



# *Fairland News*

No. 510

February 2012



Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham

**Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham**

**Named Person**      Revd Alison Davis  
The Manse  
28 Norwich Road  
Wymondham    NR18 0NS  
Tel (01953) 609971

**Church Secretary** Mrs Jennifer Shakesby  
'The Pedlars'  
38 Bentley Road  
Tacolneston    NR16 1DL  
Tel (01953) 788983

**Treasurer**            Mr John Butcher  
176 The Avenues  
Norwich      NR4 7DR  
Tel (01603) 457861

**Asst Treasurer**      Mrs Jill Brown  
78 Norwich Road  
Wymondham    NR18 0SZ  
Tel (01953) 603979

**Bookings for**        Mrs Jill Brown  
**Fairland Hall and**  
**Fairland Church Centre**

**Services** are held every Sunday at 10.30 am  
The Service includes **Holy Communion** on the first Sunday of  
the month

This month's Minister's Letter is written by Revd Geoff Hewitt:

Dear Friends,

Here we are in Norwich! Just over two months gone and what are my first impressions?

Well, I have visited many different events around the seven churches from Youth clubs to elders meetings, Christmas dinners, nativities and Christingles to 'Painting the bigger Picture' and proposed building scheme meetings. By the time you read this I will have led services in all of the churches and made quite a few visits. All with the aim of getting an overview of what exactly the United Reformed Church is doing in this area. I have listened to stories about the past and hopes for the future. I'm not sure that the lead up to Christmas was the safest time to enter the Norwich traffic and find my way around but it has been a good time to see the churches at perhaps their busiest. I'm not surprised the last two months have flown!

So back to first impressions. I must begin with the obvious-all the churches are different and have what one could call a different character. No big surprise there-I have four children and they too are very different from each other. This of course should not be a cause for competition, but rather celebration. I have found over the years that what works in one church location does not necessarily work in another. In fact when you think about it there is little merit in trying to 're-invent the wheel' two miles down the road.

When friends and family ask what Norwich is like I tell them it is indeed 'A fine city'. When they go on to ask me about the church, I tell them about the work with the young people, the disabled and the disadvantaged, the good cause for the month, the connections with the community and the looking forward to future in the form of proposed building schemes. I can also tell them about the support and encouragement I have found from the congregations and the Team ministry. This then is the 'Bigger picture, which I hope you too feel part of.

On Saturday 7th January the 'Jigathon' took place at Wymondham, when people were sponsored to complete jigsaws all day. I don't need to tell you

that a jigsaw with missing pieces is not a great asset. The bigger picture jigsaw of the 7 URC churches, working together, to which you called me, is in fact a fine and interesting one. So I hope God will give us grace in those times when we need encouraging the most to have a glimpse of our part in it and may we all as brothers and sisters in Christ encourage each other accordingly.

Hebrews 10 vv23-25

May God truly bless you in 2012

Geoff.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **December and January Lunches**

### **Christmas Community Lunch**

Fifty-seven people were served a delicious Christmas meal. Kenny, Sheila, Elizabeth and all the helpers made this a very special occasion for us all. A big 'thank-you' to all our catering team.

Tickets (after expenses) - £77.72; Raffle - £54; Bring and Buy - £47.70; Total - £179.42.

### **January First Friday Lunch**

Thirty-one lunches were provided and a profit of £71.75 was made. Thanks to all the team for their hard work.

### **January Community Lunch**

The usual tasty lunch was provided for 52 people. Thank you to Kenny and helpers. The result was: tickets (after expenses) - £110; Bring and Buy - £39.80; Raffle - £50; Total - £199.80.

## **Talent Scheme**

We are pleased to announce that **£585.12** was raised during the year for this scheme. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard for it.

A letter has been received following our recent Communion Collections in November and December:



On behalf of the East Anglian Air Ambulance let me take this opportunity to thank you so much for your donation of £95.00 raised from the URC. It is wonderful to see much needed funds being raised for your local Air Ambulance.

Our heart-felt thanks to you for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

The East Anglian Air Ambulance now runs two fully medically equipped helicopters (code-named Anglia One and Anglia Two) serving the people of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Between the two helicopters they are able to provide a life-saving resource reaching patients quickly and if required, transporting them to hospital within minutes. With no government or National Lottery funding, it takes around £4.2 million a year to keep our helicopters flying. On-going public support is essential to enable us to continue offering this vital service and we are very grateful for your kind donation.

