

# The Link

Wroxham & Hoveton URC [wroxhamurc.org.uk](http://wroxhamurc.org.uk)

April 2024



*Our Mission:  
"To know Jesus  
and to make  
him known"*







*We are part of a  
group of 5  
churches in the  
Norwich area  
served by a team  
ministry.*


Wroxham & Hoveton  
United Reformed  
Church  
The Hub,  
114 Norwich Rd  
Wroxham, Norwich  
NR12 8SA

*Wishing you a  
Happy Easter*



## What's on ..... Events and Services Calendar

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b></p>  <p>Easter Sunday<br/><b>JAM</b></p> <p>Clocks forward 1 Hour</p> | <p><b>10.30am</b></p>                  | <p><b>Holy Communion Service led by Revd. Carole Pearl, our Interim Minister and member of our church.</b></p>  |
| <p>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April</p>   | <p>10.30-12.00<br/>12:15</p>           | <p>Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub.<br/>Prayer Group in room 2 of The Hub.</p>   |
| <p>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April</p>   | <p>4pm – 6:30pm</p>                    | <p>Beetle Drive and Pot Luck Supper in The Hub<br/>Great family fun, good food and a Raffle!</p>  |
| <p><b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b></p>  | <p><b>10.30am</b></p>                  | <p><b>Worship led by Revd. Canon Peter Howard.</b></p>  |
| <p>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April</p>   | <p>10.00</p>                           | <p>Elder's Meeting in room 2 (Back section) of The Hub.</p>   |
| <p>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April</p>   | <p>10.30-12.00<br/>10.00<br/>12.15</p> | <p>Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub.<br/><b>JAM</b> 5 mile Sponsored Walk.<br/>Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub.</p>   |
| <p>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April</p>    | <p>8am -5pm<br/>2.30pm</p>             | <p>Pop up Charity Plant Stall at the Hub, in aid of Norwich Foodbank and other charities.<br/>Jesus Christ Super Star at the Theatre Royal Norwich – (for <b>JAM</b> older group)</p> |
| <p><b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b><br/><b>JAM - instead of 21<sup>st</sup> April</b></p>   | <p><b>10.30am</b></p>                  | <p><b>Holy Communion Service led by Revd. Carole Pearl, our Interim Minister and member of our church.</b></p>  |
| <p>Thursday 18th April</p>   | <p>10.30-12.00<br/>12.15</p>           | <p>Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub.<br/>Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub.</p>   |
| <p><b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b><br/><i>Deadline for The Link for May.</i></p>   | <p><b>10.30am</b></p>                  | <p><b>Worship led by Alex Instone-Brewer, a member and Elder of Ipswich Rd URC Norwich.</b></p>   |
| <p>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April</p>  | <p>10.30-12.00<br/>12.15</p>           | <p>Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub.<br/>Hub Committee Meeting in room 2 (Back section) of The Hub</p>  |
| <p><b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b></p>   | <p><b>10.30am</b></p>                  | <p><b>Worship by Revd. Carole Pearl, our Interim Minister and member of our church,</b></p>   |

|  |                      |   |
|--|----------------------|---|
|  |                      | <b>followed by our Church Annual General Meeting.</b>                         |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May<br> | 10.30-12.00<br>12:15 | Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub.<br>Prayer Group in room 2 of The Hub. |

You are invited to join us at our...

### Community Cafe



An opportunity to **meet friends**, to have a **cuppa**, and enjoy a slice of **cake** in **The Hub, 114**



**Norwich Rd, Wroxham. Every Thursday, 10.30am-12.00pm.** Entry is free, but donations are invited towards our costs. **All are welcome. Hope to see you there! Please note** No dogs are allowed in, except registered Service Dogs.



### Our Prayer Meeting....

Take a while in your busy life to pause and come together with friends to be with God. There is no pressure to pray aloud, but to relax and absorb the quiet, peaceful and refreshing time. On the first Thursday of the month, after Community Café, in room 2 at The Hub.

– **restarts Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**GEAR Easter 2024 reflection** – YouTube  YouTube · URCUK



In this short video, the Revd **Matt Stone**, Chairman of Group for Evangelism and



Renewal within the URC (and previously our Minister, when The Hub was built), reflects on the God who comes along side us in Jesus this Easter

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEUGZrmEQmo>

Dear Friends,

It's April and by now most Easter eggs will have been eaten. During Lent, I glanced through our copy of the "Village Book" and found the following job opportunity "*Seasonal employment for motivated individual. Must have long ears and be able to hop quickly.*" Then I heard the story of the Easter egg bonanza on the Orkney Islands. Dan Dafydd mistakenly ordered 80 cases of chocolate eggs instead of just 80 eggs. The Easter eggs outnumbered the population of Sanday. Undismayed, Dan turned his mistake into a game of "guess the number" squares for people to win the chocolate eggs. The money raised will be donated to the work of the R.N.L.I whose lifeboat crews risk their own lives to save the lives of others.

