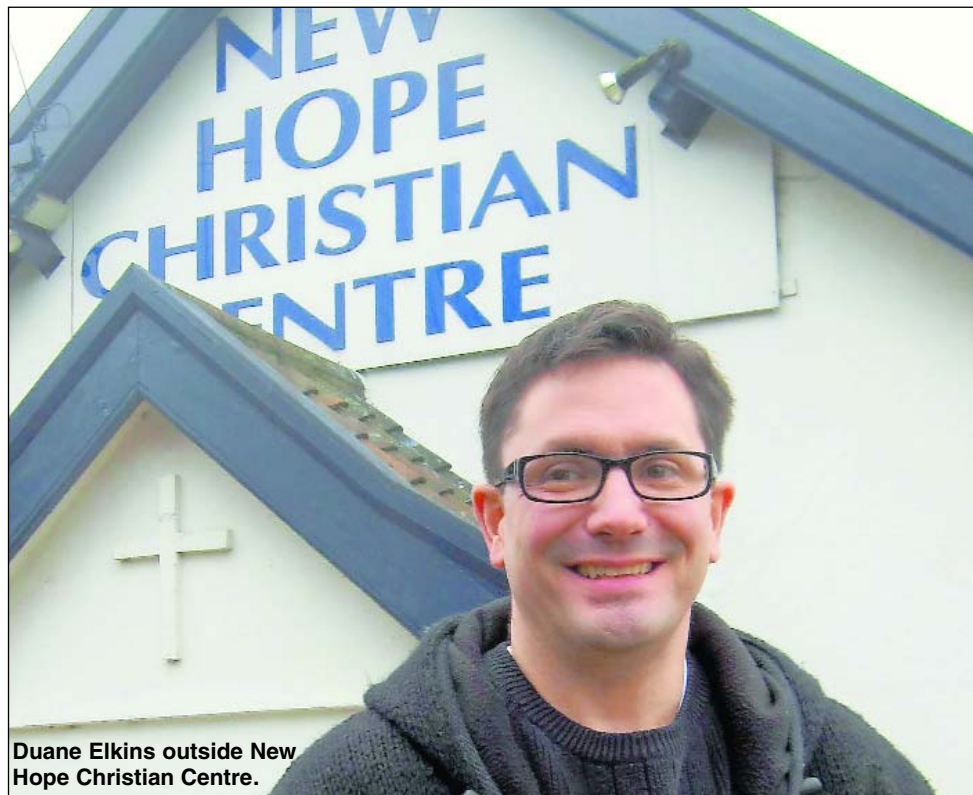
"We aim to put faith into action," says Pastor Duane Elkins who, for six years, has led the Fellowship that meets at New Hope Christian Centre. "Our 'footprint' is bigger than our membership."

Duane's wife, Clare, is project manager of Community Action Norwich, a church-based team of 45 volunteers whose social work promotes tolerance, raises self-esteem and helps build positive relationships through a host of activities in Lakenham, Tuckwood and beyond.

These range from the Lakenham Day Centre for the over-55s, a befriending programme, a lunch club plus adult literacy work, advocacy with housing issues and bereavement support. The church has 150 children 'on its books' for a wide range of activities, including an allotment project that offers families 'hands-on' experience in cultivating the land.

"We love this area," says Duane, who was born in the US and once did Christian work among the 35,000 students of Southwest Texas State University. Duane felt led to come to the UK 16 years ago where he met Clare in Norwich. After a whirlwind romance they married and lived for a while in Texas before moving back to Norwich. Today, they have three children and are both school governors.

Duane, who is also a Street Pastor, is working with other churches in the area in a new charity called 'Share Lakenham' which aims to see a youth worker installed in an area where low-aspiration amongst youngsters and teenage pregnancies are high.



Duane Elkins outside New Hope Christian Centre.

The church, in Martineau Lane, is involved in cafechurch outreach projects and has mission links with Romania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. It has also facilitated many activities including Norwich Foodbank, since figures show that 30,000 people in Greater Norwich are living on the edge of poverty.

Duane pays tribute to his parents-in-law, John and Doreen Betts, who retired from the senior leadership of church in 2006 after 40 years of Christian service in Norwich. They are both highly involved and Duane describes John as 'a spiritual entrepreneur' for all

manner of projects at home and abroad, as well as being director of the annual Celebrate Norwich and Norfolk event in June.

