

# The Link

Wroxham and Hoveton  
URC

[wroxhamurc.org.uk](http://wroxhamurc.org.uk)

May 2025



**Holding hope  
in her hands.**

Aurelia holding the  
Bible and the seed that has  
to make with our partner  
Congregation's support.



The climate crisis is ravaging  
the farms of Indigenous  
communities in Guatemala.  
Please help fund vital tools  
and training, so farmers like  
Aurelia can support their  
community to escape hunger.

Christian Aid Week  
11-17 May

Christian  
**aid** 80

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

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

We are a Member of Norwich  
Area URC Mission Partnership

'Climate change has been killing  
our crops, and this is our food'

## Meet Aurelia

An inspirational farmer and  
community leader. Aurelia and  
her family belong to the  
Indigenous Q'eqchi' community  
of the Alta Verapaz region. Her  
story continues on **page 20**.



**80 years of Christian Aid**


*With many thanks .....*

*Our Link newsletter is freely coloured printed by  
Kelvin Dore of Abbott's Estate Agents, Hoveton.*



# What's on in April Events and Services Calendar

Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Worship led by Mike Gibbs, a Methodist Local Preacher and a member of Bowthorpe Church.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. <b>NO</b> Prayer meeting Elder's Meeting in room 2 (Back section) of The Hub.
 Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	8am-1pm	Pop up Charity Plant Stall outside the Hub, in aid of Norwich Foodbank and other charities.
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May JAM	10.30am	Worship led by Mike Gibbs, a Methodist Local Preacher and a member of Bowthorpe Church.
 Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub. Week 7 (Mystery) of our series on the book of Romans, see page 9 for more information.
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May HC <b>Christian Aid Week 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Holy Communion Service led by Revd. Carole Pearl, our Interim Minister and member of our church.
 Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub. Week 8 (Devotion) of our series on the book of Romans, see page 9 for more information.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May JAM	10.30am	Worship led by Rev Paul Whittle, retired URC Minister and member of our church.
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	10.30-12.00 12:30	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. CPR and AED Training for Group 2.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Deadline for The Link</i>	10.30am	Worship led by Revd. Carole Pearl, our Interim Minister and member of our church.
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Hub Committee Meeting

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> June HC AGM	10.30am  12.15	Holy Communion Service led by Revd. Carole Pearl, our Interim Minister and member of our church. <b><i>Our Church Annual General Meeting.</i></b>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	10.00	Elder's Meeting in room 2 (Back section) of The Hub.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Prayer meeting
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June JAM	10.30am	Worship led by Ken Thom, a representative of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

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 Community Café is being supported by a £500 Winter Pressure Grant from [southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](http://southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)**

This is a grant that helps community organizations support residents of Broadland and South Norfolk during the winter. The grant is given by the Department of Health and Social Care.



***Community Café Charity giving: If you have a particular charity you wish to suggest for a donation, please let one of the elders know.***



### 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.**



## HOLY COMMUNION FOR YOU AT HOME.....



If you are unable to come to church, but would still like to receive Holy Communion sometimes, one of our Elders, Lynne Howard, has completed training and has now been given permission by the Pastoral Committee of the Eastern Synod of the URC, to do this for you. Please contact your Elder, or Lynne, if this is something you would like to receive.

### Minister's Letter –

Dear Friends,

*“But the merriest month in all the year is the merry, merry month of May”*

(Robin Hood and the Three Squires – ballad, anon)



So how and why should we be merry in May? My mother would often quote one of those “old wives’ tales” and pass on their advice to *“ne-er cast a clout till May’s out.”* This would be followed by discussion on whether this referred to the *month of May* or the beautiful white flowers of the blackthorn – also known as May.

Other memories include the Primary School tradition of small children (and not so small) dancing round the maypole with the apparent intention of weaving different coloured ribbons in and out as we danced. What could possibly go wrong?

Fast forwarding a few years I vividly remember being firmly told by our Grammar school’s careers advisor that, *“women don’t enter the church.”* She had obviously never heard of our much celebrated Constance Coltman who with her husband was ordained over 100 years ago at the Haverhill Old Independent Church which was to become my “sending church” as I became a candidate for the ministry.

Remembering my own journey into ordained ministry in the month of May, led me to reflect on the wonderful news of Tina’s forthcoming ordination and induction this September. Certainly a cause for thanksgiving, celebration, and, yes, merriment. We are indeed blessed and excited as we plan all the arrangements for the service, the celebratory tea afterwards and her ministry with us. May God bless you, Tina, just as we know your coming to serve amongst us will bring great blessing to each one of the four churches.



I am writing this just before Easter Sunday - the day of the greatest celebration and cause of merriment of all time. Jesus who was crucified has been raised and is now alive and, through the Holy Spirit, with each one of us now and always.

The lectionary will soon lead us onward into the Book of Acts, or, as I used to say in my Bible Studies with prisoners, *"What Jesus did next"*. It's a thrilled packed book of adventures with the risen Jesus. *"After that momentous Easter Day, over 2,000 years ago, Jesus spent 40 days on earth. The significance of what took place those days is as compelling today as it was then, because of the TRUTH that JESUS IS ALIVE."* (40 days with Jesus, by Dave Smith).

My prayer is that each of you will feel the warmth of God's love in this early summer month of May. That each day you will know the presence of our RISEN Lord who gave His life for us, who loves us, walks with of us and stretches out His hand to lift us up when life knocks us down.

God bless you,

Rev'd Carole



*100% to Charity*  
*Please come to the*  
*Wroxham & Hoveton United Reformed Church*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (JAM)**

**PLANT  
STALL**

**8 am - 1 pm**

**Sat 3rd May**

The Hub, 114 Norwich Road  
Wroxham NR12 8SA  
*Lots of Plants, Shrubs, perennials,  
herbs and houseplants & much more*



**At least 75% to Foodbank**

**Wroxham & Hoveton URC invite you to a**

**Beetle Drive**

 **& Pizzas** 

**Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**4pm-6:30**

**in The Hub**

**Great Fun for all the  
Family, lovely food & raffle**

**Come and join us..**

**Adults £5 Children Free**

**Call Nch 783992 to book**



## Introducing Me and My Family

Hello, dear church family!