Thank you once again for your support of the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Amanda Collins-Klimcke

Administrative Assistant

[More information about this charity can be found at [www.eaaa.org.uk](http://www.eaaa.org.uk)]



**Médecins Sans Frontières** were the recipients of our Communion Collections in September and October last year and Jill Brown, our Assistant Treasurer, has received the following letter of thanks:

Dear Mrs Brown

My name is Anna; I am a paediatric registrar from Bath, Somerset. I chose to work for MSF after watching those all too familiar and yet horrific scenes of famine, floods, war and disease broadcast so regularly on television. Seeing people in desperate need of help is heartbreaking, but MSF strives to provide quality healthcare, free of charge, to people in need, whatever the setting. I have recently returned from working with MSF in Liberia, West Africa.

I wanted to pass on the thanks of the children and families I worked with. Your donation of £115 enables so many stories to have a happy ending. I would like to share one of these stories with you.

Gbeli was born in rural Liberia during the civil war. During times of conflict, each day passes to the next with only survival in mind. Gbeli was probably seven years old but he had never celebrated a birthday, he had barely enough to eat and had never been to school.

When I first met Gbeli he had lockjaw, a stiff neck and was suffering from episodes of painful muscle spasms lasting several minutes, causing his body to contort while he remained entirely conscious. I saw terrible fear in his eyes as he was becoming weaker and weaker.

His grandmother had walked for two days, carrying Gbeli on her back, to get to our hospital in the hope we might be able to help. Two weeks earlier he had stood on a rusty nail. Gbeli had never had any immunisations or primary healthcare which meant the tetanus toxin was free to rampage through his body. Without specific and intensive treatment, Gbeli would undoubtedly die.

Treating tetanus infection requires a long period of intensive care followed by rehabilitation; the muscle spasms can continue for many days and can leave permanent disability. Gbeli was transferred to our paediatric intensive care unit where he could be sedated, receive treatment - including the antidote and muscle relaxants - and be carefully nursed. I would visit him twice a day, his grandmother always at his bedside.

It took time, but gradually he became stronger. Before long he could even manage a smile. Five weeks later Gbeli could be seen trying to walk and exercise all around the hospital, giving all the staff the thumbs up and a cheeky grin as he passed by. The fear I had seen in his eyes on that first day had gone and been replaced by laughter. He was a happy boy whose smile matched that of his grandmother - the same grandmother who was overwhelmed that his life-saving treatment was available to them for free, thanks to people like you who support MSF.

After six weeks Gbeli was strong enough to return home. His grandmother cried with relief, hugged us all, held my hand and asked me to thank all the people who had saved her grandson's life.

Thank you for your life-saving support.

Dr Anna Kilonback

\*\*\*\*\*

The charity chosen for **January and February** is **Good Work**.

The largest chaplaincy organisation in Norfolk is Good Work (formerly the Norfolk and Waveney Industrial Mission), which currently has four chaplains and operates ecumenically.

The role of the Good Work chaplains is to give comfort and support to anyone in need of support when they have problems or concerns in their life, whether physical, emotional, financial or related to work, family or other relationships.

[More information can be found on [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk)]

## FAIRLAND CHARITY TABLE TOP SALE

Our annual charity table top sale was held in the Church Centre on the 3rd December and ten local charities took part selling a variety of Christmas cards and other gift items. This year the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds had a stand for the first time and their beautiful and life like singing birds (going cheep) sold very well.

Initial calculations immediately after the event indicated that about £1050 had be taken but this now appears to be about £1500 after people reported their takings.

Many thanks to church members for stewarding and helping with refreshments – and a particular thanks to Rosedale Funeral Homes of Wymondham who sponsored the cost of refreshments enabling a further £65 profit to be shared by the participants.

Trevor

\* \* \* \* \*

**O God, our refuge and strength,  
our help in times of trouble.**

Have mercy on the lands where the earth has given way.  
Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed  
livelihoods.

Prosper those who rebuild houses,  
and strengthen those who rebuild hope  
so that entire communities  
may face the future without fear.

**Amen**

From Christian Aid website [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

## **Flooding in India**

**January 2012**

**Christian Aid has released £50,000 to partner organisations in India after more than 6,000 Indian villagers were forced from their homes and 48 were killed by Cyclone Thane.**

The storm swept through the east-Indian coastal state of Tamil Nadu on December 30, uprooting trees, destroying roads and buildings and bringing down power lines.

As villagers attempt to rebuild their damaged homes, many communities are still without electricity and clean drinking water. The high winds also destroyed 15,000 hectares of paddy crops and 20,000 hectares of cashew and jackfruit trees which will both affect immediate survival needs and cause long term impact on livelihoods.