The risking of lives to save others spoke to me of the true story of Easter, the real reason for celebration and thanksgiving. Jesus risked everything and gave up everything, dying so that we could truly live. Easter celebrates the cosmic event of Jesus being raised from death and appearing firstly to Mary Magdalene, then His first disciples, and then 500 other people.

The resurrected Jesus brings new life, new hope, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, new courage, determination, new dynamism and new challenge to the frightened little group of His friends who had had been hiding away behind locked doors. A group of ordinary people, blessed by having been with Him in His earthly ministry, they had travelled with Him and seen at first hand the miracles He had performed. They heard the words He spoke, bringing new understanding, the revealing of God's promise and purpose within the Scriptures. They had seen the lives changed and hope renewed.

Their own lives had been changed by His presence, and, through His promised gift of the Holy Spirit given to them at Pentecost, the infant Church had been birthed. His first disciples had been equipped for their part in the work of the Kingdom of God. They had been energised, emboldened and empowered to take the Gospel message of the Good News of Jesus beyond the bounds of all that was familiar and safe to them. They followed where the Spirit led and so began the revolution of the Kingdom of God which changed the world.

The Kingdom of God has come, God's renewing of everything is under way. Jesus is alive. He knows each of us by name and speaks to us through His Word and by His Spirit, calling *us* into a new and deeper relationship with Him.

Our informal and friendly Bible Discussion Group will be exploring together this month the work and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

*You* will be very welcome to join us. God bless you. *Rev'd Carole*



Our Bible Discussion Group (very informal) begins a new series of sessions on The Holy Spirit called -

**“Transformed by the Holy Spirit” and written by Liz Babbs.**

This will be held twice a month, after Community Café (12.15 in room 2) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month.

Please come along and let us learn together.

*Go beyond the traditional Bible Study and through a popular meditative approach, step into key passages of Scripture from the Old and New Testaments, which illuminate the work and the character of the Holy Spirit in exciting new ways.*

*The Holy Spirit is the transforming power of God at work, the Dunamis igniting our faith and equipping us to grow more like Jesus and make Him known. These six studies, which include key passages from Genesis, Exodus, Luke, Acts and Revelation, will empower individuals as they grow in knowledge of the Holy Spirit.*

*Study guide is for individual or group use.*

Liz Babbs (MEd) is a dynamic keynote speaker and spiritual director known for her wit and wisdom and for communicating Christ creatively. She is an award winning author of 15 books and 6 meditative CD's and has written material for many organisations including The Bible Society, Vondervan and CWR.

Published by CWR, ISBN: 978-1-78259-275-4

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

Source: from the back cover of the study guide.

# Wroxham and Hoveton United Reformed Church

# JAM



JAM is a group for children and young people aged 4-8, and 9-16 We meet once or twice a month on Sunday's mornings from 10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall.

Through watching, reading, listening, discussing, playing, acting, singing, praying, cooking and creating the children learn about the nature of God and His amazing love for every single one of us.

## Why not come and join us?

For our activities, past sessions and events please look at our website [www.wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam](http://www.wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam)

Email Chris or Joyce at [jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk](mailto:jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk) or phone Norwich 783992 for more details.

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>   | <b>Easter Sunday JAM Session and Easter Egg Hunt</b><br>10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall                                    |
| <b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>Beetle Drive and Pot Luck Supper</b> in The Hub<br>From 4pm – 6:30 Great family fun and good food!                         |
| <b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b> | <b>JAM Sponsored Walk</b> starting at 10am outside Wroxham Church in St Marys Close   |
| <b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b> | Charity Plant Stall at The Hub 8am - 5pm.<br>Jesus Christ Super Star 2:30 at the Theatre Royal Norwich –<br>(for older group) |
| <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>   | JAM Session 10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall  |

### Future JAM Dates:

May - 12<sup>th</sup>

June - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>

July – 14<sup>th</sup>

*Wroxham & Hoveton United Reformed Church*



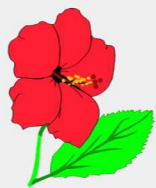
**SUNDAY SCHOOL (JAM)**



**Charity**

**PLANT**

**STALL**



**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**



**April 8am-5pm**

**outside The Hub**

**114 Norwich Rd**

**Wroxham**

**100% to Charity 75% to Foodbank**



# **Beetle Drive & Pot-Luck Supper**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

**4pm-6:30 in The Hub**

**Great Fun for all ages  
and lovely food**

**Please add your name to the  
list in the porch if you would  
like to come**

**Adults £5 Children Free**

**Please see Barbara W if you would like  
to bring a dish.**

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**JAM Sponsored Walk**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 10am**

**Please sponsor JAM (form in porch)  
and join us for the 5 miles**



Our session held on Palm Sunday saw us particularly focus on the last supper; the last meal Jesus shared with His friends before he died.

We made flat bread from wholemeal flour, rolled it out and cooked it in a frying pan. As each person was cooking, the others prepared the stage to eat together later, just as the disciples prepared their meal in the upper room.

We had a shared “news” time together and began our journey together through some of the events of Holy Week

We first talked about how the Last Supper was held at the time of the Jewish Passover, the festival of unleavened bread, which is a time when the Jewish people remember the events of their escape from Egypt.