I am delighted to introduce myself and my two children, Savanna and Pelin, to your wonderful community. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a vibrant and inclusive Mission Partnership that values faith, service, and togetherness.

A little about me—I have always been passionate about community engagement and have actively participated in various church activities and outreach programs. With experience in Public Health and other sectors, I bring transferable skills that I hope will contribute meaningfully to the Norwich Area URC Mission Partnership. Our move to the area marks a significant chapter for us, and we are deeply grateful for the kindness and support we have already received.

I am especially impressed by the diverse range of programs offered—from community lunches and drop-in cafes to youth groups and eco-friendly initiatives. It's inspiring to be part of a church that nurtures spiritual growth while actively serving the wider community.

As we settle into our new home and churches, I look forward to forming meaningful relationships, learning from one another, and contributing to the church's mission. I also look forward to hearing more about each of you and your families. Thank you for welcoming us so warmly—we are excited for this faith journey ahead!

Brightest blessings, Tina

**A date for you diary.....**

**14<sup>th</sup> June: JAM Beetle Drive 4-6:30 at The Hub with Pizzas and a Raffle**



**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

We have been asked to visit the residents of Heron Lodge Nursing Home on Norwich Road.

This is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm (in winter months) for a 30 minutes short service and chat with the residents.

Would you be interested in joining Revd. Carole and her team?

Some extra parking is available on these occasions, next door at 163A Norwich Rd, (on the right hand side of the Nursing Home). Many thanks.



### **If you would like to recycle your Easter cards.....?**

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

*Thank you.*

### **Transport arrangements for Rev Tina's Ordination and Induction**

Please check your diaries for September and sign our sheet in the vestibule, for transport.

#### **WROXHAM AND HOVETON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH.**

ORDINATION AND INDUCTION OF REV TINA WILSON TO THE NORWICH AREA MISSION PARTNERSHIP.

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025, 2PM. JESSOPP ROAD CHURCH, NORWICH.

**PLEASE SIGN BELOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, BUT NEED TRANSPORT.**



# Our Bible Discussion Group (Very informal), will be continuing with The Roman's Course.

This group is held twice a month, after Community Café  
(12.15 in room 2) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

Please come along and let us learn together.

## THE ROMANS COURSE

An enjoyable way to explore the Book of Romans, with questions prompting us to study chapter and verse to find the answers.

David Suchet became a Christian after reading Paul's letter to the Romans, written to unite Jews and Gentiles.

Discover amongst many other things how many women are mentioned and celebrated for their hard work. The Churches are shown to be very united, loving towards each other, with different gifts and very hard working. A family, intergenerational, each serving Christ and each other. They are often described as being *the household of...* leading us to believe that the family's servants were also included.

My first thoughts are that this course has much to offer us, written in a way which encourages exploration of Romans and the discovery that the Church Paul wrote his letter to in AD 56/57 was, just as it is today, of and for ALL people.

Contributed by Revd. Carole Pearl



### What is The Romans Course?

*The Romans Course* is a ten-session programme which helps you study Paul's letter to the Romans.

The course tackles ten big themes found in the book of Romans which are key to understanding the Christian faith:

- **Gospel** – How can we become confident in our faith?
- **Sin** – What's wrong with the world?
- **Salvation** – What's so amazing about grace?
- **Peace** – How can we find rest in a stressful world?
- **Freedom** – How can we avoid negative cycles?
- **Hope** – What has God promised?
- **Mystery** – If God is sovereign, what is our role?
- **Devotion** – How can we live full on for God?
- **Community** – How can we live together in love?
- **Mission** – How can we be ambitious with the gospel?

Source and for more information: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-romans-course>

Wroxham and Hoveton United Reformed Church  
Member of Norwich Area URC Mission Partnership



JAM is a group for children and young people aged 4-8, and 9-16.  
We meet once or twice a month on Sunday 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.

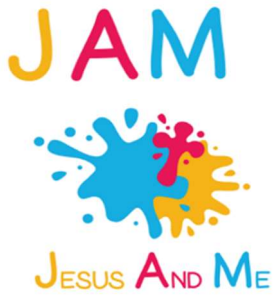
## Why not come and join us?

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. Upcoming sessions below:-

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>JAM Session 10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>JAM Session 10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>JAM Session 10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall</b>
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Beetle Drive at The Hub 4-6:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>JAM Session 10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>JAM Session 10:15-11:45 in Wroxham Church Hall</b>



Wroxham & Hoveton  
United Reformed Church



## Operation Christmas Child The Shoebox Appeal -2025

This year again, 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 again when the children will pack all the items 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 drawer in the cabinet in the entrance to The Hub, so that you can put your gifts in.

**In May we will be asking for Special Items, the examples are:**

**Cuddly toy**  
**Football and pump**  
**Toy truck**  
**Doll**  
**Musical instrument**



**Remember that they do need to fit in the shoebox!**

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

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Dear God,

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in Operation Christmas Child and to bring joy and hope to children in need. We pray for each child who will receive a shoebox, that they may experience your love and compassion. We also pray for the volunteers and staff who are working tirelessly to make this ministry a success. May your blessings be upon them, and may your guidance lead them in all they do. We ask for your protection and provision for the gifts and the ministry, and may your word go forth from these simple gifts into families, communities, and the entire world. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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**For the Plant Stall at The Hub.....**

**We still need any 1.5 l pots and the 6 packs for bedding plants**



## **JAMMY NEWS**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March (Mothering Sunday)**... we started early by preparing posies for the ladies of the church and then taking them to The Hub for the beginning of the service; we sang 2 songs and demonstrated the actions which a lot of the congregation joined in with.