New Hope remains a hub of activity where church distinctives include a love for Bible-teaching - four of its members have theology degrees - as well as showing practical love to local people. "Everything is built around friendships and seeing lives transformed," says Duane, who admits he does not watch TV because he does not have one. "We are always looking for people who will roll up their sleeves and get involved," he says.

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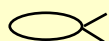
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## ■ Reviews: musical duo release albums

■ **EVAN ROGERS:** South African born Evan, worship leader at King's Community Church in Norwich, has released his ninth album Devoted on iTunes.

Described as a "17-track multi-cultural joyous romp" it is the sort of album that even the staunchest and most reserved Brit can't help raising one's hands to and praising God.

Evan and his wife, Tracy, have recently relocated to Wymondham and are currently based at King's Church, Norwich.

A prolific songwriter and gifted musician, Evan has released numerous praise albums, including some of his great congregational songs. A number of his songs also appear on various live Kingsway recordings. Evan's passion is to "Let the nations be glad" and is able to include various music styles and languages in a dynamic, vibrantly, joy-filled celebration context.

Devoted contains a whopping 17 excellent tracks, Evan has also released 20 of his tracks on his personal website, [www.evanrogers.org](http://www.evanrogers.org).

By Martin Kentish

■ **DANIEL HARRISON:** This summer, Norfolk Christian artist Daniel, who lives in Norwich and attends City Church, will be releasing his first album - Thirsty Soul Music.

His musical journey began 31 years ago when he had a vision from God calling him to music, but it has been in more recent times that he has seen doors opening for him.

Thirsty Soul Music, Daniel's first album, is a mixed genre album that is heavily influenced by 70s prog rock, blues, jazz fusion, folk and punk. However, its underlying theme is the Christian message that Daniel strongly believes in.

Daniel performs the majority of the instruments on the album and in a couple of places guest musicians such as Ian Sexton (guitar), Richard South (bass), Robert Green (guitar) and Sam Witton (keyboards) have been invited in to give a helping hand.

For more information on the album please e-mail [daniel.harrison46@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:daniel.harrison46@yahoo.co.uk), or for up-to-date news on the album search Daniel Thirsty Soul Music on Facebook

By Aaron Curran

■ read longer reviews on [www.networknorfolk.co.uk](http://www.networknorfolk.co.uk)



Anna Sweeting (left) and Biddy Collyer at the leaving event.

# Biddy hands reins to Anna

By KEITH MORRIS

**B**iddy Collyer said farewell to Christian charity Pregnancy Choices Norfolk after ten years as director at an emotional send-off and welcomed her successor, Anna Sweeting.

Scores of the charity's volunteers and supporters gathered at the House of Prayer at Fishergate in Norwich on March 17 to say goodbye to Biddy, who has now embarked on a 1,000-mile pilgrim walk in France and Spain over the next few months.

Pregnancy Choices chairman, Rev Michael Paddison, was the first to pay tribute to Biddy, saying: "You are a woman of passion who has inspired us all. You network in a most amazing way and encourage each one of us by generously giving of yourself in so many ways."

Former charity schools worker, Melissa Snell, said: "The words that come to me about Biddy are integrity and prayer. Prayer is central to who Biddy is and her life is one of prayer to God. Who she is and how she has lived have had the most profound impact on this group and those who work here."

A number of colleagues also paid their own tributes to Biddy before she was presented with several retirement gifts by Michael.

Charity patron, the Bishop of Norwich, Rt Rev Graham James, rounded off the tributes by saying: "Biddy, you are like a star - it guides, it gives light, it leads the wise and the foolish to Jesus. It is not difficult to see why people are drawn to Biddy and why this work is really one of mission."

"It is so important because it has largely gone against the grain of our times - people are so often enslaved by our culture. One of the keys to the Christian faith is to be liberated from the thinking of our culture. I have no doubt that the work has a great future in Anna Sweeting's hands - she has God's blessing and a great team around her."

In response, Biddy said: "I have had the privilege to work with the most wonderful

group of people you could ever hope to meet - it has been a real work of mercy."

Biddy recalled two high points: "one being the production of a DVD called Reannon's Journey, where a past client movingly tells of her experience of a late termination and the healing she received from being part of one of our post abortion groups. The DVD has impacted women all over the country and abroad, and has had over 10,000 hits on YouTube. The other, more recently was when the Archbishop of York, Rt Rev John Sentamu, visited our new premises in Princes Street and gave us his blessing."