We thought about Moses and how he, under God’s instructions, had rescued the Hebrew people from slavery and led them out of Egypt. The Jews, even today, celebrate the Passover, and mark it with a special meal where they retell the story and use different food and drink on the table to symbolize aspects of what happened all those years ago. And we were going to do the same by re-enacting the Last Supper.

We had a few of these symbolic foods on our table, as we remembered and acted out Jesus’s Last Supper with His disciples; we had watercress to dip in salt water (this was a reminder to the Jews when they ate it, of the tears that were shed by the slaves) and bitter sweets too, a reminder of the pain and suffering they went through. And of course the flatbread, flat because they left in such a hurry, there was no time to add yeast.

Jesus in this, His Last Supper with His disciples, is going to break bread and pour out wine and tell His friends to do this in the future to remember Him because, He too was about to rescue them in a very different way.

We began the story of Palm Sunday with a Powerpoint retelling how Jesus and His friends travelled to Jerusalem along with many other Jews. Families and friends were coming from far and wide travelling down towards the big city to come together and join in the Passover celebrations.

On the way Jesus had sent two of the disciples to a nearby village to collect a young donkey colt and Jesus sat on this young donkey and rode it into the city.

When the people heard Jesus was coming they broke branches of palm leaves and waved them; branches and garments were laid down for the donkey to walk over, just like a royal red-carpet. They greeted Him like a king, and shouted “Hosanna” which means “Lord save us and rescue us”.



They all hoped that Jesus would save them from the Roman oppression. Jesus had come to save /rescue them, but not in the way that they had thought! And Jesus was riding a donkey, considered a sign of peace.

Not everyone was happy to see Jesus; the church leaders, chief priests and the Pharisees hated Jesus.

Judas, one of the 12 disciples, wasn't very happy either he had wanted Jesus to become a powerful ruler and there was Jesus on a donkey! Things weren't going quite how he had expected.

We watched a clip of Jesus Christ Superstar of the triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, an opportunity to let the young people begin to experience the style of performance they would see in just a few weeks.

We continued with the story and the visit to the temple and showing how Jesus was so upset over the dishonest trading that was taking place. He wanted everyone to be able to come to God with no obstacles. Jesus was even more unpopular with the chief priests and pharisees after this.

We then see how Judas helped them hatch a plan to arrest Jesus somewhere quiet, in exchange for 30 pieces of silver

The time came on the Thursday to share the Passover meal together, this was such a special time for everyone, a time of remembering, a time of sharing.

Jesus and His friends gathered to celebrate; an upper room was made ready for them by two of the disciples and, as they gathered around their table to eat, so did we.

We moved up to the stage to our prepared meal. We wondered about that evening, Jesus and the disciples had shared so much together over those last three years. So much laughter and so many adventures. What a team they had become. They had

walked together, talked together, gone fishing together, eaten together – and here they were, sharing together again. But, something important was about to happen and we remembered that puzzling moment that Jesus picked up the bread and broke it, told them to take the bread and eat it, for this was His body given for them and for them to do this in memory of Him. He then did the same with the wine, sharing it and saying it was His blood, the beginning of the new agreement that God makes with His people. The disciples did not understand fully what He meant.

We then carried on with our Passover meal while watching the Miracle Maker (which portrays the events of Holy Week so well) and then we prayed together, thanking Jesus for what He did for us.

We went on to explain how our own communion service works, where we tell the story of the Last Supper and share bread and wine and remember Jesus and His sacrifice, just as He asked the disciples to do.

*Joyce, Chris & Linda*



## **BREAKFAST!**

Arriving a little early for breakfast organised by JAM on February 25<sup>th</sup> it was to the sight of JAM members laying up tables ready for their guests. Once seated, orders were taken; fruit juice to start followed by bacon, sausage, scrambled egg, tomatoes, mushrooms, toast and tea or coffee – everything was cooked to perfection – delivered with a smile - could there be a better way to start the day?



JAM members were very enthusiastic, attentive, polite, happy to chat and all with a smile. For the guests, it was good to have the opportunity to meet up with the young people and to encourage and support them in their efforts to raise funds for charity.

Such events of course do not happen without a great deal of organising; tables and chairs set out; menu lists for JAM members to help with ordering; food shopping and then there is the actual cooking of the breakfast, washing up and clearing up at the end. To all those involved a big THANK YOU.

This event was most enjoyable, not only the food but the opportunity to spend time with fellow diners. Some thought it would be great to have such a start every Sunday but I think this is rather wishful thinking! However, I'm sure that should JAM decide to repeat the event it will be well supported.

*Carole Parry*

# JAM



Wroxham & Hoveton  
United Reformed Church



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

## **Operation Christmas Child – The Shoebox Appeal.**



This year, instead of collecting items in October and November, we plan to collect things together each month.

This makes it easier for everyone to join-in; people who cannot afford to fill a whole shoebox, as well as to spread the cost for those who can.