Lucy read a poem dedicated to her mum and we distributed the flowers during the first hymn before returning to the church hall for a special session where we were guided by Don Meechan (ably assisted by grandson Rupert) through CPR training. It was very informative, and the JAM members now know what to do in an emergency, which could save lives.... Even if they do not perform CPR on someone, they can instruct others and also know the steps to ensure everything possible is done to help a person.

**Sponsored Walk Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April....** 12 of us set-off on the walk starting at The Hub at 10am; the weather was kind and warmer than expected. It was a lovely day to be in the countryside walking along the not-so-quiet farm track towards Spixworth (lots of tractors and dust!). We stopped half-way for scones and flapjacks which seemed to re-charge the

batteries of the younger ones especially Amelia who jogged in the lead all the way back, and we returned to The Hub in half the time! When we have collected all the money, we expect to have raised over £424 for breast cancer (chosen by





Lucy)— a big thank you to all who supported the walk in any way.

**Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday).....** We unexpectedly were offered some tickets to see **The**



**King of Kings** at the Odeon Cinema in Norwich. This was the premier weekend of a brand new movie covering the life of Jesus as seen from the viewpoint of a young son of Charles Dickens. Please see photo of JAMsters in super-reclining seats!



**Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April.....**

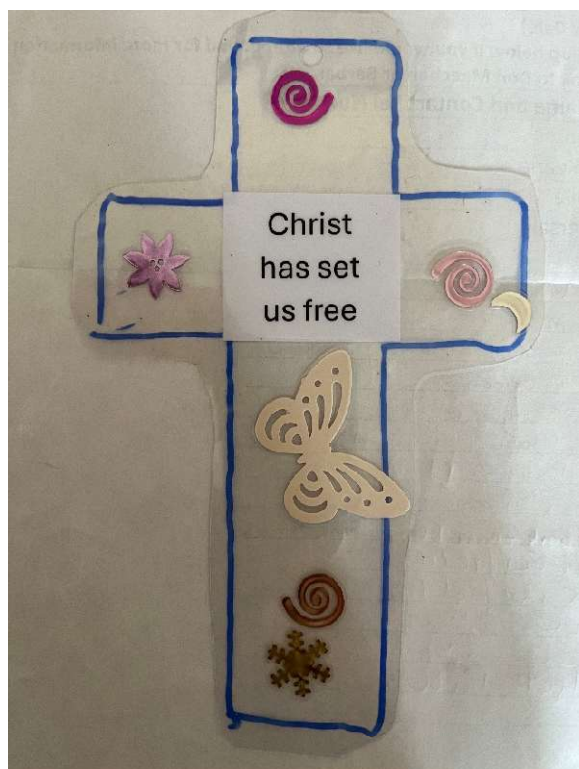
We started our session by making resurrection rolls which are symbolic of Christ's death and used a marshmallow dipped in spices is then wrapped in dough and sealed. After cooking the marshmallow has melted leaving the rolls with a hollow centre, representing the empty tomb.

We talked about our trip to the cinema last week and the impressions it left; comments about the role of the pharisees in building a case against someone who threatened their world, whipping up the crowds to ask for a murderer to be pardoned rather than Jesus. Also some said how brutal the treatment of Jesus was and how Pilate tried to get Jesus freed but, in the end, let him die. Altogether the film was a great way to understand the details of Holy week.

We ran through the Easter morning story, listened to a new song by Nick and Becky Drake <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REWpX147iWI> and prayed, thanking Jesus for forgiveness and new life we can have through Him.

We did an Easter Escape Room in 2 teams and followed this with an egg hunt around the hall.

We then made laminated crosses for ourselves and church members, to help us remember the sacrifice of Jesus for us.



We joined the church at the end of the service, in time for communion and for the congregation to hear the song. We handed out the crosses and easter eggs to the congregation. It was a very chocolate filled but memorable Easter morning.

### **Free Community CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and AED (defibrillator deployment) Training at The Hub**

Run by an East Air Ambulance approved trainer – Don Meechan. This is open to the church congregation, community café and foodbank volunteers and the wider Hub Community.

**Session 2 To be run on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup> between 12:30-1:30pm approx. (after Community Café) (PLACES STILL AVAILABLE)**

**Please sign up if you would like to attend, and for more information please speak to Don Meechan or Barbara W.**

**St Luke 4: 12 - 34**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Reflection**

I've often wondered why the two disciples on the road didn't recognise the risen Jesus on their walk to Emmaus. What does it mean that "their eyes were kept from recognizing him"? Was the sun in their eyes? Did Jesus look different? Did the Holy Spirit somehow blind them to Jesus? Whatever the answer, it's a beautiful moment when Jesus breaks the bread and their eyes are opened. They realised the significance of their hearts burning as Jesus opened the scriptures to them.

I wonder: Have you had a moment like those first disciples, when your eyes were first opened to see the risen Jesus? For me, as for the disciples on the road, it was a journey. I grew up in a Christian home, attending what is now The Cornerstone URC in Southend, and I'm so grateful to all those who loved, taught and encouraged me to discover more about Jesus. I grew in knowledge about Jesus, but it wasn't until my teenage years that my eyes were truly opened, that I encountered the risen Jesus. That revelation happened partly through the Bible: I was convicted of the Bible's truth, and of Jesus being who he said he was, by studying the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus had fulfilled. I don't remember an exact moment, but at some point I had crossed the line into believing, and I received the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brought Jesus alive so that I no longer just knew about him, but knew him personally in my heart and in my life.

We're all different. Your journey won't be my journey, or that of the two disciples on the road. And, this side of heaven, the journey is never over. Jesus continues to reveal himself to us – in creation, in the scriptures, in bread and wine, in church family, and through the Spirit – but also in surprising places. Where might you encounter Jesus this week?