"Once we had moved to Princes Street the vision for the group was lifted from me and I am delighted to welcome Anna as the new director. Anna has a real heart for women and she has a fantastic team to help her take the work forward."

Anna has a previous career in criminal justice research and helped plant a church in London with husband Tim. The couple moved to Norwich in November 2009 when Tim was appointed chief executive of YMCA Norfolk. They have two small children, Fifi and Freddie.

"I have always had an underlying interest in pregnancy," said Anna, "and I am so excited to work with the team to discern how God wants to develop the organisation in the future."

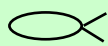
"As well as growing the fantastic work - building partnerships with the health sector and exploring work streams with the sexual health field - I believe there are great opportunities to grow the alternative work such as parental support classes, housing and befriending."

"I am looking forward to meeting many of our wonderful volunteers, supporters and partners in this work over the next few months."

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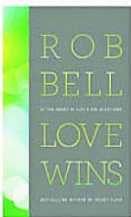
Visit the Norwich Christian Resource Centre at St Michael-at-Plea Church, Redwell Street for an extensive selection of biographies, devotional titles & books of local interest.

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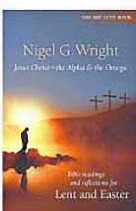
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## EVENTS

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# Contemplative teacher back in Norwich

■ **NORWICH:** Contemplative teacher Revd Dr Cynthia Bourgeault returns to Norwich for a not-to-be-missed two day experiential conference on Encountering the Wisdom Jesus.

Cynthia Bourgeault, Episcopal priest, writer, and international retreat and conference leader, will lead the two-day conference at the Assembly House on the weekend of June 11 and 12, hosted by the Norwich Contemplative Forum and supported by the Norwich Christian Meditation Centre and Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk.

Cynthia's teaching focuses on the point that because the route Jesus laid out was so different from anything that had gone before, people often miss the true nature of his teaching, which is radical even in our own time.

As contemplative practice comes of age, Christians are developing the inner tools to access his teaching from a new level of consciousness, and from the viewpoint of what the apostle Paul described as kenosis or self-emptying.

Cynthia is a teacher of Centering Prayer and

she has worked closely with Thomas Keating, Richard Rohr and other contemplative masters. She is the founding director of the Contemplative Society and the Aspen Wisdom School and the author of many books including Mystical Hope, Chanting the Psalms and The Wisdom Jesus.

Canon Professor Brian Thorne says: "Cynthia Bourgeault is one of the world's leading exponents of the wisdom tradition in Christian thinking and practice. Her ministry and current writings provide challenge and inspiration for Christians of many different denominations and she has long since recognised Norwich as a place where she is happily at home. Her conference in June is not to be missed."

The conference fee is based on a self-selecting scale and includes lunch both days: £110 (fully waged), £85 (low-waged) and £60 (unwaged). There are also a limited number of bursary places available - please ask. Early booking advised. To book go to [www.contemplativeforum.org](http://www.contemplativeforum.org) or phone Liz Day on 01603 628892.



Rev Dr Cynthia Bourgeault.

## events in brief

### May Day celebration

■ **NORWICH:** Hundreds of people are expected to attend the annual May Day Celebration in Heigham Park, organised by the Churches in the Golden Triangle area of Norwich.

The Monday May 2 event, which first started over 25 years ago, has become an important part of the local community and a great day out for families. The 11am to 3pm fete includes charity stalls, a barbecue, ice cream, refreshments, bouncy castle and crafts.

Hundreds of people usually flock to the event, which is a great chance for the local churches to meet with many of those who would not otherwise have contact with them. Parking is limited but the 999 bus stops right by the park.

### Pilgrim's Progress

■ **NORWICH:** Saltmine Theatre Company will be staging a modern adaptation of John Bunyan's classic novel The Pilgrim's Progress at Norwich Playhouse on Monday July 11, at 7.30pm

Set in the Industrial Revolution, follow Christian and his companions as they set out on a dangerous adventure, a journey that will see him meet both friends and enemies along the way. With challenges great and small on his path, will he ever reach the Heavenly City? This remarkable retelling brings this timeless story to life for a whole new generation of people.

The show is about two hours long and is suitable for all aged 12 and over.

### Easter dawn service

■ **NORWICH:** A short dawn service takes place on Easter Sunday, April 24 at 6am on St James Hill, Mousehold Heath, Norwich

The service celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and gives a chance to pray for the city of Norwich. Everyone is welcome. More details from Ray Johnson on 01603 621767.