We aim to have a workshop in November when we will pack all the items we have collected into shoeboxes ready to be collected by Samaritan's Purse, who run Operation Christmas Child.

So, each month we will ask for different things and there is a box in the entrance to The Hub, so that you can hand your gifts in.

**In April & May we will be asking for Toys,  
the examples are:**

- Cuddly toy
- Football and pump
- Toy truck
- Doll
- Small Musical instruments

**Some items are for older children, but we are collecting for girls and boys from age 2-14.**

## Christian Aid Week - Save the Date! 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May

Get ready to ignite change! Gear up to join the fight against poverty. Let's make a powerful impact together!



### Aline's story: Pushed to the brink of survival

Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival. She was abused, homeless and hungry. But Aline pushed back harder.

See next month - how Christian Aid helped Aline transform her life and climb out of extreme poverty.

MAKING CONNECTIONS  
HOVETON AND WROXHAM



**FREE DEMENTIA CAFÉ AT HOVETON VILLAGE HALL**

**Every meeting 10:45 – 12:45**

Please join us for a chat, fun and activities, tea and coffee, biscuits and cake

MAKING CONNECTIONS is a DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOCIAL GROUP for those EXPERIENCING MEMORY ISSUES

EVERYONE IS WELCOME – JUST TURN UP AND ENJOY!

For more information please call 07513 183769

### Making Connections Dates for 2024

|                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <del>Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Feb</del>  | Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July |
| <del>Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb</del> | Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug   |
| <del>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Mar</del> | Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug  |
| <del>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Mar</del> | Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept  |
| Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr            | Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept |
| Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Apr           | Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct   |
| Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> May            | Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct  |
| Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> May           | Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov   |
| Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June           | Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov  |
| Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> June          | Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec   |
| Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> July           | Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec  |



### Used postage stamps wanted.....

We are collecting used stamps for:

**East Anglia Air Ambulance** – covering Norfolk,

Cambridgeshire & Bedfordshire 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by air & road.



Suffolk,

Recycling used postage stamps is such an easy way to raise money for the charity and this can be all types of postage stamps, including British, Foreign and Christmas stamps. If you are able to help, we would be grateful if you could cut the stamps from their envelopes (leaving approx. 1cm margin around the stamp) and pass them to Ann O or to Barbara W or pop them in our new collecting jar found in the Hub entrance.



### Want to Recycle your Easter cards.....?

*Please drop them in our grey box in the vestibule, so they can be remade into future cards. Thank you.*

He Lives  
to bless me with His love  
to plead for me above  
to bless in time of need  
to grant me rich supply  
to guide me with His eye  
to comfort me when faint  
to hear my soul's complaint  
to silence all my fears  
to wipe away my tears  
to calm my troubled heart



Lord, thank you that when life feels like shifting sand beneath my feet, You are the rock I cling to.

Help me to notice Your goodness in the midst of my challenges and to take control in Your stability and presence today. Amen

Source: Lectio 365 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

# Happy Special Birthday Verna!



Dear friends,  
Someone recently reminded me that I hadn't shared my birthday photographs. Thank you for the prompt.



Let there be no jokes about my memory, as far as I'm concerned that is still in pretty good order!

It simply hadn't occurred to me, one minute it was my birthday and the next it was Christmas along with that awful lingering chest infection which I couldn't shake off.

Thank you so much to all my friends for marking my special birthday and making so much effort to be there for me.

It will always remain a complete mystery to me that my surprise party was kept a secret!

You all contributed to make it a very special day for me, thank you.

So here they are a few of my favourite photographs and lovely memories, better late than never!

Love Verna xx



## Enforced stay at home.....

Today has been full of lovely spring sunshine, a day when I would have loved to escape with my bus pass to the seaside. Acknowledging just how privileged we are here in Norfolk, to live so close to the beach and the fact of having a disabled bus pass. Since the first of February when circumstances changed regarding times of free travel, I have been able to travel free 24/7 any day. Well, except of course, the busses only run from six am to eleven thirty pm - But you know what I mean!

Of course due to having caught Covid, I can't travel anywhere, (although by the time you read this I'm hopefully able to do so again ).

People who know me, know I like to walk early in the morning into Wroxham. To have a coffee sometimes, porridge too and read quietly sitting in a corner in McD's, just alone but not alone, surrounded by their music and the chatter of others. This is something a few people do, especially on a Sunday morning, I've noticed. This gives a moment – a sense of being part of the world, yet not really alone with our books and our coffee. A time to forget the cares of caring for others or maybe just feeling part of society, as living alone can make that little time in a social place more bearable. These moments also keep the heating bill down at home, whilst out as it can be turned off too in winter

I thought I would miss that time whilst having to stay home, but I've found the quietness of home with the birds singing the dawn chorus a blessing. I'm a very early riser, taking my home made coffee outside to stand and listen to the birds, seeing the dawn light appear, taking my time, knowing I can't go anywhere. This has been a real gift from God, helping me recover, restore my energy and just be happy in our garden and home.