### Prayer

Risen Lord Jesus,  
we praise you that you are alive, and that you long to meet with us.  
We thank you for the ways you have met with us in the past.  
Forgive us for the times we have been oblivious to your presence,  
and open our eyes afresh today, that we may  
know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen

(includes part of the prayer of St Richard of Chichester)



### Today's writer

The Rev'd Matt Stone, Minister of Herringthorpe URC, Rotherham and Ardeen Road URC, Doncaster, and Chair of GEAR, the Group for Evangelism and Renewal in the URC

Matt was a Minister in the Norwich Area Group of United Reformed Churches.

Source: [dailydevotions@urc.org.uk](mailto:dailydevotions@urc.org.uk)



In England, at least 354,000 people are experiencing homelessness. This includes 326,000 in temporary accommodation, 3,900 sleeping rough, and 16,600 in hostels or other homeless accommodation. London has the highest number of households qualifying for homelessness help.

The British government ought to be ashamed of the figures and do something positive about it instead of blaming those on benefits. But is there anything we can do to help those who for no fault of their own find themselves homeless?

Personally I have been helping local people find homes for their unwanted goods , not by taking these to charity shops, but actually finding those in need who couldn't afford even charity shop prices.

JAM did a homeless bag last year which I gave to a man living on St Stephen's street. I saw that he still had it with him a few weeks ago.

Carl senior's work tools all went to men's shed in Hoveton for them to use to help others after he died.

Little things can change people's lives, it doesn't take lots. Just a little thought, a smile which opens our conversations with others, can open doors to help.

Liz G

## Carrying on from Liz's article...Do you have a bicycle you no longer use?

**Hope into Action** is looking for bicycles for the lads and ladies living in 2 of their houses in Norwich.

One of these ladies, tells her story below and as well as a bike, is also looking for camping equipment and vegetable/fruit plants.

She and the other ladies she lived with, have also been helped by members of our church providing televisions, gardening equipment and plants. The lads mentioned above, have also been given comfortable chairs.



### Norwich ex drug-addict Susie tells story of hope

Norwich resident and former drug addict Susie Mayhew has shared her story of hope after being given support and a place to live by Christian charity Hope into Action and named as a winner in its Tenant Awards 2025. Keith Morris reports.

Susie is also the face of the charity's Restore Hope this Easter Appeal after receiving the Addressing Offending Behaviour Award at the Hope into Action Tenant Awards 2025 recently.

"Imagine having nowhere to sleep, having to sleep in shop doorways and derelict

buildings,” said Susie. “It’s not living - most of the time I wished I was dead. I didn’t want to be alive. A horrible life.

“I was from a travelling family, married a violent man, got away from him and ended up on drugs and then in prison. I used the drugs to block everything out. I didn’t like to think about what I’d been through and it was the only thing that made me forget.

Jessica is a volunteer from Norwich Cathedral and is one of Susie's friendship and support befrienders. She said: “When I first met Susie, she was carrying so much and she was scared and was on a real crossroads with where she was gonna live and you could see it was weighing really heavily on her.

I was there when Susie found out she was going to get a place at the Hope into Action House in Norwich and it was a beautiful moment and a brilliant moment for all of us. I think this whole project restores hope in the person, that that tiny little seed or flicker of a flame that hasn’t gone out, gets ignited,” said Jessica.

The award nomination said of Susie: “From 20 years of addiction, homelessness and prison, Susie has been determined to turn her life around. She’s a remarkable woman, full of courage and resilience.”

Responding to the support from Hope into Action, Susie said: “It’s been life-changing. It’s given me the will to live and got me back into my faith. I wish you could see a before of me. It’s just changed my life, changed it completely. It has helped me to get back to my faith as a Christian. I started going to church regularly and wanting to help other people. I want to give something back. I feel alive again, they’ve given me my life back. It’s God, God looking down. He’s looking after me.”

Hope into Action CEO, Jon Kuhrt, said: “There are so many others like Susie who need a fresh start. Our Easter Appeal is an opportunity to raise the resources that make it possible for us to meet the complex needs of those experiencing homelessness.

“Easter is a time of new life and resurrection and new possibilities. Can you help us restore hope this Easter to people affected by homelessness? Please donate to our Easter appeal and help more people like Susie find a new life and a new hope.”

Donate to the appeal at: [www.hopeintoaction.org.uk/easterappeal2025](http://www.hopeintoaction.org.uk/easterappeal2025)

Watch Susie tell her story at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGVROhr0nB8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGVROhr0nB8)

Susie recently shared her story with Norwich church leaders at a Connect Norwich lunch, [read more here](#).

Hope into Action currently has 13 houses across Norfolk, providing accommodation for 39 people.

Source:

[https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/713663/Network\\_Norwich\\_and\\_Norfolk/People/Norwich\\_ex\\_drug\\_addict\\_Susie\\_tells\\_story.aspx](https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/713663/Network_Norwich_and_Norfolk/People/Norwich_ex_drug_addict_Susie_tells_story.aspx)



Open Doors originated in 1955, when a young Dutchman started smuggling Bibles to the persecuted church in Communist Europe. He became known as [Brother Andrew](#), and his work led to [more than six decades of support for the persecuted church](#).

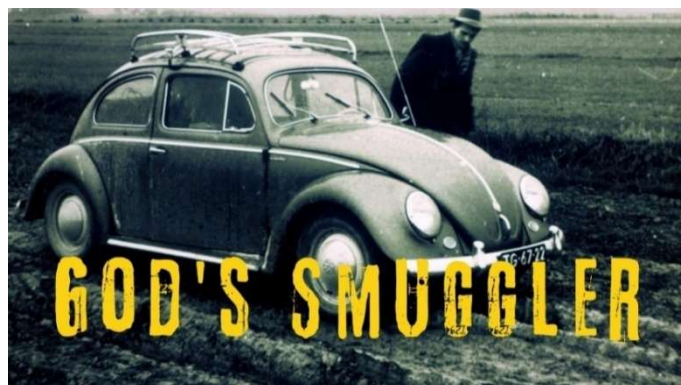
Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom.