## Taster day for kingdom theology graduate courses

■ **MID NORFOLK:** A Kingdom Theology Taster Day is set to be run by the Fountain of Life church at Ashill in mid Norfolk for two part-time graduate level courses that are run from there.

The New Wine Training Partnership (NWTP) has been established to bring together Westminster Theological Centre (WTC), New Wine and local churches in a new venture providing accredited theological teaching.

The courses - an Undergraduate Certificate in Kingdom Theology and a Graduate Diploma in Kingdom Theology - are both accredited by the University of Chester.

Each takes two years to complete and there is then the option of further study towards a BA or MA in Kingdom Theology.

Teaching is by leading theologians involved in mission throughout the world, who visit the UK to provide residential teaching twice a year and use video conferencing technology to teach weekly in the local hub, alongside experienced local leaders.

In preparation for the next academic year, there is a Kingdom Theology Taster Day on April 30 at The Well Christian Centre, Swaffham Road, Ashill, Norfolk. There will be two halves to the day:

From 9.30am-1pm Rev Dr Crispin Fletcher-Louis, principal of Westminster Theological Centre, will deliver two sessions of theological teaching. There is no charge and anyone is welcome to attend, whether to experience a flavour of how the courses are taught or to take part in an engaging and interactive morning of in-depth theological study.

From 1-3pm there will be an 'open day,' with opportunities to hear more about the content the course and details of how to apply, as well as time to meet with Crispin Fletcher-Louis and Freddy Hedley, the East Anglia hub director.

Again, this is a free-to-all event but you will need to bring a packed lunch if you are joining us all day.

There is no need to book but it would be helpful if you contacted Freddy Hedley at [eastanglia@nwtp.org.uk](mailto:eastanglia@nwtp.org.uk) or 01760 336008).

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

# Healthy soul and body view

By SANDIE SHIRLEY

**R**osemary Conley, the woman who received a CBE for helping to change the nation's eating and fitness habits, will be talking about her life, faith and business at Thetford's Church on the Way on June 7. Her visit will add clout to the Church's message for a healthy soul and body, through its regular weekly activities.

For the multimillionaire health and fitness mentor, 2011 is a milestone year. It marks her 40th year in business and her 25th wedding anniversary after God took her from illness to the altar when her life reached rock bottom.

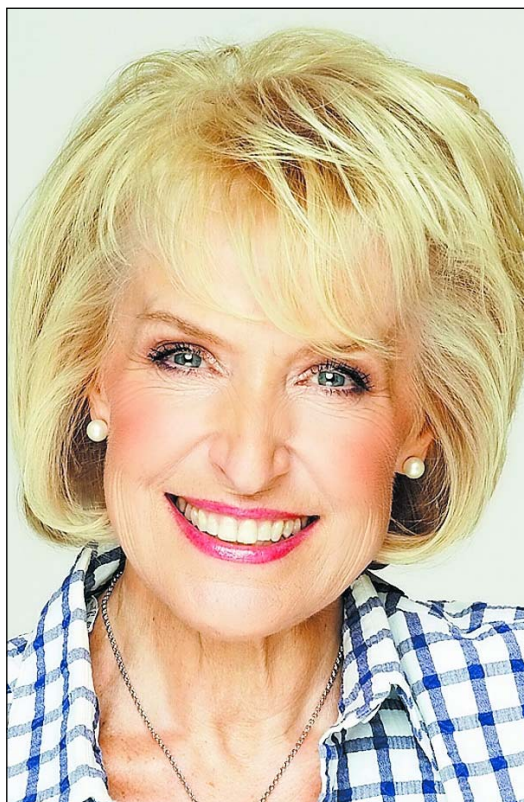
Rosemary, 64, says: "God is the chairman of my board of life," after giving him the reins 25 years ago when she was overweight, seriously ill in hospital and was caught up with selling her house when her job came to an end. To cap it all, the relationship with the new man in her life had also broken down.

Rosemary needed a spiritual and physical overhaul and it came with a simple prayer. Her life shaped-up after reading a book about celebrities who experienced life-changing encounters with God. "I knelt at the side of my bed after I left hospital and asked God into my life, my body and my soul. There were no flashing lights," recalls Rosemary who started afresh with a promise from her Saviour that he would take care of her.

