

# GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK

Harvest 2013: FREE

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## New church will be a lighthouse for town

■ **SHERINGHAM:** A new church came into being in Sheringham on Sunday September 1, as the town's Baptists moved into their brand new centre on Cromer Road, and became known as the Lighthouse Community Church, in a move to become more accessible to the community.

"We have waited at least 18 years for this day," said Ivor Charsley, one of the church leaders. "During that time we have coped with cramped and dated facilities. Now God has given us this fabulous new centre."

The need for a new building became more acute a few years ago when it emerged that the Holway Road Baptist church building required significant structural work. A re-build on that site was considered, but when the old Abbeyfield care home became available in late 2009, it soon became clear that this was the site that God had chosen for the new church centre.



"Although it has been a long journey," said Ivor, "everything has fallen into place when it needed to, including the funding, which is a sure sign that God's hand has been upon this project from the beginning".

The project has cost £1.5m in total, which has

been raised by selling existing property, grants, loans, fund-raising and the generosity of church members. "We took up a special collection to help meet the remaining £25,000 needed to complete the fitting out of the building," explained Finance Manager Chris Gould. "That collection raised a stunning total of over £50,000, which means we will be able to purchase the rest of the equipment needed."

The grand opening of the new centre took place on Saturday September 21.

"This does feel like we've now arrived," said Pastor Bryan Pickard. "But in actual fact this is really only the start of our journey. We want to share this wonderful new facility with our community in North Norfolk, and show them the joy we have in knowing God".

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

■ **By Tony Rothe**

## Jan takes on media role for Archbishop

■ **NORWICH:** Archdeacon of Norwich, the Venerable Jan McFarlane, became the acting press secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury, based at Lambeth Palace in London from September 2.

Jan, who is also communications director for the Diocese of Norwich, will be handling the media for the Rt Rev Justin Welby, who became Archbishop in March and has already had to tackle issues such as the crisis in Syria, pay day lenders such as Wonga.com, Pope Francis, the G8 Summit, poverty and injustice across the world, gay marriage and the future of the Anglican Communion.

Jan has taken on the key role for a few months until a new director of communications is appointed by the Archbishop.

Jan has been in the Norwich communications role for 14 years and understands the structures of the CofE, being a member of General Synod. The role will be to provide media cover and advice on communications and media to the Archbishop and to help shape the new role for the person appointed.

"It will be fascinating to learn more about the day-to-day ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and living in historic Lambeth Palace, overlooking the Thames and Big Ben is a once in a lifetime opportunity," she said. "At the same time I'm very aware of the responsibility of handling the Archbishop's communications and prayers would be much appreciated!"

Asked if she was interested in the permanent role, Jan said: "I've not applied for the new post as I'm a priest at heart and want to stay in a diocesan role. I'll be living in the attic of Lambeth Palace and returning to my husband and puppy here in Norwich whenever the Archbishop's diary allows!"

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



## Who Cares? challenge to Norfolk churches



A major mission involving scores of churches and thousands of young people is set to be held in Norfolk during 2014 after a successful launch during the Newday festival at the Royal Norfolk Showground in August.

Who Cares? was launched first to around 75 church leaders from across Norfolk and then to 6,000 young people in the Newday Big Top.

Backing the mission were the Bishop of Norwich, Newday leader Joel Virgo, Roy Crowne, executive director of Hope and Nick Blanch, director of Norwich Youth for Christ.

The simple idea behind the mission – to ask people the question "What hurts you the most?" – was enthusiastically received by both audiences.

The mission plans to use the thousands of young people attending the Newday event in August 2014 to pose the question to people across Norfolk, with the help of scores of local churches across all denominations.

The results will be collated and then local churches will have the opportunity to respond to the answer in whatever way they feel appropriate – maybe a sermon series, free booklet, events or pastoral visits for example.

Alongside the mission is planned a wide-ranging media campaign to raise awareness of the question and what churches can do to address it.

Backing the idea, the Rt Rev Graham James,

Bishop of Norwich, said: "'Who Cares?' is often said by those who have grown cynical about our society. This mission initiative is a very simple means of enabling churches to make fresh contact with the communities of which they're part and to show that they care for everyone because God cares for them. It's a practical initiative, achievable and worthwhile, and which I hope will bring people who've never known of Jesus Christ's care for them to hear his name and discover his love."

Roy Crowne, said: "Hope is thrilled the Who Cares? resource will provide churches with a

tool to enable them to impact their community, coming out of caring and loving relationships. This provides a great opportunity to communicate the Gospel. It is one of many that Hope would recommend and we're thrilled to be partnering with this in the summer of 2014."

Rob Tervet, from Attleborough Community Church, who came up with the original idea and Ailsa Magee from Kings Community Church in Norwich will be driving the mission.

You can find out more information and register your interest at [www.who-cares.org.uk](http://www.who-cares.org.uk)

■ **By Keith Morris**



Above and left, the Bishop of Norwich and local church leaders launch the Who Cares initiative in the Newday big top.

## Fiona Castle in Norwich

■ **NORWICH:** The Flame Trust presents an evening with Fiona Castle, wife of the late TV entertainer Roy Castle, on Tuesday September 24 at Norwich Central Baptist Church.

In an informal interview setting, Fiona will talk about how she coped with the loss of her life partner, well-known entertainer Roy Castle.

Fiona, a committed Christian, will talk of her experience of bereavement alongside some hilarious insights into Roy's life as one of the top UK entertainers of all time.

She will also talk of her work in support of projects in Thailand, in a thought-provoking and fascinating event full of challenge and humour.

The event will be hosted by Dave Pope, founder of the Flame Trust who works locally and internationally with disadvantaged people. Proceeds from the evening will be used to support Global Care's projects and Flame Trust projects with marginalised people worldwide.

An evening with Fiona Castle will be held on Tuesday September 24 at 7.30pm Norwich Central Baptist Church, Duke Street.

Tickets cost £6 and can be bought online at [www.networknorwich.co.uk/shop](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk/shop) or by calling 01603 743786.

## GOOD NEWS

FOR NORWICH & NORFOLK

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## Seedtime and harvest - a promise from God

■ In my school days we broke up for harvest holidays, not summer holidays, to help gather in the crops. A completion of a year's work from the ploughing, seed sowing and growth through to ripening. Whatever the weather there is a harvest to gather. An exciting time of the year.

The earth continues its cycle, with God's promise to Noah, "As long as the earth endures seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

In our churches we celebrate Harvest Festival during the months of September and October, although modern plant breeding is bringing actual harvest time earlier. This celebration is steeped in the Old Testament history of bringing some of the first fruits – the best - to God. Coupled with this was the practice of leaving some of the crop in the fields for widows and others to glean – a



**Kevin Parfitt, Norfolk farmer and Methodist local preacher**

lesson for us all to follow of sharing what we have with others.

Our Harvest Festival services feature favourite and traditional hymns like "We plough the fields and scatter".