### The story of Brother Andrew

#### (1928-2022) – God's Smuggler



In 1955, a young Dutch missionary went to a Communist youth congress in Poland, at



that time a part of the Soviet bloc. But he wasn't a communist: he was a Christian. His suitcase contained his Bible, a change of clothes and hundreds of tracts entitled *The Way of Salvation*, which he intended to give away.

The trip was to change his life. Behind the Iron Curtain, he discovered churches desperately in need of Bibles, support and prayer. Above all, he found a group of Christians who felt isolated and alone and who thought the rest of the world had forgotten them.

One evening during that first visit, he went to a Baptist church in Warsaw where he was invited to speak. He tells the story in [his best-selling book God's Smuggler](#): "At the end of my little talk the pastor said the most interesting thing of all, 'We want to thank you,' he said, 'for being here. Even if you had not said a word, just seeing you would have meant so much. We feel at times as if we are all alone in our struggle.'"

That young man became known as Brother Andrew. And his trip changed the world.

### Strengthen that which remains...

At the end of the trip, watching many thousands of delegates to the Youth Congress marching in a parade, Brother Andrew prayed about what God wanted him to do. He opened his Bible and found the passage which he came to see as a mission: "Wake Up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die." Revelation 3:2

In subsequent years he was to travel many times behind the Iron Curtain, courageously putting his life on the line to smuggle Bibles at the height of the Cold War. His work went on to span many decades and geographic locations. In [God's Smuggler](#), Brother Andrew's autobiography chronicling those early years, he details dangerous border crossings in his blue VW Beetle – which became known as 'the miracle car', for its ability to miraculously keep going. He developed a trademark prayer to say as he snuck Bibles and Christian literature across the border:

*"Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture I want to take to Your children. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see."*

### More than Bibles

As the work grew he was joined by others and began a work of smuggling Bibles to believers in Communist countries. And today, Brother Andrew's small Dutch mission has become an international ministry working in more than 60 nations to strengthen the Persecuted Church.

Open Doors still distributes hundreds of thousands of Bibles and Christian books every year. But we also train and support persecuted Christians in other ways.

"When I first discovered a persecuted church behind the Iron Curtain the need was for Bibles," says Brother Andrew. "But as our ministry expanded, other needs emerged. For example, in some countries pastors have little or no seminary training. We provide them with training so they can be more effective leaders of their congregations. In other regions Christians are discriminated against, denied education and quality job opportunities. So we may strengthen the church by providing small loans to help Christians start businesses. The needs and thus the strategies vary from country to country."

### Breaking barriers

Today, of course, Europe has changed. The main threat to Christians today comes not from Communism, but from radical Islam. Brother Andrew has travelled extensively in the Islamic world, talking to the leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah. He is among the few Western leaders to regularly travel to the Middle East as an ambassador for Christ to these groups. He has also broken Christian religious barriers by preaching in Catholic and Coptic Orthodox churches.



Brother Andrew has received many honours and awards. He was knighted by Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and, in 1997, he received of the World Evangelical Fellowship's Religious Liberty Award, in recognition of his lifetime service to the Persecuted Church. But



perhaps the recognition that pleases him most is the copies of the KGB reports, which he obtained after the fall of the Iron Curtain. There were more than 150 pages about him, detailing his work in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They knew a lot about 'Brother Andrew', and yet they were still not able to stop his work. He often has said, "Our very mission is called 'Open Doors' because we believe that any door is open, anytime and anywhere. I literally believe that. Every door is open to go in and proclaim Christ, as long as you are willing to go and are not worried about coming back."

### Everyday obedience

Brother Andrew's story is extraordinary. But he himself is always at pains to stress that it was simply because he followed God.

"The real calling," he has said, "is not a certain place or career but to everyday obedience. And that call is extended to every Christian, not just a select few."

He would tell us as he has told many others, "The Bible is full of ordinary people who went to impossible places and did wondrous things simply because they decided to follow Jesus."

Today, Open Doors has bases and staff all over the world. The next generation of 'Brother Andrews' still smuggle Bibles into regions that are hostile to the faith. They still go wherever needed to show the marginalised, isolated and persecuted Christians around the world that they are not forgotten and never alone.



### The step of yes

In 1955, Brother Andrew risked it all. Today, will you commit to pray, give and speak out to support your persecuted family?

We'll help you on your journey by sending you regular prayer resources. We'll also send you [a free copy of God's Smuggler](#), Brother Andrew's best-selling book, to inspire you as you say 'Yes' to God.

[Say yes and get your free copy of God's Smuggler.](#)

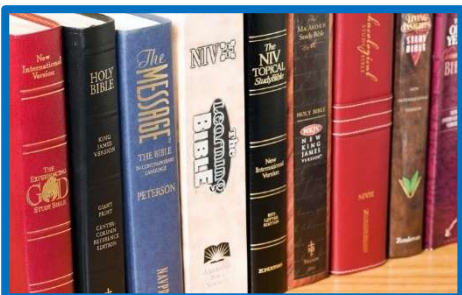
"The gifts you sent... are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God."

PHILIPPIANS 4:18

Source: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/about/our-history/brother-andrew/>

Youtu.be Link to Brother Andrew's story

[https://youtu.be/HL\\_9UNCOBWg?si=Z7bTbk0QqIHZRkCQ](https://youtu.be/HL_9UNCOBWg?si=Z7bTbk0QqIHZRkCQ)



If you have bibles which you no longer require and would like to pass them on, please see Barbara W, as TWAM also take them for redistribution along with refurbished tools in African countries. Many thanks.

# Our Eco Church...

Our recycling this year is being funded by a grant from Veolia.