Within two days she had a visit from her former boyfriend who wanted to restore the relationship. The couple wed four months later, after Rosemary proposed to the man who soon shared her faith. The rest is history - happiness, health and success followed after Rosemary's hospital stay had dictated a low-fat diet for her serious gall bladder problem. Together with exercise, it heralded a breakthrough which has been the foundation for her business ever since.

Her business empire has helped thousands of women, men and children trim down and tone-up. Rosemary is intent on spreading the good news about healthy eating and exercise as a investment for old age.

Rosemary has written over 30 books and produced as many fitness videos. Her business boasts a flourishing diet and fitness club franchise, on-line slimming club and an internet television channel,



Fitness guru Rosemary Conley.

while producing a regular magazine and mail-order calorie controlled meals that also cater for vegetarians.

"My faith has given me the patience and ability to cope with the challenges and opportunities and the courage to cope when things don't go well. God has stuck me together with super glue when I went through a tough, challenging time with my marriage ten years ago. I surrounded myself with godly things - bible tracks, Christian music - and focussed on God," explains Rosemary who believes her marriage is now stronger than ever.

"As a Christian, the Holy Spirit gives me a strong sense of what is right and wrong," says Rosemary.

Rosemary will be talking at Church on the Way, Admiral's Way Estate, Thetford IP24 2JZ on Tuesday June 7 at 7.30pm. Tickets, £5 each, from: [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk) (proceeds to Steps).

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# A late-night out for Street Pastor Aaron

Norwich student Aaron Curran, 19, has just completed four months as a Norfolk Street Pastor. Here he describes a typical night on the streets.



Street Pastor Aaron Curran. Pic by Josie Pointer

**W**e meet for prayer, communion and briefing at 9:30pm and go onto the streets at 10pm. Typically we go to the soup kitchen, situated outside Primark on Gentleman's Walk although we do not follow a strict route. Whilst at the soup kitchen we are able to interact with some of the homeless in the city. This also gives us the chance to build relationships with them, whilst getting

to know their situations.

We then make our way through Castle Gardens on route to Riverside, stopping to speak with doormen at the Marquee pub and then the Waterfront. Both of these venues lend opportunity for us to interact with members of the public.

Once on Riverside, we stop by the Queen of Icen and then the more recently opened Project nightclub,

before moving on to the train station. I remember one night chatting to two lads whilst at the station and it was such a blessing to be able to encourage one of the lads whilst giving him advice. We were also able to tell this lad about Jesus, when he asked us, and we left with him saying he would pray into his situation. Although we are not out to preach, sometimes people do ask questions about God and we are able to share our faith.

After leaving the station we head onto Prince of Wales Road, where we usually spend the rest of the night. It's difficult to sum up the work we do on Prince of Wales Road as every time out is different. We often help calm aggression, aid people to taxis, support the homeless in the Prince of Wales Road area, hand flip flops to girls who are unable to walk in their heels, provide space blankets as well as stop to chat with people who are interested in what Street Pastors do. It fascinates me the amount of people who can't believe that a 19-year-old youth would voluntarily give up Friday and Saturday nights to support the vulnerable.

Street Pastors go out in teams of four on a monthly rota. There are also a team of Prayer Pastors who stay at base to pray for the team on the street.

If anyone wants more information on Street or Prayer Pastors or would be interested in becoming one please: visit [www.norfolkstreetpastors.co.uk](http://www.norfolkstreetpastors.co.uk), call 01603 340017 or e-mail [hailgail@btinternet.com](mailto:hailgail@btinternet.com)

## Sporting fun at YMCA Norfolk

### ■ Sports Facilities

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	Peak	Off-Peak
Whole sports hall per hour	£27.50	£22.50
Badminton court per hour	£5.50	£5.50

The Astro turf is also available to hire on a block booking basis both during the daytime and in the evenings in the summer months (no floodlights). The astro offers two netball courts, a basketball court and 5-a-side football as well as being an ideal outdoor space for other physical activities.

	Peak	Off-Peak
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### ■ Contact

For sports and conference facility bookings contact Janet Payne at [janetpayne@ymca-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:janetpayne@ymca-norfolk.org.uk) or on 01603 630049 ext 125 or

For information regarding health and well-being activities please contact Jessica Tyson on 01603 6300498 ext 129 or email [jessicatyson@ymca-norfolk.org.uk](mailto:jessicatyson@ymca-norfolk.org.uk)

■ YMCA Norfolk, The Street, Trowse, Norwich, NR14 8SP  
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