This act of worship is important for Christians not associated with the harvest from the land, to connect with God's creation

and offer gifts to him.

The process of reaching Harvest teaches us patience. It cannot be hurried. We plant the seed; conditions will affect its growth and end result. So much of this is outside our control. So we need Faith and Hope, giving thanks to God, for providing our earthly food and for the death and resurrection of His son Jesus who gives us new and lasting spiritual life.

We are each involved in a harvest. We read in Matthew's gospel the parable of the talents where one person buried his one talent while the other two invested theirs.

We need to use whatever "talent" God has given us. It might be money, knowledge or ability. One day we will give an account to God of the opportunities and the impact we have had. Let us use this talent now wisely; He will increase it so that our lives will glorify Him.

# Growing church invites Norwich to pray



Members of the JCSL congregation in Norwich.

Jesus Christ Source of Life church in Norwich offers a warm welcome to newcomers, including translation into key African languages, which has seen its numbers grow steadily. A new outreach of public prayer in Anglia Square will begin in September. **Alaine Mukene** reports.

Initially, just five years ago, a group of six mainly Congolese people formed the Jesus Christ Source of Life church (JCSL). Today, with almost equal amounts of English and Congolese within its 50-strong congregation, the church centres on worship, baptism and prayer in a uniquely vibrant, confident and loud community.

There is always someone translating the sermons and worship at JCSL. Translations are from English into Lingala and Swahili if needed, and regularly into French as the most universal common language amongst the church's African community. Most visitors can receive the message in their own tongue.

In September JCSL launched a Rhythm of Prayer outreach initiative in Anglia Square, in the heart of Norwich. A drop-in style ongoing prayer rhythm will be sustained throughout Fridays and Saturdays. Everyone is invited to join in, at whatever time suits them, for as

long or short a time as they have.

Donald Menga, church leader said, "We've seen God do amazing things over the past years and lots of people joining us for worship. We want the Congolese community to know that we decided to continue to translate from English because we understand how hard it can be when you arrive in this country and your English is not great. You're desperate to go and receive the Word and to worship but you don't understand what's going on. As we have strong Congolese connections we felt this was an important ministry to carry on."

Donald added that, "We want to let others across the city know that they're welcome to join us too, whenever they can. We are excited about the Rhythm of Prayer outreach into Anglia Square. We are hoping many will find Jesus through this."

People can expect some lively worship as

people tend to dance for Jesus when they can, and prayer time varies from quiet reflection to loud simultaneous cries out to the Lord in many languages and tongues! However, the main aim is to connect with Jesus and invite Him to join us in the gathering and to experience His blessing."

Why not go along and experience a new type of joyful worship, or drop into Anglia Square during September for prayer, in any language and with an African twist.

For more details call Donald Menga: 01603 622989.

Jesus Christ Source of Life meet at Oak Grove Chapel, Catton Grove at 2pm on Sundays. A youth church for the younger children has recently started during services.

Lively and loud prayer gatherings are held every Saturday from 6-8pm at Oak Grove Chapel and also on Fridays from 7-9pm at 86 Magdalen Street.



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Above, the installation of Bishop Alan Hopes (below) at Norwich RC Cathedral. Pictures courtesy of Mazur/www.catholicnews.org.uk

# 2,000 in Norwich to welcome new bishop

By KEITH MORRIS

The new Roman Catholic Bishop for the diocese of East Anglia, Bishop Alan Hopes, was installed at Norwich Catholic Cathedral on July 16 in front of a packed congregation of almost 2,000 people.

The service was led by Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The two-hour Mass of Installation was attended by Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, almost all the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, a representative of Pope Francis, civic representatives from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire as well as representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox and Coptic Orthodox Churches, the Anglican Bishop of Norwich, the Salvation Army, Eastern Baptists, the United Reformed Church, Quakers and the East Anglia Methodists.

Bishop Alan will lead Roman Catholics in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and succeeds the Right Rev Michael Evans, who died of cancer in 2011.

Bishop Alan said: "Today has been a momentous celebration for the whole of the Catholic Diocese of East Anglia and for me personally, as I come amongst them as their father, their brother and a fellow pilgrim with them."

"I am looking forward to getting to know both the clergy and the people of the Diocese and the richness of a family that covers the three counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and the city of Peterborough. I am also looking forward to getting to know



and working with the leaders of the other Christian churches and communities who were present at today's Installation Mass - it is so important today that Christians work together, in those areas where it is possible to do so, for the benefit of society as a whole.

"I hope that the Catholic Church in East Anglia will continue to be able to engage with the wider community, with those of faith and those of no faith."

## 46 teams kick off football season

**NORFOLK:** The Norfolk Christian Football League kicked off its new season on September 14 with 46 teams from 18 different churches, including a doubling in the number of Under 10 teams and a change in format for the adult league competitions.

The adult league has 14 teams divided into two completely separate divisions of seven each. New teams are from Lighthouse church in Sheringham and St John's, Norwich.

The two knockout competitions will have a new Champions League type group stage format after seeded first round matches, meaning that more teams will retain an interest for longer. Group winners will then go straight into the respective Wroxham Road Shield and Bishop's Cup finals, pencilled in for May 10.

League secretary, Jess Tyson, said: "At the EGM on September 2, teams voted for the adult division to stay as two separate leagues and for the new cup formats - this is a new venture for the league and is designed to make it fairer as well as giving teams something to play for right till the final stages of the competition."

The season will kick off with ten teams in the Under 10 league, up from just five last season including new teams from Stoke Holy Cross, Heartsease Youth, ENYP, Cringleford and Heigham Park Rangers. There is also a new King's Under 14 team.

Jess said: "This was an area where we wanted to increase teams as it will in subsequent years help to boost numbers across the league as teams move up through the age groups. Tim Stapleford and Paul Smith are continuing their great work on the North Norfolk initiative."

League chairman, Mike Culwick, said: "With the NCFL, the football is a mission and the league is willing to help any church set up their own football team for future season. Churches can invite a committee member to come and speak to the league leadership to explain more about the league and the mission work we do."

Dates have also been fixed for the Youth Cup Finals - May 3, and the Youth 5-a-side Tournament - May 17.

Visit the NCFL website: [www.norfolkcfl.co.uk](http://www.norfolkcfl.co.uk)

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# New team at Letton Hall

**Letton Hall Christian conference centre in Mid Norfolk has a new management team led by Danny and Alison Pritchard who have returned to the county after many years away doing Christian work in Sussex. Helen Baldry reports.**

**D**anny was a policeman in Norfolk between 1979 and 1984 and he and Alison established some strong roots in the Norfolk Christian community. After serving in North Walsham and Norwich, Danny left the force in 1984 to head up the East Anglia Youth For Christ (YFC) Bus Project with Grantley Watkins, bringing much-needed support to youth work in rural areas of Norfolk.

Following a call from God to work with young people in the community, Danny and Alison developed a team of volunteers working in the villages and towns of East Anglia. They ran the project for seven years before moving to East Sussex to work for British YFC in 1991.