**What does Veolia do?** Veolia UK is part of a worldwide Group of companies, with over 163 000

employees worldwide, the Group designs and provides water, waste and energy management solutions that contribute to the sustainable development of communities and industries.



## They say “Pants to Poverty”

Our underwear goes a long way.....

We are now supporting... Can you help us?

**Smalls for All®** is a charity that **collects new pants and new or gently worn (laundered) bras for people in Africa and the UK, (see below)** who can't afford or can't get any. Because dignity matters.

Giving pants and bras may seem like a small thing, but it can make a life-changing difference. For example, each month many teenage girls miss school and women miss work because having no pants means they're forced to stay at home during their period.

Boys and men need pants too of course, with requests coming from, for example, homeless charities and school banks.

In Africa, we help those living in orphanages, slums, IDP (internally displaced persons) camps and schools, as well as those in hospitals suffering from medical conditions like obstetric fistula. In the UK, we help charities and organisations supporting the homeless and people living in poverty or straitened circumstances.

Every pair of brand new pants and every new or gently worn bra you send helps us make a difference to someone's life. As does every penny you're able to give or raise for us to help carry out our work.

Please join me in supporting Smalls by donating through online platform **CAF Donate**, ordering underwear through **Smalls' Amazon wish list**, or you can support them by using **Easyfundraising** whenever you buy something online. 4,000 leading retailers will donate to Smalls for FREE when you do this and it doesn't cost you a penny extra. Thank you!

**Please donate: new ladies' pants sizes 8-14, new children's pants age 3-15, new men's pants sizes XS-L, new or 'gently worn' bras. The greatest demand is always for ladies' black pants in full brief, midi, mini or high leg in the smaller sizes. Just bring them to THE HUB – HOME OF WROXHAM & HOVETON URC and pop them in the bottom drawer of our recycling unit. Thank you!**

Source: <https://www.smallsforall.org/>





# GREEN PASTURES POP-UP SHOP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
ST MARY'S BURY ST EDMUNDS

LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH  
SALVATION ARMY CITADEL,  
NORWICH

10am  
to  
2pm



shop@greenpasturesdereham.org.uk  
01362 697953

## Making Connections Hoveton & Wroxham – a



*Free friendly & social Dementia Café for  
those experiencing Memory issues at  
Hoveton Village Hall – Every meeting  
runs 10:45-12:45.*

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

**Everyone welcome – just turn up  
and enjoy! For more information  
please call 07513 183769**

### Dates for 2025

April:	9 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
May:	7 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
June:	4 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
July:	9 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
August:	6 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
September:	3 <sup>rd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
October:	8 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
November:	5 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
December:	3 <sup>rd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>

# WROXHAM & HOVETON Community GARAGE

## SALE

SUNDAY 4th May  
10am-2pm

Also Horsford Sales 25th May!

Map Dot £5

Maps £1  
donations

AMBER'S  
ARMY

in aid of Amber's Army-With Love!

INFO@ambersarmy.crg.uk



## ALL WOMEN FUNDRAISING CONCERT

3pm SUNDAY 1st JUNE  
Norfolk Showground, NR5 0TT

Performing music from:

Orpheus and the Underworld  
Sound of Music  
Phantom of the Opera

West Side Story  
Abba Medley  
& much more...

TICKETS



£15  
U18s  
£7.50

Ticketsource.co.uk  
/women

Orchestra  
Big Band, Choir  
Isabella's Dance Company

CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK

In aid of  
Alzheimer's  
Society



Here is a new list of items requested by [Norwich Food Bank](#):

**URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS:**

List updated 8.4.25

- Tinned Meat
- Long Life Milk
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Rice (including microwave packets)
- Custard or Rice Pudding
- Teabags (small 40's 80's boxes)
- Instant Mashed Potato
- Spong Pudding
- Pasta Sauce
- Penguin Biscuits (or own brand)

We have plenty of:

Baked Beans & Sanitary Items

**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/>

**“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.**

**Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”**

**Proverbs 31:8-9**

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.





## Christian Aid Week 2025 May 11-17

### Aurelia's Story of Holding Hope in her hands continues.....

The climate crisis and industrial plantations have changed Q'eqchi' land dramatically. Gruelling heatwaves, savage storms and unpredictable seasons are ravaging farms. Industrial agriculture is taking over the last of the region's natural resources to feed the world's richest countries.

Many of the vital crops that Aurelia depends on are withering and dying before her eyes.

**Family life :** When Aurelia was two years old, her father, Ricardo, brought her to the land that she now calls home.

We were fortunate enough to meet Ricardo and hear him talk about how the Alta Verapaz has changed over five decades.

*"I came to this community when I was 25 years old, I'm 78 now. This was a forest with different types of trees. You could really feel the freshness of the environment while walking through the mountains, under the shade of these trees."* - Ricardo, Aurelia's father.



Aurelia on her way to collect water from the cenote. Her father Ricardo joins her.



It's a heartbreaking injustice that a community should be threatened by a climate crisis they didn't cause. Aurelia, along with the women and girls of her community, has the twice-daily challenge of

collecting water from a cenote – a natural sinkhole like a cave, with water at the bottom.

*“Climate change is getting worse every day. It’s killing our plantations and it’s killing us.” - Aurelia.*

**Gift what you can today** -Will you make a gift that supports a farmer like Aurelia to protect their grandchildren from malnutrition?

**Climate and farming** Aurelia’s farm, first and foremost, feeds her family.

She tries to grow a range of crops so she can provide them with a balanced diet that contains the vitamins and minerals they need to thrive. In this way, Aurelia can protect her loved ones from malnutrition and ill health. But as increasingly intense conditions kill her crops, Aurelia’s ability to safeguard her family slips away.

Aurelia’s observed many [impacts of the climate crisis](#), including extended dry seasons, the degradation of soil, contaminated water and a decreasing diversity of plants and crops.