In Tamil Nadu, the two most vulnerable groups of concern to Christian Aid are the socially excluded Dalit community and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

In response to the crisis, Christian Aid has launched a Rapid Emergency Response Initiative, providing support to the Organisation for Eelam Refugees and the Rehabilitation and Social Awareness Society for Youths, two existing partner organisations in Tamil Nadu, which have been able to carry out assessments and start relief activities

Emergency food provisions consisting of dry food such as rice, flour and milk powder for two weeks are being circulated along with winter kits of bedding and floor mats for those whose houses have been destroyed.

## Flower Rota February / March

5 February	Ruth Dunning
12 February	Daphne Prior
19 February	Jill Buckenham
26 February	Sheila Eaglen

4 March	Netta Darkins
---------	---------------

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note there are vacant dates available throughout the year

\* \* \* \* \*

Gifts of flowers from the Communion Table have been given to the following friends:

Steve and Carolyn Wigney; Julie and Colin Jarvis; Barbara Wilkinson; Bill and Maureen Sewell; Dr Peter Trott; Irene Fitches.

An expression of thanks has been received from Dr Peter Trott of Browick Road, and a near neighbour of Netta and Jill, for their visit recently and gift of flowers.

Having difficulty in getting out and about, this was much appreciated by Peter.

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers you gave me and Will when we came to church. We really enjoyed coming to the service and it was lovely to see people I hadn't seen for a long time.

Will and I are really looking forward to getting married in the church in September 2012.

With best wishes

Ceri Jones and Will Macalpine

\*\*\*\*\*

Peggy, Joan and Pat would like to thank "The Fairland Singers" and everyone who helped to make a cold, miserable day outside, a warm and cosy afternoon with their Christmas Tea and the singing.

Pat

\*\*\*\*\*

33 Sheffield Road  
Wymondham

Dear All,

This note is just to let you all know that Mrs Ruby Kerrison died peacefully in Brooklyn House Care Home in Attleborough at around midday on November 23rd 2011 age 88. I had just left Wymondham on the bus to see her when I got the call.

She was one of the best and will be greatly missed.

Please continue to send me the magazines as I like to read them although I don't attend Church.

Many thanks

Stephen Kerrison

## **Fresh Expressions of Church**

Since being in Norwich, I've heard lots of people tell me how sad it is that there are so few (if any) young people in our churches. I am never quite sure what to say in such circumstances. What can I say except to agree? It is sad. It does mean that we don't worship in communities with all ages. It does mean the future of the church looks a bit iffy!

Of course, it is not just 'young' people who are missing, but many thousands in our communities who have never been touched by the Gospel, and many others who have been to church in the past but now feel it is now irrelevant or outdated. I don't believe beating ourselves up about it is helpful. The real question is: what are we going to do about it? We cannot continue as we are. If we do not change, if we do not do anything new, the URCs in Norwich will be consigned to a footnote in the city's long history.

One way to reach out to many alienated by traditional church is to modernise worship. Lots of people leave church because traditional hymn sandwiches simply don't scratch where they itch – they are so alien to contemporary culture. Many churches such as Norwich Central Baptist have embraced worship bands, become more informal and attracted new people as a result.

Another way, and one which I am keen for us to focus on, is to start what are known as 'Fresh Expressions' of church. You may be wondering: 'what is a Fresh Expression'? Below is an article from the Fresh Expressions leader, Bishop Graham Cray. Fresh Expressions are not about changing our theology (what we believe) but our ecclesiology (how we do church). They are not about changing or replacing traditional church, but supplementing it.

Please read the article, and if you are interested in exploring how we might start a fresh expression (or even fresh expressions) across the Norwich URCs, please do get in touch. I would like to gather a small team to get together and pray and talk about what God might be calling us to do. (Some of you will know that I am not hugely fond of meetings, so I promise they will be focussed and concise!). You don't have to be a lay preacher or an elder to be involved – anyone with a heart for reaching out and doing things differently is welcome. Many thanks, and every blessing,

Matt (email: [matt.stone@cantab.net](mailto:matt.stone@cantab.net), tel: 01603 781623)

## **An Introduction to Fresh Expressions**

'Fresh expressions of church' is a term coined by the Church of England report Mission-shaped Church and used in the Church of England and the Methodist Church for the last five years.

It is a way of describing the planting of new congregations or churches which are different in ethos and style from the church which planted them; because they are designed to reach a different group of people than those already attending the original church. There is no single model to copy but a wide variety of approaches for a wide variety of contexts and constituencies. The emphasis is on planting something which is appropriate to its context, rather than cloning something which works elsewhere.