They pioneered YFC ministry in the South East for several years after which Danny did his theological training and was ordained as a Baptist minister.

They pastored churches in Mayfield, Battle and Brighton. During their time in East Sussex they were involved with the Christian conference centre at Ashburnham Place, where Danny was eventually a director. Unbeknown to them at the time, the skills and knowledge developed around managing heritage buildings would be put to use in their new role as centre managers of Letton Hall in Norfolk.

Danny said: "The opportunity at



The new team at Letton Hall is led by Danny and Alison Pritchard.

Letton Hall in Norfolk just came to us. We weren't looking for it. It is a place we loved and years ago we brought several youth groups here."

Danny and Alison became managers of Letton Hall in February and their aim is to build upon the great foundation already laid, providing a comfortable and welcoming venue for Christian retreats and youth groups.

The timing was right for the Pritchards to return to Norfolk. Alison

said, "We were at a place where we could make a significant geographical move without affecting our children."

The couple have three grown-up children and two grandsons. They have stayed in touch with Norfolk over the years, especially through their passion for sailing in the Norfolk Broads.

Danny said: "It's lovely to be back. We've enjoyed reconnecting with people."

There are plans to develop the

buildings at Letton and particularly to improve and increase the bathroom facilities. Letton Hall offers flexible accommodation and can cater for small groups right up to whole church retreats. They frequently host schools and Christian Union parties and the centre is an excellent venue for youth groups because of the extensive grounds and user-friendly buildings. There is a go-kart track, games room, space for outdoor activities such as archery, orienteering and other activities in the ten-acre grounds.

Letton Hall was architect Sir John Soane's first full house commission and the building survives largely as Soane designed it, including the magnificent cantilever staircase. The centre is run by a Christian charitable trust set up by Peter and Mary Carroll after having a vision for a Christian Centre in the heart of Norfolk. Danny and Alison are keen to ensure that Letton Hall is still a blessing to the church and ministries in the future.

There are 14 staff at Letton Hall and an army of volunteers helping with tasks such as painting and gardening. It is a stately home with a welcoming feel to it - 'A Big House with a Warm Heart'. Alison said: "Once people are through the door they feel totally at home."

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

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Contact Alison Pritchard to discuss your needs.

Phone: 01362 820717 Email: [info@lettonhall.org](mailto:info@lettonhall.org)

## More than just shoeboxes

**■ NORFOLK:** Samaritan's Purse has become well-known for its Christmas shoebox appeal; however the charity's activities reach far beyond this into disaster relief, overseas community development and mission, working hand-in-hand with the local churches. Norfolk churches and many schools play a vital role in support of this work.

Under the banner of "Helping in Jesus' Name" this international Christian organisation shares the Gospel and helps people get back on their feet and lead productive and fulfilling lives.

When disaster strikes, Samaritan's Purse is one of the first international NGOs to respond, usually at the request of the local church. Highly skilled and trained volunteers with specific skills are mobilised. Besides protecting survivors from further danger, shelter, food and safe water can be supplied. Samaritan's Purse ranks as the world's seventh largest food distributor.

International community development is delivered primarily at the request of a church or community.

They have had over 15 years' experience in working with families in countries as diverse as Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Belarus, Swaziland, Rwanda and Liberia. The local church and local volunteers respond to local need, supporting and encouraging families. They realise the importance of spiritual, psychological and emotional care as well as physical support, which is why they are running a harvest appeal in support of their Raising Families project.

The unique Harvest Resource Pack invites UK churches, community groups and schools to mirror some of the activities seen in churches overseas, where they pool together their meagre resources to help each other. It can be downloaded from the charity's website

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest Christmas shoebox appeal donating over 8 million shoeboxes a year of which around one



million are sent from the UK. Last year 64 churches and 129 schools from Norfolk filled almost 10,000 shoeboxes. Within the county there is a network of volunteers, donors, collecting drivers, processing warehouses, helpers and volunteers that give presentations to churches and schools.

Alan Cutting, Regional Manager explains the unique appeal of the shoeboxes: "Decorating and filling an empty shoebox with carefully chosen gifts is a tangible demonstration of God's love to a needy child overseas. In the destination country children are selected on need, invited to a Christmas celebration and maybe for the first time ever receive a gift. Where it is culturally appropriate each child will be given, an illustrated booklet 'The Greatest Gift' that introduces children to Jesus."

There is scope to increase the Operation Christmas Child activity in Norfolk, and Alan seeks not only practical volunteers, but also "Equippers" from within Norfolk; those with an aptitude to build teams of volunteers and lead and run the regional OCC programme from a strategic and missional perspective. Contact Alan at [alan.cutting@samaritans-purse.org.uk](mailto:alan.cutting@samaritans-purse.org.uk) or 07834 693144. [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

■ By Kevin Gotts



The new URC worship and community hub in Wroxham.

# New community hub and worship centre

**A** new worship and community centre opened in Wroxham on August 10 on the site of a former garage.

The Wroxham Hub, home of Wroxham & Hoveton United Reformed Church, formally opened its doors for the first time and has welcomed hundreds of local people visiting the new site to see the new facilities. Some 130 people turned up on the Sunday afternoon for the celebratory opening service when Rev Kenneth Lynch, the church's previous minister who initiated the project, came back to cut the ribbon and preached the opening sermon.

The Wroxham Hub is located at 114 Norwich Road on the site of an old garage. The new centre comprises a worship area, small kitchen, and two meeting rooms and is intended to be a resource for the whole community.

The Revd Matt Stone, minister of the church,

explained why the church has taken this bold step. He said: "The church has never had its own building and we wanted the security and flexibility of dedicated premises to enable us to fully live out our vision. I'm excited by the potential of these purpose-built premises to enable us to grow and host a range of new activities to serve the local community."

"Alongside our existing work with children and adults, we are going to be home to a new Foodbank distribution centre and a weekly 'Open House' on Thursdays, when everyone will be welcome to drop in for a coffee, chat and a simple soup lunch. Other community groups, including a new branch of The University of the Third Age (U3A), will also be using The Hub."

The church purchased the site and submitted plans to develop it more than three years ago.

Since then, the church has raised over £245,000 towards the estimated £285,000 cost of conversion. This has been aided by generous donations from the Geoffrey Watling Charity, Broadland District Council, the Norfolk Community Fund, the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church, the Joseph Rank Trust and many others.

Church elder Mrs Corrie Mould commented: "We've been amazed by, and very grateful for, people's generosity and the number of gifts we have received."

Matt added: "We hear so much of the church declining in the modern world, but we are testimony to the fact that the church of Jesus Christ is very much alive and active and wanting to positively contribute to the world in which we live."

[www.wroxham.unc.org.uk](http://www.wroxham.unc.org.uk)

## news in brief

### Canaries challenge to fund Indian dream

**■ NORWICH:** Norwich City supporters are being challenged to test their knowledge about the club in a quiz against former players while helping to raise enough money to provide a football pitch and training for children living in an Indian slum.