*“There was a prediction this would happen in the future, but it has come earlier. This is very worrying for our kids and especially our grandkids.” - Aurelia.*

**Concerns** Guatemala’s dry and rainy seasons dictate that farming families like Aurelia’s must carefully plan how and when to use their harvests.

It’s essential that they build reserves to sustain them through lean periods. A pressing concern is that smaller yields will result in smaller reserves, leaving people exceptionally vulnerable to hunger in between harvests.



Aurelia with grandchildren, father and daughter-in-law.

**Put your faith to action** Pray with us that leaders like Aurelia can support their community to escape poverty.

**Funding and partnerships** When Aurelia discovered the work of our partner, Congcoop, she put herself forward to attend the specialist agricultural training on offer, along with 22 members of nearby communities.

With funding from [Christian Aid](#), Congcoop supports communities to return to Indigenous farming practices and adopt agroecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood. Agroecology, put simply, is farming in a sustainable way that works with, not against, nature. It's the application of ecological principles in farming – a blend of ancient and modern wisdom.

By working with Congcoop, Aurelia's gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's producing her own organic fertiliser, creating nurseries, constructing rainwater collection systems, and making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens.

Thanks to Aurelia's ever-growing knowledge base, she's now cultivating cacao, sugarcane, cinnamon, corn and pineapples. It's steady progress that holds promise. Aurelia's resolute hope has also inspired her to develop and lead other activities in her community, including producing chocolate, establishing a farmers' market, and fighting for [women's rights](#).

*"Aurelia's community is unbelievably impressive. There's no electricity, water or phone signal, but this hasn't been a barrier for the women. They are very proactive, and I think that's because Aurelia has become a role model for them. Many are showing up at meetings they didn't previously participate in and selling their cocoa balls and other products. They're not dependent on Congcoop – they mobilise themselves."* - Gladys Mucu Choc, Congcoop Territorial Facilitator.

**Please donate today** Can you help fund essential training and tools, so farmers like Aurelia can feed their family?

**Your support** Aurelia's story reminds us that even the most proactive, determined and ambitious among us can need a helping hand in life.

Your support is urgently needed to ensure we can be there for Indigenous families who are bearing the full force of the climate crisis.

Together, we can be more like Aurelia, and put the [unstoppable power of hope](#) into action, because a brighter, fairer future is possible.

*"I want to tell donors to continue supporting Christian Aid, because, through Congcoop, they've been supporting us." - Aurelia.*

Source: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/aurelias-story>



### A prayer for Christian Aid Week 2025

Lord, you are faithful to your promises.  
Through the Spirit, you bless us with  
abounding hope.  
When power seeks to silence justice,  
give us the courage to raise our voice.  
When an end to poverty seems far off,  
renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth.  
When our neighbour reaches out,  
inspire us to respond with overflowing love.  
In Jesus' name,  
Amen.



For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. With your support, we've been able to offer hope to communities who need it most.

And over these 80 years, we've harnessed something formidable.

Something that can't be silenced by injustice. Something that refuses to sit back and watch poverty ravage communities. **We call it the unstoppable power of hope.**



## On the Death of His Holiness, Pope Francis



The United Reformed Church, with Christians everywhere, mourns the death of His Holiness Pope Francis, and extends its sympathy to Catholics who will grieve this loss most keenly.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope in March 2013 taking office after the abdication of Benedict XVI. It is rumoured Bergoglio was the runner up when Benedict was elected and was the first Pope ever to have his predecessor living in such proximity throughout much of his papal ministry.

All who are called to offices of leadership and oversight in the Church realise how demanding these roles can be; none is more demanding than that of Bishop of Rome. The complexity of the task tired Benedict to the point of exhaustion and the toll of the office was heavy for Francis.

Within the limitations and expectations of the Papal office Francis was an agent of change who sat lightly on inherited traditions and pomp. Rejecting an ermine lined red cape before being presented to the crowds in St Peter's, Francis said to an aide "no thank you Monsignor ... the carnival is over!".

Living a simple lifestyle meant, for Francis, rejecting a move into the Papal apartments (which he said had room for more than 300 people) and remaining in a small suite in the Vatican guesthouse, taking his meals with other guests.

Francis saw his ministry, primarily, as being one who called the Church to be missionary. He wanted every element of the Church's life to reflect missionary discipleship and the building of the Kingdom.

He oversaw the updating of the constitution for the Roman Curia (the Vatican civil service) so that it was orientated towards service and mission; it is supposed to be a template for every diocesan curia. Francis railed against bishops who viewed themselves as managers of a corporation seeing them, instead, as men who had to "smell of their sheep."

In a speech before his election Francis stated: "when the Church does not come out of herself to evangelise, she becomes self-referential and sick". A maxim all denominations should take to heart.

He also spoke of Jesus knocking on the door, from within the Church, seeking to be let out into the world. Yet Francis was no liberal. He would speak of the reality of the Devil – no doubt the behaviour of some of his bishops led him to become ever more convinced of the reality of evil. He remained traditional over some of the hot button topics of the age – gender and sexuality.

Francis also saw his call to involve a return to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. After that Council, which changed so much within Catholicism, Paul VI established a Synod of Bishops to keep alive the spirit of conciliar government which reasserted itself at the Council. The Synod had been undervalued by Popes John Paul II and Benedict and was reduced to little more than a talking shop called to rubber stamp whatever Pope or Curia wanted. Francis embarked on a bold programme of reform, convening the Synod more regularly and asking it to deal with tough questions: family life, young people, mission in the Amazon, and, more broadly the nature of the Church's mission as well as attempting to recover Synodality in Catholicism.

Francis' vision would be familiar to Reformed Christians with an emphasis on the Holy Spirit working within synodical process. He yearned for a shared discernment process which included laity (both men and women).