Some fresh expressions are very different from church as we are used to it in the UK – there is a surfer church on Polzeath beach, a Eucharist for Goths in central Cambridge, a youth congregation based in a skate park, and cell church among the Merseyside Police (yes I did say cell church!). Others are more familiar but in unfamiliar settings – church in a café, church in the function room of a pub, church in a school, church in a gym or a sports club. They can be found in rural areas as well as in towns and cities, and have been planted to reach all age groups, pensioners as well as those focused on children or young families. There is no intention to divide people up. The Goth service does not have black clad security guards to ban non Goths at the door. But the aim is to plant church into the communities to which people actually belong. Then those churches can reach out to people who are different as well. Many churches are neighbourhood based. Fresh expressions also try to plant the church into networks.

This is based on two important biblical principles, both found in 1 Corinthians. First they assume that when the gospel is preached in a new community, God grows a church, not just wins some individual Christians. Paul says that he planted the gospel seed, others watered it, but God gave the growth and what he grew was the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:6-9). He also says that when the new believers were baptised, they were all baptised 'into one body' (12:13) The second principle is that, just as God's Son entered our world to win us, so Christian missionaries need to enter the cultures they are trying to reach (9:19-23), so that new believers only have to face the stumbling block of the cross (1:18-25), and not the stumbling block

of church culture as well! They can then become agents for change within their culture rather than be drawn out of it into a church culture, which may be alien to them.

The Fresh Expressions initiative has been encouraging and resourcing these developments for the past five years. Reflecting on several years experience it has coined a working definition of a fresh expression of church. It will not be the final word but it is good enough for now.

\* A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

\* It will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples.

\* It will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context.

It is a long definition but it is worth unpacking carefully. A fresh expression is a church plant or a new congregation. It is not a new way to reach people and add them to an existing congregation. It is not an old outreach with a new name ('rebranded' or 'freshened up'). Nor is it a half-way house, a bridge project, which people belong to for a while, on their way into Christian faith, before crossing over to 'proper' church. This is proper church!

Fresh expressions are a response to 'our changing culture'. This movement assumes that the church is shaped by both the gospel and the culture it is trying to reach. It is not meant to be conformed to culture, but it is meant to be appropriate for reaching and transforming a culture.

It is primarily for the unchurched – for those who have never been or for those who have stopped going and are not willing to go back to what they experienced before. We are trying to win those who are not reached by church as we know it. At least a third of the adults in the UK, and the majority of children and young people have never been regularly involved in any church in their lifetime – so this is a big mission field, and a growing one.

Because there is no standard model of fresh expression of church, they

cannot and should not be cloned! Rather there is a process, which is normally followed, when they are established. It begins with listening – to God and to the community or network you are trying to reach. It is more about discernment than strategic planning: Looking for the Holy Spirit's opportunities, and obeying his call.

Out of the listening – which may take some time – comes service: a way of serving the people you are trying to reach. Christians who want to share good news need first to be good news, to show genuine concern for others. This is the start of 'incarnational mission'. Which means following the example of Christ and seeking to evangelise within the community you are now serving. In that context we can begin to make disciples. The very last thing that is decided is the nature of the worship service. Fresh expressions are not about planting a congregation which worships the way the planters prefer and then hoping that other people like it! Listening come first, decisions about worship styles last.

These are fledgling churches and congregations. They have not had the time to become mature. But they have the potential to grow into a mature expression of church. Traditionally the marks of the church have been listed as one, holy, catholic and apostolic. But maturity will not mean they become like the churches which planted them. They must remain relevant to their cultural context.

This language assumes that all local churches are 'expressions of church'. No one local church can fully express Christ and his gospel. Each needs to be related to others, which have different gifts or contexts. In particular the fresh expressions of church are not meant to replace existing forms of church, and they are certainly not in competition with them. We use the expression 'the mixed economy church' as a way of saying that the one economy of God's church need both our inherited approaches and fresh ones.

These are challenging and exciting times. Most denominations are finding that their old ways do not reach some parts of our culture. We need the new and the old and then we can work together to reach our nation.

+Graham Cray Archbishops' Missioner and Leader of the Fresh Expressions Team

## Norwich Area URC Small Groups

The Norwich Area United Reformed Churches have a number of midweek small groups that meet for friendship, Bible study, prayer and worship. New members are always welcome. Unless another contact is given, please contact Matt Stone for more details.

### Monday

Wroxham Bible Study group - meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm at a member's home in Wroxham.

'Beer and the Bible' group - meets for informal Bible study on the third Monday night of every month at 7.30pm at a member's home in Norwich. This group is for under-55s.