Claire Atkinson is organising a Norwich City Legends quiz night in aid of the Vidiyal Trust, a Christian charity started by her mother, Pat, 20 years ago.

The quiz night is being held at Carrow Road on Friday, October 4 and around 150 tickets for the event are now on sale.

Former City defender Rob Newman is helping with the quiz night and is organising a team of former Canaries to take part in the event.

The Norfolk-based Vidiyal Trust already has a centre in the slum area of Mavelikara in South West India, where tuition and food is provided for local children, many of them orphans.

Thanks to an initiative by Ludham churches the centre has games for the children, but no real space for the increasing numbers, explained Pat.

"Close to the slum is an area of ground, about the size of a football pitch size, that is available to rent for two years and we want to get this and start football training for girls and boys, and allow our volunteers to utilise the space for the children at weekends.

"These are slum children, living in appalling conditions. We also hope to have training sessions for working children. This is a one-off initiative, but will make an incredible difference to our children.

"I am a big Norwich City fan," said Pat, "and we have already sent quite a few Canary shirts out to India so they have also adopted Norwich. India is interested in football more and more. We plan to send one of our volunteers – a boy we rescued from the streets 20 years ago – on a coaching course."

Claire said: "We are hoping to raise £2,000 on the evening to be able to rent the piece of land. A lot of the children in India don't want to go to school so we can use it as an incentive, to say you can play football here and you can have an education as well."

Tickets for the quiz night are £22 per person, including a two-course finger buffet, with teams of five or six people, and will be held in the Top of the Terrace restaurant at Carrow Road. There will also be a raffle and auction on the night, with two signed Norwich City shirts up for grabs.

For tickets to the quiz night, contact Claire via email on [claire-atkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:claire-atkinson@hotmail.com), ring 01603 714720 or visit [www.vidiyaltrust.org.uk](http://www.vidiyaltrust.org.uk)

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## There must be more to life

■ Retired Norfolk dentist Dr Barrie Lawrence has turned author, telling his story of 'an ordinary Christian' in the book *There Must Be More To Life Than This!* Review by Kevin Gotts.

■ Subtitled "How to experience God in everyday life," Barrie's book is written in a straightforward, easy-to-read style staying clear of religious jargon.

This is an unusual yet very captivating book. It comes in two distinct halves. Part 1 is a series of stories, or recollections, taken from the life of "an ordinary Christian who has experienced God", and Part 2 is effectively a series of simple user-friendly chapters that summarise important fundamentals of the Christian faith.

Barrie Lawrence, who lives in Norfolk, has spent most of his life working as a dentist in his own practice. His formative years, however, were in London, when he was a student at the London Hospital in Whitechapel. It was here that he learned much about life and found faith in Christ from a position of atheism.

His life has certainly been eventful. There have been times of real struggle, both financially and emotionally and, as he admits, times when he has 'really messed up'. But the book is a clear testimony to the God who has forgiven, renewed relationships and continued to bless.

Most of us like stories and Barrie's candid recollections of significant events in his life draw us in to a view of the world that is both

pragmatic and deeply spiritual. At various times he has experienced clear guidance from God, seen miracles of healing in his own and other's lives, and received answers to prayer.

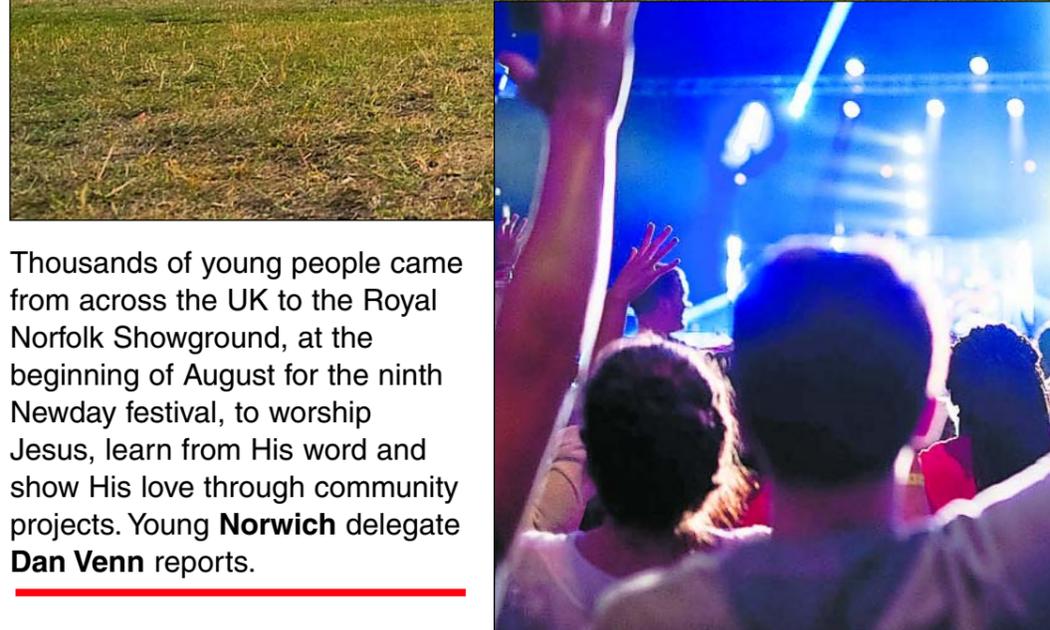
At one time he opened a Christian bookshop in a small market town and, although this was often in a precarious financial position, 'the Lord stepped in and met the need', so that the shop was able to operate for almost 20 years. On other occasions he tells of miraculous healings, including recovery of a broken arm, in response to prayer.

This book could appeal to a casual reader of no faith, through to a committed Christian who would keep this on their bookshelf and from time to time refer to Part 2. The reality of his experiences and his honesty in their telling are a challenge to all of us to take the whole gospel seriously. Above all, Barrie has an infectious enthusiasm about the things of God and a burning desire to share them with others.

The underlying theme is the breaking in of the supernatural to ordinary lives, and the importance of experiencing as well as believing. As he says in his conclusion: "I am not an ordained minister, nor do I have a degree in theology, and nor do I have a position in the hierarchy of the church. I am an ordinary Christian and I experience God."

■ Barrie will be signing copies of his book at the **Norwich Christian Resources Centre, Redwell Street, Norwich on Friday October 18, 5.30pm to 7pm. It is also available at other local bookshops, as well as Amazon.com and W H Smith online at £8.99.**

# Newday say 'we love Nor'



Thousands of young people came from across the UK to the Royal Norfolk Showground, at the beginning of August for the ninth Newday festival, to worship Jesus, learn from His word and show His love through community projects. Young Norwich delegate Dan Venn reports.

Newday is a Christian event where young people from a variety of backgrounds, aged 12-19, all come together in one place to meet with God, one another and enjoy a exciting week in a Christian environment some may have never experienced before. Delegates spend a week attending meetings and seminars, going on Outreach Projects, playing sport and building relationships with new people.