Surprised by this gift, I shall be more grateful, for just being able to take time out here now. Although I suspect I will still walk, sit, read and enjoy my little corner in McD's occasionally - But probably not so often. I will also walk the opposite way, toward the river and open fields. To find peace of mind there as well, with the geese flying over or calling from the water, as my husband and I do now, whilst I avoid contact with people, until my enforced isolation ends.

I hope you find peace this spring time, to just appreciate the simple things near at hand, just as I've learnt to do, but without you having covid to force you to do so.

With every blessing of good health,  
Liz G





Here is a new list of items requested by [Norwich Food Bank](#):  
**URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS: List updated 24.3.2024**

- TINNED FISH
  - PASTA SAUCES- ESPECIALLY TOMATO BASED ( SO NOT CURRY SAUCE)
  - TINNED FRUIT
  - TINNED MEAT E.G. HAM, CHICKEN IN SAUCE CORNED BEEF ETC
  - SOUP
  - SHAMPOO
- WE ARE VERY WELL STOCKED WITH:**
- BAKED BEANS
  - CEREAL
  - PASTA

**Thank you!**

**We also are grateful for financial donations; details of how to give can be found on our website - [norwich.foodbank.org.uk](http://norwich.foodbank.org.uk) or directly through our Bankuet account: [www.bankuet.co.uk/norwich](http://www.bankuet.co.uk/norwich) Thank you!**

*Please remember that.....*



***The Hub is a Collection Point as well as a Distribution Centre.***



You can also donate via our [Amazon Wish List](#) which has single and bulk items available to buy and get delivered directly to our warehouse.



Bank the Food is an app which shows you our most needed items and your local collection points. Download the app at <https://www.bankthefood.org/downloadapp/>

Norwich foodbank supports local individuals and families who find themselves on the edge of disaster through the provision of emergency food supplies. These supplies take the form of nutritionally balanced emergency food-boxes to cover an individual or family's basic needs for 72 hours: the critical time gap before other support services kick in.

### **Food Bank Prayer**

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. Matthew 25:35  
God of faithfulness, Your generous love supplies us with all that we need. We know that all we have is yours.

We celebrate the work that you have done in Norwich and Norfolk through foodbank by means of the generous support of many people.

Through foodbank we are able to offer food to the hungry, a drink to the thirsty and compassion to the strangers in our city and county.

Accept our offering of worship and service. May your Spirit empower us to be your hands and feet in our community as we continue to serve those in crisis.

We pray that you bless all those who give and receive. Increase the capacity of foodbank; help the food to get to those who need it most.

Amen

***God does not call the qualified***

***He qualifies those he calls.***

***Exodus Chapter 4***

***If lots of us do small things  
We can make big changes.***

# Our Eco- Church.....



Eco Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. The overall aim of the Eco Church award scheme is to celebrate the ways that church communities have been engaging with caring for the earth as a key part of our



Christian faith.

- Ladies..... Barbara W is now passing on pre-loved bras to Wroxham Co-op Funeral Home as they are collecting them in aid of Breast Cancer, please give any surplus items to her or drop them in at the funeral home personally.
- The Broadland Funeral Home (Co-op) also recycle ink cartridges and glasses (optical).



- Thank you for your patience in waiting to see our Terracycle Blister Box in action. After struggling to find a second hand mangle to squash the blister packs (so doubling the number

we can fit in) ACE – Aylsham Climate Emergency Group has kindly offered us the use of their mangle – which they use once a month. Liz H has kindly offered to coordinate

this.

We are looking into applying for a grant (available in April) to help with the cost of this recycling scheme, but would be grateful of a donation of £2-£5 each time empty blister packs are added to our flip-up bin, to help fund the next box.

**Please do not** add your blister packs to our Terracycle box yet, as we are sorting them (removing the aluminium ones which can be recycled in Broadland Household recycling bins) and squashing the blister packs to maximise the number we can fit in the box.



## Aylsham Climate Emergency Group

### Who are we?

In August 2021, Aylsham Town Council declared a climate emergency looking towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The council formed a group – **ACE (Aylsham Climate Emergency)** and this community-led membership set up five sub-groups, each working towards a strategy to achieve this.

**It's not just about reducing carbon emissions on a local scale, but also raising awareness of global climate change.**

Each sub-group will target the main areas which contribute to the crisis. If you would like to get involved, or if you have a project for consideration, **please...get in touch**

ACE normally meets every month on the first Monday at 7:00pm.

Agendas for future meetings are available at least 3 days beforehand, and minutes published within two weeks.

Source and for more information see: <https://ace-aylsham.org/>  
and <https://ace-aylsham.org/news/>

(These are useful websites, not only for Aylsham and its surrounding area, but for other towns etc. in Broadland District Council.)

*The climate and environmental crises, for which we all bear some responsibility, have come about as we have focused upon our needs, ignoring the needs of our neighbours in the wider community of creation and placing our value above others with whom we share the earth... So the next time you remember Jesus by sharing bread and wine, as you eat and drink, hold it for a moment in your hands. Listen for God's call for a new beginning in how you love your human neighbours, but also to value and care for your non-human neighbours too. As followers of Jesus, how might you need to live more humbly towards creation, playing your part in caring for this gift that God shares with us?*      Written by David Gregory

Source: [enews@brf.org.uk](mailto:enews@brf.org.uk)

## My Story Continues.....

As many of you now know I am in my 90th year and I want to testify how the Lord will open doors and supply all our needs if we only trust him and let him take control of our future.