However, the dilemma for any reformer is to let the process happen and not try to influence its outcome. Francis' calls for local dioceses to follow this Synodical way has led to some difficult issues in Germany where calls to bless same sex unions and ordain women to the diaconate proved uncomfortable for the Roman Curia, and Francis himself, to manage.

Francis was, in many ways, a radical when it came to the status quo. He created cardinals from far flung places that would not normally expect to have a man in the College.

When asked about gay priests he, famously, shrugged his shoulders and said: "Who am I to judge?" which begged the response – "if not you, then who?". Admittedly at a tiny pace, Francis appointed more women to the higher rungs of the Roman Curia but not anything like the speed needed to ensure balance between the sexes. He did, however, include more women than ever before in Synods and ensured they had prominent positions within them.

Francis was determined to see the strong relational bonds between religious traditions and between humanity itself. He referred to Muslims as "our siblings" and went to great lengths to improve Christian-Muslim relations visiting the United Arab Emirates in 2019 and Iraq in 2021.

His pilgrimage to South Sudan with the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Archbishop of Canterbury was groundbreaking in its ecumenical nature and in its efforts to bring warring factions together.

He visited Lutheran churches in Sweden to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This was a pope who understood, and embodied, the interconnected nature of all humanity and the strong familial bonds between Christians.

The global significance of Francis' ministry was seen most clearly in his two environmental encyclicals. In these he repurposed the centuries-long sidelined heritage of Christianity as a faith seeking profound and nourishing interaction with fellow creatures.

Many readers of *Laudato si* have tried, and failed, to evade its radicalism summed up in its opening quote from St Francis: "our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us."

In Francis, liberation theology became not only mainstream, but intellectually accessible. The divorce of faith and created reality is set aside, liberating the value of a creative and resilient spiritual tradition for justice, and for joy. *Laudato si* is informed by both activism and science.

The idolatry of control, and the "common sense" of Mammon are once more castigated in the righteous impatience of *Laudate Deum* [2023], an easier and more refreshing read at 7,000 words than *Laudato Si*'s dense 40,000.

With Francis, big broad-stroke arguments for environmental justice belong with the simple appreciation of accessible beauty: encouraging grace at meals, and wildflowers in churches that "those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty."

Following the election of Messers Trump and Vance as President and Vice President of the United States of America, Pope Francis became more and more alarmed at the rhetoric and actions against migrants.

In February 2025 he wrote to the US Catholic Bishops reminding them of the migration of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt in search of a better future, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt to escape terror, and condemning the mass deportations from America "...the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defencelessness."

Criticising Mr Vance's notion that Christian love ripples out in concentric circles, Francis noted Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan where love is demanded for all without exception. Edgily commending migrants to Our Lady of Guadalupe left the American bishops in no doubt as to where they must stand in opposition to the actions of President Trump.

Above all, Francis was a pastoral pope emphasising the mercy of God and the need to change our ways to save the planet. The selfless love embodied in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, however, sometimes led to some key mistakes in Francis' pontificate. He was, sometimes, too slow to see the reality of abuse allegations against some of his friends. His desire to unify worship in the Catholic Church led him to rescind Benedict's tolerance of the celebration of the older Latin Mass meaning many traditionalists found him intolerant.

Francis came to an agreement with the Chinese government to regularise the situation of Catholic bishops not recognised, nor controlled, by the Chinese state. Many feel the

agreement gave too much to the Chinese government and not enough to the Church. Time will tell.

Francis' ministry as Pope was remarkable. From his simple "good evening" to the crowds on the evening of his election to the warmth that radiated from him, he caught the imagination of the world. Not since John XXIII has the non-Catholic world felt such warmth towards a Pope.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Prayers

Eternal Majesty,

we commend to You our brother Francis,

give him the rest he so sorely needs.

Faithful Shepherd, help us to model in our lives and ministry,  
the mercy, radicalness, and missionary zeal of Your servant Francis,  
that Your kingdom will come.

Abiding Spirit,  
guide the College of Cardinals as they pray, discern, and elect a new pope,  
that that the ministry of oversight and leadership embodied in Pope Francis  
may bear good fruit.

Amen

Prepared by the URC.

Source: [dailydevotions@urc.org.uk](mailto:dailydevotions@urc.org.uk)





**Rotas** (Please swap if necessary)

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

Date	Vestry	Welcoming Elder	Welcome team	Readers	Flowers	Coffee
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Lynne H	<b>Colin C</b>	Joyce B	Don M & Lyn M	Ann O	Colin C & Don M
4 <sup>th</sup> May <b>JAM</b>	Margaret C	Colin C	Frances B	Kevin B & Colin C	Lynne H	Paul T & Verna C
11 <sup>th</sup> May <b>HC</b>	Colin C	Chris B	Lyn M	Paul T & Don M	Lyn M	Joyce B & Joyce P
18 <sup>th</sup> May <b>JAM</b>	Barbara W	Don M	Ann Marie W	Joyce P & Ann Marie W	Barbara W	Frances M & Frances B
25 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Don M</b>	Margaret C	<b>Frances M</b>	Lyn M & Caroline L	Margaret C	Barbara W & Lyn M
1 <sup>st</sup> June <b>HC AGM</b>	Don M	Barbara W	Barbara C	Colin C & Anne O	Joyce B	Joyce B & Margaret C
8 <sup>th</sup> June <b>JAM</b>	Liz H	Colin C	Kathleen W	Bob R & Liz H	Anne O	Lynne H & Ann-Marie W
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Lynne H	Don M	Frances B	Chris B & Joyce B	Liz H	Barbara W & Lyn M
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Margaret C	Chris B	Kevin B	Don M & Caroline L	Lyn M	Don M & Colin C
29 <sup>th</sup> June <b>JAM</b>	Colin C	Barbara W	Lyn M	Kevin B & Lynne H	Barbara W	Frances M & Frances B

Changes are **highlighted**.

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 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

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.