Ipswich Road URC Bible Study group - meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month from 7-9pm in a member's home in Welsford Road, Norwich.

### Tuesday

Hour of Prayer - there will be an open hour for prayer usually on alternate Tuesday mornings at Ipswich Road URC from 8-9am. This will begin on Ash Wednesday (just to cause confusion) – 22 February 2012.

Midweek Prayers at Princes Street URC - there is a short 20 minute service of prayer and reflection in the foyer of Princes Street URC on Tuesday lunchtimes starting at 12 noon.

Prayer Shawl Group - meets for a knit, a natter and a pray at a member's home in Dilham on the first Tuesday of every month at 2pm.

Healing Prayer Group - meets at a member's home in Dilham on the last Tuesday of every month at 2pm.

### Wednesday

Wroxham Prayer Group - meets in a member's home in Wroxham on the first Wednesday of every month at 2pm.

FURY group - a fortnightly social and Bible study group for 14-25 year olds meeting in homes around Wroxham & Hoveton.

**Thursdays**

Trinity URC Bible Study group - meets alternate Thursdays at 10.30am in one of two member's homes. Please contact Marion Nevill for more details.

Alpha Course - Matt & Jenni Stone are running an Alpha Course at the Wroxham & Hoveton URC Manse on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm from 19 April 2012.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christian Aid prayer for those affected by floods**

Compassionate God, source of all comfort,  
We pray for the people whose lives have devastated by rain and flood.  
Bring them comfort, we pray.  
Protect the vulnerable.  
Strengthen the weak.  
Keep at bay the spread of disease.  
Have mercy on all those working to rescue the stranded and to feed the hungry.  
And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise.

**For we ask it in Jesus Name, Amen.**

(from [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk))

Items for inclusion in <b>March</b> newsletter (to be available on 26 February) should be given to Ann Scott <b>by 19 February please.</b>
--

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

**'Let Justice Prevail'**

On Friday 2nd March over 3 million people world wide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a form of service prepared by Christian women in Malaysia.

Jean Hackett, president of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said: *'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and more than 6,000 services will have been held in the British Isles alone.'*

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Throughout its history it has attracted migrants from other parts of Asia and beyond and it is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in South East Asia. Women have made important contributions to its social and economic development but, nevertheless, they still face discrimination and violence at all levels of society. Even today a girl child is seen as less valuable than a boy. Malaysia is now the most popular destination country in Asia for migrant workers and human trafficking has become a sophisticated and organised operation.

Although Malaysia's multi-ethnicity has added to the rich heritage of its land and people, it has also given rise to many problems. In the service those issues of concern are named and the women voice their hope for the future. Justice for all is their hope, and their prayer is "Let Justice Prevail".

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody, demonstrating our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend.

**Wymondham's service will be held in Fairland URC at 2pm on 2nd March, when our speaker will be Revd Rosemary Tusting.**

**ALAN GREEN**  
**Handyman Service**  
 For all your DIY tasks  
 around the house,  
 assembling flat packs  
 and gardening  
 ★★★  
*Hire me by the hour,  
 or day, or week  
 - reasonable rates,  
 estimates given.*  
 PHONE:  
 0788 1694188  
 01953 600758



**Local Painter and  
 Decorator**  
 Interior and Exterior  
 also Building Maintenance  
 Free Estimates and Advice  
 Call Peter Jones  
 01953 603605  
 07765497354



**Janie  Vee**  
**Driving School**  
 Learn to Drive  
 or  
 just improve your skills  
 Call Jane Vaknin  
 07941613304  
[www.janielveedrivingschool.  
 co.uk](http://www.janielveedrivingschool.co.uk)

## **Preaching Plan February / March**

5 February	Mrs Wendy Gilbert
12 February (inc Communion)	Revd Geoff Hewitt
19 February	Mr David Ingham
26 February	Revd Neil Walker
4 March (inc Communion)	Revd Alison Davis

### **Dates for your Diaries**

*Details of these events can be found within the newsletter*

#### **February**

1 February (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
2 February (2-4)	'Musicalitea' (Fairland Hall)
3 February (12-1.30)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
6 February (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
10 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
13 February (7-8.30pm)	'Sacred Space' (Church Centre)
17 February (10-12)	'Pabulum Sings'
17 February (12.30pm)	Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)
20 February (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
24 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)

#### **March**

1 March (2-4)	'Musicalitea' (Fairland Hall)
2 March (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
2 March (2pm)	Women's World Day of Prayer (Fairland URC)

**Sponsored and printed by R J Bartram & Son, Funeral  
Directors  
42 Fairland Street, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0JS**