At the age of 59, I was nearing the retirement age. I was now single and needed full time teaching . I noticed an advertisement for a Host-nation teacher at the American base in Feltwell. I had no idea what was required but sent off for details. They wanted someone to teach primary age children throughout the school about Britain. To organize outings and take weeklong trips for the top age group along with any parents wanting to join. I would have my own office and officer status. I had no idea that so many American children were on the base. At that time the numbers were about the same as Blofield in the primary 250, but the secondary school at Lakenheath had 1500, they had their own Host-nation teacher. It was for two days a week and I would travel down Wednesday afternoons, after two and a half days at Blofield. It was a great arrangement and just what I needed. I would be paid by the MOD and I would need B&B for two nights.

I loved the job and after a while it became a fulltime post as more children came back from Germany. I made friends with the American PE teacher who had married a British man and lived in Norwich. He was away for weeks as a holiday coach driver and Nancy shared B&B and evenings with me. I could now use the swimming pool at Lakenheath where she taught. She also came on several holidays which I arranged for the classes. We also shared the car travel to and fro.

Noticing an advert for a Bible Study meeting, I started to attend weekly and got to know local Christians - English and American, and a group from a church in Thetford who were preparing to plant a new church locally in Brandon. It now flourishes - I returned later to see how God had prospered them. The local vicar and his wife opened the Rectory for us as he had just returned from Spring Harvest full of the Spirit of God and not appreciated by his small congregation who wanted to remain as they were. We had wonderful times. His wife played the piano and we used

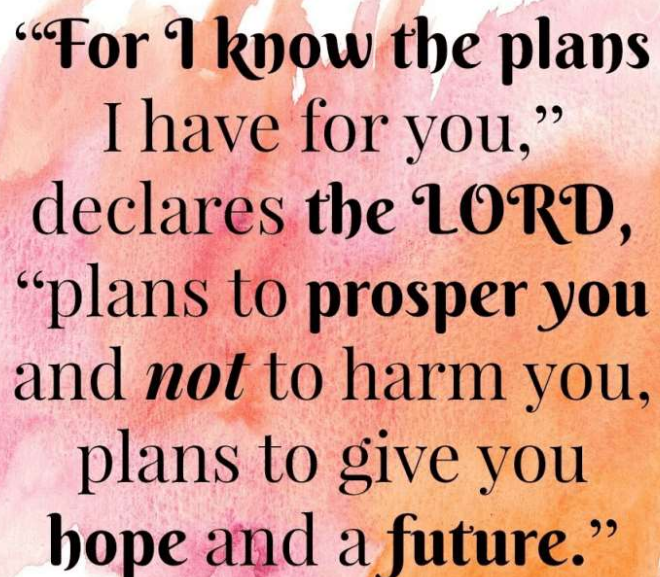
tapes sometimes for praise and worship. We prayed, talked, sometimes to eleven o'clock.

My B&B lady worked really hard as manager of the cafe at CenterParcs and suffered with her back. On one evening she came with me and we prayed for her. During our singing and praising she started to sway in circular motion until I feared she would fall backwards. She was praising with her eyes closed and when the song finished she beamed at us and said "The Lord has healed me" The following morning she was still smiling and told me she had not slept but that God had been talking to her all night and showing many promises to her in her bible. She had recently found her bible and had been bringing it to the meeting. Our vicar arranged to baptise her in a non-conformist church plus a few others and we had a great time.

My next B&B lady was Italian. Her husband drove lorries to and from Italy every week and she was glad for company and soon asked to come to our evening meeting. After a while she disposed of her rosary and came to know and love the Lord in a new and wonderful way.

I was so blessed in every way. The Lord's plan is always the best plan.

Written by Margaret C



**“For I know the plans  
I have for you,”  
declares the LORD,  
“plans to prosper you  
and *not* to harm you,  
plans to give you  
hope and a future.”**

**~Jeremiah 29:11~**

## Community Café give away..... £ 75 - donated to Toybox

Toybox exists to see:

- A world with no street children.
- No children living on the streets.
- No children working on the streets.
- Every child safe from exploitation.
- Every child safe from traffickers.



The United Nations estimate there are hundreds of millions of street children. They live without rights and protection on some of the most dangerous streets in the world.

Many different factors lead to children making the decision to leave home for the streets:

- Poverty – for some children working on the street can be their only means to earn an income. Many of these children live permanently on the streets.
- Violence – some street children have been chased from home by violence or natural disaster. Others have been sold or trafficked and have ended up on the street.
- Exploitation - children whose home life is full of abuse often take refuge on the street to escape. However here they are at risk of being enticed by gangs offering friendship or financial gain.