They all have one thing in common: their love for Jesus.

However, to the innocent delegate, rolling up on the Monday morning, all is not as easy as it seems. Hundreds of willing, servant-hearted volunteers embark on transforming the Showground into a Newday paradise, days before the first delegates jump off their coaches onto their campsite.

Whether it be the dancing Global Café servers preparing their infamous milkshakes, or the unsung heroes of the 'Carpet Team' gaffer taping away, all should be appreciated and thanked enormously.

By Monday afternoon, cafes were running for the week, delegates were arriving, and anticipation of another exciting chapter of Newday's life was about to begin.

On a full day, after every morning meeting, age-catered seminars took place with topics such as sex, dating, homosexuality and forgiveness all covered this year. The young people who are exposed to the

world's views on a daily basis are given the Bible's views on these fragile issues.

Then, after heading back to camp, polishing off some sandwiches and crisps, many will take the opportunity to check out the wide range of cafes Newday provides.

Among them - Global Café is dedicated to mission around the world and connecting people from across the nations... plus their tasty milkshakes! Next door is Retro Café which gives delegates an old school vibe, this year adding hot dogs to their menu!

Other activities include hair straightening in The Pink Bar, Nerf Arena in The Gents, plus live music in the Lime Lounge, and a range of sports tournaments on the Sports Field.

As the evening meeting approaches, nearly 7,000 people pile into the Big Top for a night of worship and teaching.

This year Newday was graced by the musical talents of Simon Brading and Jules Burt and the wisdom of preachers Joel Virgo, Andrew Wilson, Stef Liston, Tope Koleoso, Adrian Holloway and Darrell Tunningly, among others.

The latter captivated the young Newday audience, on the Wednesday evening, with his story of how he came from prison to know Jesus through the persistence and boldness of two "older than Yoda" retired nuns.

He said, "Time with Jesus, builds your faith, which



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# S folk'



## Putting words into action

■ Hundreds of Christian young people attending Newday left the site to engage in local social action projects to serve the community.

One team of 30 delegates made their way to the Mile Cross estate to take part in a project clearing and tidying gardens.

The delegates, armed with spades and wellies, met up with members of the Gardening Club, born last year as a result of a Newday outreach project in this area by members of Kings Community Church, Norwich.

The bad weather didn't seem to dampen the young people's spirit as they set about weeding, raking

and trimming, turning overgrown jungles into well-kept gardens.

Joining the delegates was Norwich North MP Chloe Smith.

Chloe said: "It is really fantastic to see how a project like the Gardening Club has been established out of the work that was done in previous years. It's important to encourage the community to take heart from the work these young people are doing and to make these changes happen for themselves."

■ Pictured below is the Newday team working on the Mile Cross estate in Norwich with MP Chloe Smith.



leads to boldness that produces results." He went on to speak about issues that stop people from living a life for Jesus - "You can't beat it... all you do is surrender it, to Jesus, and he will snap it right up... it will have no power over you."

Throughout the week, an army of 2,000 grace-giving red t-shirts took over Norfolk, and served the community on outreach projects organised by Newday. One car-washing delegate said: "We're all about God's grace, and grace is about giving freely, so if we can give freely to other people they can know God's love."

Over the years Newday has continued to grow outwards into surrounding communities. Through the new 'Who Cares?' initiative, next year Newday seeks to reach out even further across Norfolk.

Toby Skipper, an elder at Kings Community Church, Norwich told delegates, "The seeds that you've sown into communities, people now know the red t-shirts. We and you are going to enable church communities across this county to engage with people, maybe who have never even considered the Christian faith or that the Church even cares or that actually young people like yourselves care and want to make a difference in our world."

Newday doesn't just come and go in a week; it wants to leave an everlasting mark of God's love on the county and next year promises to impact Norfolk like never before.

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## Coping with misuse workshop for parents

■ **NORWICH:** A series of workshops for parents and carers of young people with alcohol or drugs misuse problems is set to be offered by the Christian-based Matthew Project in Norwich starting in September. Organised by the Under18 Service, the aims of the workshops include giving practical information around drugs and alcohol, strategies for coping with challenging behaviour and ideas for more effective communication between parents and

their children.

"We also hope to support participants in increasing their own self-awareness and resilience," said lead worker Mel Wheeler, who has set up the workshops with counsellor Annie Green-Armytage.

"This is the first time we have attempted to reach parents and carers of young people directly in a formalised setting, to offer support with what can be very challenging situations."

The team are planning to pilot the scheme in Norwich and then roll it out countywide and beyond in the future. Each course will be six sessions of two hours each. The workshops starting in mid-September will be held in the early evenings and those in October will run during the daytime.

For more information, please contact Mel Wheeler or Annie Green-Armytage, on 01603 216420 or [mel.wheeler@matthewproject.org](mailto:mel.wheeler@matthewproject.org), [annie.green-armytage@matthewproject.org](mailto:annie.green-armytage@matthewproject.org)

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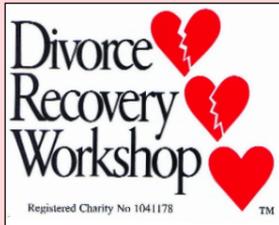
Time: 7 - 9.30 pm

Venue: Witard Road Baptist  
Church Hall, Witard Road,  
Norwich, NR7 9XD

Contact: Michele at

[mrc7drw@gmail.com](mailto:mrc7drw@gmail.com) or on 07833 073105.

Web: [www.drw.org.uk](http://www.drw.org.uk)



## New worship centre fulfils old dream

Above, the new Witard Road Baptist Church worship centre and, below, inside the main hall.

A 54-year-old dream was fulfilled in Norwich recently when the new Witard Road Baptist Church worship centre and redevelopment was finished with a weekend of celebrations.

The £650,000 project has resulted in a 250-capacity worship centre, a re-vamp of the original church and, most recently, the development right next to the worship centre of a large welcome and cafe area with kitchenette, toilet facilities, an office and meeting rooms.

Some 54 years ago St Mary's Baptist Church planted a new congregation on the corner of Witard Road and Plumstead Road East on a site bought by the Baptist Union as the Heartsease estate was being built. It was called the 'JH Shakespeare Memorial Baptist Church'. It was a multi-purpose building, but always with the dream of developing the whole site into a suite of premises that could be used to extend God's Kingdom.

The church currently has 108 members and a Sunday morning attendance of 150.

Completion of the project was marked by a weekend of celebrations



in late July when special guest Richard Lewis, Regional Minister for the Northern Sector of the Eastern Baptist Association cut the red ribbon and dedicated the buildings.

Witard Road pastor David Adams said: "This opening is in one sense the end of one stage of development and the beginning of a new phase. God's Kingdom does not rest in bricks and mortar and the challenge continues for the church to build the 'spiritual house'

in continuing to see lives transformed and ministries released."

The Saturday evening included worship with Luke Hamlyn and Saltmine Theatre Company. The weekend of celebrations concluded with a service on the Sunday evening to which all the local churches of the Thorpe & Heartsease Christian Forum were invited, together with the other Norwich Baptist Churches.

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



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Pictured outside the Forum in Norwich is new Norfolk CMA branch chairman David Dodd.

The Norfolk branch of the **Christian Motorcyclists Association** has a new leadership team led by BBC engineer and Baptist, **David Dodd**. **Keith Morris** reports.

## New Norfolk bikers team are on the road for God

**D**avid Dodd, who is a BBC engineer and is on the leadership team of Witard Road Baptist Church, is the new Norfolk CMA chairman.

"The CMA is about getting out and meeting bikers, going to secular rallies and sharing our faith," said David. "It is about reaching people who are not normally reached. For some people being a biker and a Christian does not work – but for me I have been a Christian for 50 years and a biker for 42 years.

"My Dad was a biker with a Norton 500 and I built my first bike when I was 16, an old Francis Barnett, which was stolen about a year later," said David. "I got an engine for Christmas and a frame for my birthday – it was a bits and pieces things. I worked my way up from there. As an engineer, I like

playing with things mechanically and my wife Sue is happy to go on the bike, so we are often out and about together.

"I come from a non-Christian family but when I was eight or nine, I was given a Good News New Testament, I read it and believed it and since that point I have walked with the Lord.

"The whole family is involved at Witard Road, where my two boys are involved in the music and where we are just finishing constructing a new building so there is quite a lot going on there as well."

Greg Bright as treasurer and wife Julie as secretary, make up the rest of the CMA team and have been involved with the branch for four or five years. The couple met each other as teachers in China and it was Julie that got

Greg interested in bikes.

"We are looking for more Christian bikers and the opportunity to go into more churches to tell people a bit about ourselves and for them to pray for us," said Greg.

"We give out Bikers Bibles which we hope plant seeds in people's minds. We have fun with bikers and non-bikers alike and our mission is to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus. Our passion is to ride bikes and still be in a place to give a reason for our faith. For me, the CMA is about having fun, fellowship and outreach."

The Norfolk CMA team meet once a month at Witard Road plus a social night at The Racecourse to chat and get to know each other. For more details visit [www.bike.org.uk/cma/norfolk.php](http://www.bike.org.uk/cma/norfolk.php)

## Norwich workshop to help cope with divorce

■ **NORWICH:** The Christian-based Divorce Recovery Workshops charity is set to launch a new six-week course in Norwich starting in October.

The first local course, run in April this year, was very successful with 14 people completing the course according to Norwich co-ordinator Michele Curtis.

"New statistics released recently reported that there is a rise in divorce in the over sixty age group," said Michele. "And Norwich is the sixth worst for divorce figures in the country. Divorce Recovery Workshops can help meet the need of those trying to come to terms with the emotional turmoil and pain that separation and divorce brings.

After completing the workshop, those that have participated can continue to meet for support and friendship if they wish on a social basis. They can also become volunteers within DRW.

Norwich has recently launched its own Facebook page to facilitate further support and publicise events and social activities.

The next step for DRW in Norwich has been to plan dates for the next workshops, with a six-week evening course beginning on Tuesday October 8 at Witard Road Baptist Church and two six-week courses planned for next spring and autumn.

"Plans are already in place to provide a residential workshop at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, which will take place over a weekend at the end of July 2014," said Michele. "Residential weekends are beneficial for those who perhaps cannot commit to one regular evening per week, or live too far away. At present the East of England has no residential workshops, so Norwich is working with the support of DRW National Trustees to try to bridge this gap."

It is also hoped to organise a teaching day/workshop on the subject of "What does the Bible teach about divorce". Plans are already being made to run this in Norwich at the end of January 2014. If you would be interested in finding out more about this, please contact Michele.

The next Divorce Recovery Workshop begins on Tuesday October 8, 7pm – 9.30pm @ Witard Road Baptist Church Hall (It runs for six consecutive weeks).

If you would like details of this course, or would be interested in attending the teaching/workshop day mentioned above, please contact:

Michele Curtis, Norwich Coordinator on 07833073015 or email: [norwich@drw.org.uk](mailto:norwich@drw.org.uk) or visit [www.drw.org.uk](http://www.drw.org.uk)

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# Royal honour for philanthropist

Norfolk Christian entrepreneur and philanthropist **Graham Dacre**, was made a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. **Keith Morris** reports.

**G**raham, aged 61, was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for charitable services to young people. In particular as founder and Chair of the Open Youth Trust and Lind Trust which bought the former Barclays Bank building on Bank Plain, Norwich, for use as a youth venue in 2003. He also co-sponsored the first academy in Norfolk, the Open Academy, with the Bishop of Norwich.

The Open Youth Trust aims to provide opportunities for the 13-25 year age group, including those who are most disadvantaged, in the areas of creative arts and media, sports, fitness and health, politics, Youth Parliament and public debating, education and training and careers, employment and business development

Graham said: "I'm delighted for everyone who has been and remains involved in the Open Youth Venue Project as the award clearly recognises their selfless and amazing work. The team who today continue to manage and operate the venue do a great job and I have huge regard for their dedication and professionalism. Without it the Venue would not exist."

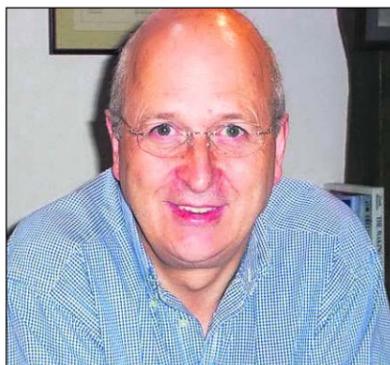
"It's easy setting something up. It's far harder to make it work month after month. As in 2010, when the project received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, all shared in the honour and they do today."

"Nothing of substance can be achieved alone and my wife Julie must share in the news. All who know us would say Julie deserves the medal and I agree. At the same time I'm also conscious where the real honour lies," said Graham. "The many kind words received have been humbling."

Graham moved to Norwich from Maidstone in 1970 to work as a computer operator at the Boulton and Paul factory that was later demolished to make way for the Riverside development.

In 1980, he started selling used cars in Long Stratton and later in Mile Cross Lane, Norwich. In 1992 he acquired Averills BMW on Cattlemarket Street. Over some 14 years he built the Lind Automotive Group by acquiring or establishing dealerships between Norwich and Gatwick. When in 2006 the annual turnover was £500m, he sold the business to Inchcape for over £100m.

In 2003, The Lind Trust, backed by



Graham Dacre, CBE.

Graham bought the former Barclays Bank building on Bank Plain for use as a Youth Venue. Graham said: "Remarkably, we funded the purchase from the overflow of the initial £200,000 overdraft provided by the bank."

In 2006, in partnership with The Bishop of Norwich, he subsequently sponsored the Open Academy School, the first Academy in Norfolk. Together they oversaw the development of a brand new school for the young people of Heartsease.