Whatever the reason for children moving to the streets, all of them are at risk of abuse and exploitation on a daily basis. They are exposed to stigmatisation, physical, sexual and psychological violence. Their future is bleak and their life expectancy terrifyingly low.

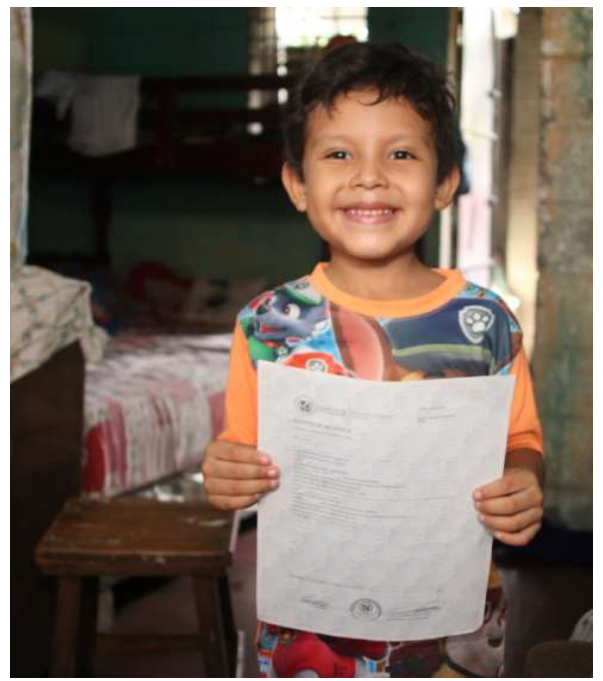
Toybox works in 6 countries around the world:

Bolivia, India, Kenya, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nepal (often working with various partners).

In the last year alone Toybox has transformed the lives of over 12,000 children, young people and their families in street situations.

This help has included:

- Obtaining legal identity documents
- Adult training in positive parenting and life skills.
- Providing children and young people with medicine, food or clothing.
- Providing young people with training in vocational trades.
- Giving access to education.
- Re-uniting families.
- Children and young people are provided with emergency support as a result of Covid-19.
- Providing children with psychosupport.
- Children are supported to share their knowledge about children's rights with their peers.



Prayers from Team Toybox for 2024.....

*"I pray that all of the children who have received their birth certificates this year have the opportunity to fulfil one of their dreams for 2024 thanks to the doors that have been opened to them now they are registered."*

*"I pray for the end of violence against women and girls, that women and girls are safe and protected in their homes and wider communities."*

*"My prayer for 2024 is that Toybox is able to reach more and more vulnerable children, enabling them to be safe and access new opportunities."*

*"I pray for the governments and the leaders of the countries in which we work, that they may serve wisely and with compassion for all the people in their countries."*

### **Prayer**

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others  
 Open my ears that I may hear their cries;  
 Open my heart so that they need not be without succour;  
 Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,  
 Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.  
 Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,  
 And use me to bring them to those places.

*Written by Alan Paton Source: URC Daily Devotions Monday 26th March 2024*



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

*Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?*

Psalm 24

Reflection

Talking to 4-year old Noah, I asked him about a time when he felt close to God. He thought for a minute, raised his hands up high and answered, “When I’m sitting on Daddy’s shoulders!”

High up places sometimes feel like the mountain of the Lord. When we’re up high, surveying the surrounding landscape, there’s something quite spiritual about it. Whether we’re gazing out over countryside littered with fields, trees and hedges, whether our view is rocky crags with rivers and streams weaving their way between rocks and boulders, whether it’s seascapes, cityscapes or even desert, we sense the awesomeness of God and creation as we absorb the big picture from on high.

We talk of mountain-top experiences, reminder of the transfiguration where the disciples saw the glory of Jesus, a glimpse of the divine in this man they had encountered just sharing ordinary human life together. The mountain top gives us new perspective, a different view.

But the thing about climbing God’s holy mountain is that sooner or later we need to come back down. Climbing a mountain takes effort, as our calves and thighs soon remind us. Climbing downhill takes effort too, maybe even more. Muscles and tendons tense as we brace ourselves against going too fast on that downward slope and ending up in a fall. No admiring the view here – eyes are focused on the path.

So it is with life. We need mountain top moments, but we aren’t called to exist purely observing from afar, where everything looks so small and distant and indistinct. We are called, through God’s Spirit, to descend, our eyes are filled with the immediate, the detail, the reality of all-too-human life. Clean hands and pure hearts are all very well, but God also calls us to get our hands dirty. God is just as close in the valleys too.

Prayer

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

Let it be me, Lord.

Clean hands and pure heart,

May I worship you on the mountain top.

But then send me to get my hands dirty again;

back into the everyday, where your people need your word,

back from the mountain

to where people are hungry, anxious, in need.

Balance my worship with discipleship,

My praise with service. Amen

Written by Lorraine Webb, Programme Officer for Children's and Youth work for the United Reformed Church

## Daily Devotions

from The United Reformed Church

<https://devotions.urc.org.uk/>

At the top of the web page there is a link to have an Daily Devotion email sent daily. This has a short bible reading, reflection and prayer.