Known for his Christian faith, Graham says he didn't come to Norfolk to find God: "To the contrary," he said. "A Norfolk farmer we supplied cars to often invited me to go to church. I always refused. Later he suggested I take a leap of faith. When I finally took the step, the God I did not know existed was everywhere. My life changed forever that day. Previously life was all about me. Afterwards it was about others. Finding faith in God was without question the best thing ever to happen to me."

But things have not always gone well. In 2012, two High Court trials followed the disappearance of an investment of £12m. Graham said: "The good people of Norfolk ensured the five men ended up with prison sentences of 47 years for fraud and money laundering."

"I had become known as one of the county's biggest winners and biggest givers. Now I'm also one of the biggest losers!"

Last year, the Lind Trust, acquired the former Fire Station on Bethel Street and the former Volvo and Lexus dealership sites on Cromer Road, where planning permission for a Community Hub and Church was granted in March.

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## Norwich church sees a change in leadership

■ **NORWICH:** Oak Grove Chapel in Norwich has seen a change in its leadership with senior pastor Ian Savory and his wife Sue leaving to help replant a church at the King's Centre in Gorleston.

Taking over at Oak Grove from October will be current community pastor Darren Woodward.

Ian, who has been leading Oak Grove since February 2000, and Sue, have been invited by Relational Mission to lead the re-planting of the fellowship that met at the King's Centre in Gorleston, Suffolk. They will start there in October.

Sian Pearce, on behalf of the Oak Grove leadership team, said: "We are really pleased to announce that from October, our new Senior Leader here at Oak Grove, will be our current Community Pastor, Darren Woodward. He and his wife Lynette are already at the heart of our mission as a fellowship, and we are thrilled Darren has accepted the call to lead us, as we pursue our vision at Oak Grove."

"Ian and Sue will of course be hugely missed, both by friends and family, the church and the local community here in Catton Grove. So it's good they are not moving too far away, and we look forward to forging new links with the fellowship in Gorleston."

"As a leadership team, we believe that Ian and Sue have very clearly been called by God to this new work and we whole-

heartedly support their decision to answer this call.

"We would like to publicly thank both Ian and Sue for their long and faithful service in this place. They have touched the lives of many in this community; been a blessing to the fellowship at Oak Grove in so many ways; and are very

special friends."

Darren, who has been at Oak Grove since May 2003, said: "I am excited at this opportunity to build on the strong foundations established in this community."

"Oak Grove has a very long heritage in the community and can trace its history back to October 1935. It lost its Brethren tradition back in the 1980s."

"The Sunday congregation numbers around 150 to 180 and the church has meaningful contact with up to 500 people every week including school and children's activities."

Oak Grove said goodbye to Ian and Sue formally at a special Big Send Off celebration service on September 22.

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



Top, Darren Woodward, taking over at Oak Grove from Ian and Sue Savory.



Scenes from this year's Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk event.

# Praise for Celebrate as thousands visit

**S**everal thousand people visited the Celebrate Norwich & Norfolk festival in Norwich city centre from June 7-9, which was praised by exhibitors, organisers and local dignitaries.

Bishop of Lynn, Rt Rev Jonathan Meyrick, opened the event by telling an audience of over 100 that: "We should rejoice in being a Christian church family, we should rejoice in our faith and we should rejoice in the call to unity which should be at the centre of our faith."

Reaction from exhibitors and visitors was overwhelmingly positive. Tim Jenkins from OMF International, said: "This is the best exhibition I go to because I can engage with the general public."

Alan Cutting, from Samaritan's Purse, said: "I was really impressed with the atmosphere of the event, which seemed to reflect the positive state of the church in and around the city. My aim was to meet key leaders and activist people in the Norwich and Norfolk churches, and this aim was achieved pretty well and has given me some great follow-up opportunities."

David Lucas, from United Christian Broadcasters, said: "Meeting so many people, both Christian and seekers, has been a wonderful opportunity. There have been some very positive contacts made, including churches taking and ordering multiple copies of our booklets. The awareness of UCB that

By **KEITH MORRIS**

has been reached through this event is considerable. The Forum is an excellent venue that is certainly and clearly popular with the general public and it has been a pleasure to be in the city of Norwich representing UCB."

Carrie Sant, from City Saints in Action, said: "It was an excellent opportunity to network with other organisations and we had a few really good conversations with people not connected with the event."

The Norfolk Fresh Expressions team said: "Celebrate is an exciting opportunity for Christ's church to work together and demonstrate all that God is calling us to... We are not a dead church in Norwich and Norfolk but very much alive – this is a great message to send out to the wider community."

The Good News stand and the Postal Bible School had a very profitable time over the weekend and have already booked for next year. "We had many challenging opportunities to present the Gospel and we gave away 200 of our evangelistic newspapers, a substantial amount of tracts and many starter packs from the Postal Bible School were taken," they said.

Celebrate was visited by both Norwich Lord Mayor, Cllr Keith Driver, and Norwich North MP Chloe Smith, who said: "The exhibition showed the drive and dedication which Christian charities and organisations commit

to our city and its people. I was glad to visit and meet constituents who work so hard for Norwich and Norfolk."

Celebrate project director, John Betts, said: "The growth and development of Celebrate this year was a great encouragement. A diverse range of people and organisations, both national and local, have perceived the opportunity which Celebrate offers for them to showcase their ministry. More organisations than ever participated this year and events took place in more venues than previously. My prayer is that over time we shall spread out across the city and county."

"Bringing so many churches, organisations, and Christian people together into the public arena is very important at a time when, on the one hand we are needed for the work we do but on the other hand the values we stand for are increasingly undervalued and are being undermined."

"Celebrate demonstrates that Christian unity is not a problem for the people of God when we come together outside of ecclesiastical structures. We all love the Lord and find it easy to work together for the sake of the kingdom of God. Ecumenism works when we come together to serve the Lord and minister to the needy," said John. "We are moving forward in our understanding of where God is leading His church."

■ **The date for Celebrate Norwich and Norfolk 2014 is June 13 - 15.**

## Conference on vulnerable mission

■ **NORWICH:** Norwich Central Baptist Church is hosting a conference on the subject of cross-cultural mission in November.

Conference organiser Tim Reeves from NCBC said: "Missionaries engaged in overseas mission often face very different cultures; in particular missionaries going to the third world from first world countries may experience particular difficulties as their comparative wealth can work against their goal of achieving equitable partnerships with local Christians."

"This conference is intended to put these difficulties under the spotlight. To this end a team of experienced missionaries and scholars are coming together to give talks and conduct debates on question like Servants of Christ; powerful or vulnerable? Can there be cross-cultural partnerships without creating dependency? Can we really understand very different cultures? Which languages should we use and why?"

If these questions make you think, come to the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission's conference at Norwich Central Baptist Church from November 14-16. Listen to, debate with and be challenged by experienced missionaries on these relevant and important issues.

The Through the Eyes of Vulnerable Mission conference is co-sponsored by Trans World Radio, World Mission Associates and NCBC.