If you don't want to get the Daily Devotions sent daily, the devotion is printed each day on this web page, along with a daily podcast.



**Big Day out 2024 online booking is now open!**

**Join us on the 8th of June at Trinity Park, Ipswich.**

A fun day out of all ages, a chance to meet up with other churches, activities, workshops, bible study, crafts, drama, dance, music and of course worship!

Online booking: <https://forms.office.com/e/6jwigUVLMB>

**Celebrate!**

**EASTERN SYNOD  
BIG DAY OUT  
SATURDAY 8TH JUNE  
TRINITY PARK, IPSWICH  
10.00AM - 4.00PM**

**A day for all ages from 0-100**

**RELAX HAVE FUN CELEBRATE CREATE REFLECT PLAY**

£8 contribution per adult  
children Under 16 free  
Refreshments on arrival & picnic lunch

**Celebrating our faith. Hope and Love in Action**

Booking on line <https://forms.office.com/e/6jwigUVLMB>



## Bear Grylls to take part in Holkham adventure

Renowned British adventurer and Christian Bear Grylls OBE will be speaking at the Gone Wild Festival in August, and tickets are now available.



**Gone Wild** is a four-day family



adventure taking place in the stunning grounds of **Holkham Hall** in North Norfolk. The event is curated by former Royal Marines member **Oli Mason** and by **Bear Grylls** himself, and takes place from **August 8 to 11**.

Families are invited to immerse themselves in a world of excitement, with a wide range of over 100 family-friendly activities, workshops, and live performances. Children can unleash their sense of adventure while families embark on thrilling experiences such as giant stand-up paddle-boarding, survival skills training, Everest climbing zones and fun workouts with Mr Motivator himself!

Food and drink will be available, with kids' meals starting from just £5. In the evenings, there will be unforgettable live performances from acclaimed artists like Example, Scouting for Girls, Sam Ryder, Dick & Dom, McFly and others.

The organisers say "Escape the ordinary and embrace the extraordinary at the Gone Wild Festival, an event which promises an unmatched experience. Our goal is to get families spending time together in the outdoors. There's a reason Gone Wild is the UK's fastest growing family festival. Where else can you learn how to light fires, go climbing, throw your mum down a 50-foot mud slide, then party together while watching great bands? Gone Wild offers a unique blend of adventure, nature, and camaraderie for all

members of the family.”

For more information, and to book tickets, go to [norfolk.gonewildfestival.com](http://norfolk.gonewildfestival.com)

The pictures of previous Gone Wild adventures, including Bear Grylls on stage, are courtesy of the Panoptic Group.

Source:

[https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/685029/Network\\_Norwich\\_and\\_Norfolk/Regional\\_News/North\\_Norfolk/Bear\\_Grylls\\_to\\_take\\_part\\_in\\_Holkham.aspx](https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/685029/Network_Norwich_and_Norfolk/Regional_News/North_Norfolk/Bear_Grylls_to_take_part_in_Holkham.aspx)

**Rotas** (Please swap if necessary)

***are welcoming, please make sure you arrive by 10:00, Thank you 😊***

| Date  | Vestry     | Welcoming Elder | Welcoming team | Flowers      | Reading Rota        | Coffee                |
|---|------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar<br>Easter Day <b>JAM</b> | Lynne H    | Margaret C      | Liz G          | Joint Effort | Paul T & Liz H      | Colin C & Don M       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> April                         | Liz H      | Lynne H         | Frances M      | Anne O       | Caroline L & Anne O | Barbara W & Lyn M     |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April<br><b>HC JAM</b>       | Barbara W  | Colin C         | Lyn M          | Lynne H      | Liz H & Liz G       | Liz G & Joyce B       |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> April                        | Colin C    | Chris B         | Joyce B        | Barbara W    | Paul T & Margaret C | Paul T & Verna C      |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> April<br><b>AGM</b>          | Margaret C | Barbara W       | Liz G          | Verna C      | Colin C & Don M     | Frances M & Frances B |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> May                           | Chris B    | Lynne H         | Derek M        | Liz H        | Caroline L & Lyn M  | Barbara W & Lyn M     |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May<br><b>HC JAM</b>         | Lynne H    | Colin C         | Joyce P        | Lyn M        | Anne O & Lyn M      | Frances M & Frances B |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> May                          | Don M      | Chris B         | Paul T         | Anne O       | Joyce P & Lynne H   | Colin C & Liz G       |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> May                          | Liz H      | Barbara W       | Lyn M          | Barbara W    | Colin C & Don M     | Paul T & Verna C      |

Please visit our website- [wroxham.urc.org.uk](http://wroxham.urc.org.uk) and the Norwich Area URC website (which includes the preaching plan):[norwichareaurc.co.uk](http://norwichareaurc.co.uk)

**The deadline for submitting information  
for the May issue of the Link is 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024.**

Any news or an item for the Link? This could possibly be a favourite prayer, bible reading, article, poem, Christian book review or to share your testimonial. Please send to Barbara W at [barbaraawestwood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbaraawestwood@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel No: 01603 783379.