For more details and application forms go to [www.vulnerablemission.org](http://www.vulnerablemission.org), ring 01603 449653 or email [tim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:tim@vulnerablemission.org)

## Norwich charity ball

■ **NORWICH:** Valerie Thorne from City Church Norwich is holding a Charity Ball on March 22, 2014 at the Mercure Hotel Norwich. The Ball will be raising funds for Compassion UK and work in Tanzania, a project supported by City Church.

The cost is £30 including a four-course meal and disco with live entertainment from the Lee Vasey Band. Dress code: black tie/smart casual.

To book call Valerie on 01603 412520 or the Mercure Norwich Hotel on 01603 786414.

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# Annette's artistic journey

**A**nnette Morgan's solo exhibition from October 21 to 28 at the Wymondham Arts Centre, Becket's Chapel, Church Street, is a celebration of this gifted quilt artist who has pushed the boundaries using all types of mixed media and has exhibited in America, Australia, Europe and Japan.

Her new book is a unique joint venture with husband, church leader and artist, Dan, who has painted many of the illustrations at the workshop in their Thetford garden while Annette's labour of love is done from their conservatory.

She draws on a rich depth of artistic talent that runs through her family and a tireless enthusiasm and energy. "I have always liked to sew and knit and was taught by my late father," says Annette, who went on to make clothes and wedding dresses.

But her textile journey began when she visited a quilt exhibition with a friend in King's Lynn. Annette was fascinated and recognised the scope they offered. She borrowed a book from the library to help her make her first quilt and soon joined a two-year City and Guilds class at Norwich City College 20 years ago. "I would be so excited by what I had learnt and done each day," says Annette. Since then she has never looked back; invitations to show and demonstrate her work and teach followed as she has built on her expertise.

"I thank God for the talent He has given me. I believe your gift from God is what God has given you and your gift to God is what you do with it. If there is anything in your heart that you wish to do I would say get the training and do it," she insists.

Annette has lost count how many quilts she has made but they are valuable teaching aids. At first she produced five-foot square quilts which are her favourite but now she makes smaller pieces.

"I enjoy the process of making. If they get selected for exhibition, sell or win awards that is a bonus," says the former theatre sister who showed a natural ability for teaching student nurses during their placements in the operating theatres.

Today she is teaching the innovative textile techniques that have taken months and years to hone and perfect using image transfer, photography, screen printing, foils, paper, paint, and dye to dramatically change black or white fabric into works of art.

"I see myself as a facilitator," says Annette who runs two-year and four-year City and

International textile artist, tutor and author, Annette Morgan, is showcasing her quilts in Wymondham to help launch her fourth book, *Sticks and Stones* which was inspired by Thetford forest and the flint cottage where she lives. **Sandie Shirley reports.**



Guilds Certificate and Diploma courses at the Women's Institute headquarters in Ipswich for a wide cross-section of women through Creative Stitch Suffolk which she helped launch. She also runs workshops, distance learning courses through the WI and Denman College and is a quilting judge.

"I like to think I have helped put women on the road to their own creative well-being," says



Annette Morgan, left, and above one of her pieces, *Pay The Ferryman*.

the woman who has been President and Vice-President of the Quilters' Guild, won numerous prestigious awards and has been featured regularly in the textile press.

There may be as many as 35 students who travel from across East Anglia to attend the City and Guilds courses. The tutoring is rewarding: "A lot of ex-students make friends for life and are involved in local embroidery and quilting guilds and win awards while several have gone onto teach," said Annette.

"The courses are also good for their self-worth and belief." One Baptist minister's wife, had a growing family and had never worked but gradually grew in confidence. Annette encouraged her to take a bank teller's job and she excelled through the employment ranks.

Annette's faith is also an outlet for ministry. "A lot of people know I am a Christian because Dan has been in church leadership for many years. The couple helped plant Hope Church Thetford which has now swelled to 35, having previously been involved in planting Kingsgate Church in Bury St Edmunds.

Teaching enables you to get to know different people over two or four years and some come to me with a particular problem and sometimes

I can pray with them," says Annette who was confirmed at 13, and helped ring the bells at Wymondham Abbey. But life did not take on a new meaning until she accompanied a friend to her church some years later. "I sat at the back and felt an overwhelming sense of peace and cried for three days. A few months later I was baptised."

Annette is also co-founder of two exhibiting groups. Anglia Textile Works began 15 years ago and the Tin Hut Textiles group was set-up a few years ago. "I am good at organising and getting things going and then handing the reins to someone else," she explains. "When I did the City and Guilds course in Norwich I was working in theatre three days a week with two young children so I was always organised and focussed."

It's that continuing ability that helps her juggle church life; write four books on textiles; run workshops, courses and graduate shows; give talks and demonstrations across the UK; work abroad and work quickly and effectively on new textile pieces. And although she has retired from nursing, Annette is still involved with distance learning courses for carers.

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

## Wymondham churches launch youth bus project

**WYMONDHAM:** A group of Wymondham churches has teamed up to launch a community youth bus initiative to provide a safe place to go, advice and to build relationships with local young people.

The Wymondham Youth Bus 'Vibe' is a Wymondham Church Network initiative backed by the town's Methodist, Abbey, URC and City Church congregations and was officially launched on September 14.

Geoff Davison, from City Church Wymondham, who is heading up the project, said: "The suggestion of a bus came from the police who have seen youth buses operating in other areas assist in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime. The Wymondham churches, which are also represented on the management committee, have provided almost £14,000 of the £23,000 raised.

"We have also received generous grants



from The Geoffrey Watling Charity and Dreams and Visions but still need to raise £12,000 to reimburse interest-free loans from individuals."

The double-decker bus currently operates on Friday evenings at the town's Browick Road

recreation ground, right next to the main skatepark. It has been operating since June and attracts around 30 young people each time it opens.

Vibe was set up to meet a need for young people in Wymondham and aims to provide a safe place for teenagers to gather. Also to listen, support and provide advice to them on topics such as drug and alcohol awareness, sexual health, anti-social behaviour, family and relationships, education, employment, finance and bereavement. The Matthew Project, Pregnancy Choices and a local health centre help provide advice and other activities and refreshments are also available.

Geoff said: "We will work with statutory agencies, other care-related projects, the business community, financial institutions and volunteers to provide a range of resources that will endeavour to enhance the lives of young

people. We are committed to reflecting Christian love and values in our offering of care, encouragement, hope and belief in young people but we will not seek to impose our Christian faith and belief on others.

"The potential we see for the bus is amazing and we really believe that with everyone's help, we can make Wymondham a really community-minded place to live. We still need to raise a further £12,000 in support from the local community to continue providing this valuable resource. We also need more volunteers to enable us to open for more evenings.

"We have already formed a positive link between the young people and the Town Council and would also wish to see the bus used for other community projects by churches in the surrounding villages," said Geoff.

Contact Geoff Davison on 07919 168412.