

The Link

Wroxham and Hoveton

URC

wroxhamurc.org.uk

November 2025



www.urc.org.uk



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

We are a Member of Norwich Area URC Mission Partnership

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

Deadline for the
Shoeboxes = 16th
November



9th Nov
at St John's
Church
Hoveton

With many thanks

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



What's on in November: Events and Services Calendar

Sunday 26th October *Clocks go back 1 Hour JAM	10.30am 4pm	Worship led by Mike Gibbs, a Methodist Local Preacher and member of Bowthorpe Church. <i>Beyond Sunday:</i> Worship led by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson. See poster on page 7 .
Thursday 30th Oct 	10.30-12.00	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Followed by a Memorial Service, see page 8.
Friday 31st Oct		First day of Reverse Advent Calendar! See page 20 for more details.
Sunday 2nd Nov HC JAM	10.30am	Holy Communion Service led by Revd. Carole Pearl, a member of our church.
Wed 5th Nov	2:30pm	Elder's Meeting in The Hub.
Thursday 6th Nov 	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Prayer meeting in room 2 of the Hub.
Sunday 9th Nov Remembrance Sunday 	10:45am	Worship led jointly by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson and Don Meechan at St John's Church Hoveton. There will be no service at The Hub.
Thursday 13th Nov 	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub. See page 6 for more information.
Sunday 16th Nov 	10:30am	Worship led by our Elder's and including a blessing of the filled shoeboxes.
Thursday 20th Nov 	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Collection and transportation of our filled Shoeboxes to the Warehouse. The Hub Committee Meeting in room 2 at The Hub.
Sunday 23rd Nov Deadline for Link	10:30am	Worship led by Revd. Carole Pearl, a member of our church.
Thursday 27th Nov  	10.30-12.00 12:15 or 7:30pm (on Zoom)	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Collection of our Reverse Advent food items. Advent Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub. Week 1 of 4

Sunday 30th Nov	10:30am 4pm	Worship led by Mike Gibbs, a Methodist Local Preacher and member of Bowthorpe Church. <i>Beyond Sunday:</i> Worship led by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson. See poster on page 7 .
Wed 3rd Dec	2:30pm	Elder's Meeting in The Hub.
Thursday 4th Dec 	10.30-12.00 12:15 or 7:30pm (on Zoom)	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Advent Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub. Week 2 of 4
Sunday 7th Dec	10:30am	Holy Communion Service led by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson

Our Minister's Letter.....

Dear friends,

It's now just over a month since my ordination and induction, and what a blessed time it has been. Thank you for the warmth of your welcome as I've begun to settle into life and ministry here, though I must confess there are still a few boxes yet to be unpacked!

As the days grow cooler and the evenings draw in, our thoughts are already turning towards Christmas. I hope to see many of you at the Advent groups as we prepare together for the coming season of light and hope. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" John 1:5.

Family life is also finding its rhythm. With my eldest enjoying work at Hotel Wroxham, and the youngest beginning to find their feet at a new school, we are managing three consecutive days without a detention, which we are celebrating as a small victory!

There is also excitement about the prospect of a school trip to Iceland next September. To help raise funds, some festive crafts have been created, which will be available to buy for a pound or two.

Last week, I attended Synod with members from our mission partnership. It was a joy to see Wroxham presented with a Faith in Action Award, a wonderful recognition of the commitment and care shown by so many. Congratulations to everyone involved in this achievement.

I look forward to sharing the coming weeks with you, whether in worship, fellowship, or simply in the everyday encounters that make our mission partnership such a gift.

Go well, Tina

Minister of Word and Sacrament, Norwich Area URC Mission Partnership.



You are invited to join us at our...

Community Café



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

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.

Winter Pressures

Voluntary, community faith and social enterprise grant opportunities

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.

Hymns for Tina's Services!

Our new minister Tina has asked if the congregation can choose the opening and closing hymns, songs.

Tina will choose the hymns through the rest of the service that fits with the bible readings and theme for the sermon.

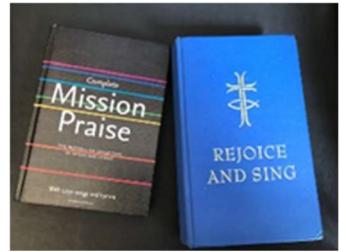
We could have a couple of short songs, use hymns we haven't heard for a while, modern or traditional. We usually use slightly different styles at the beginning and closing for the service.

If you wished to borrow a copy of Mission Praise or Rejoice and Sing to remind you and find the number then please do "borrow" and return when used!

Obviously we can't use all the hymns at once so we will keep a record and use as and when, I hope this will be a blessing and also a time to read through some hymns which have inspiring and wonderful words.

Please let me or Ann Ottaway know, thanks

Liz



Our Bible Discussion Group (very informal), will be continuing with **Revelation 1-3 Christ's Call to the Church.**

This group is held twice a month, after Community Café

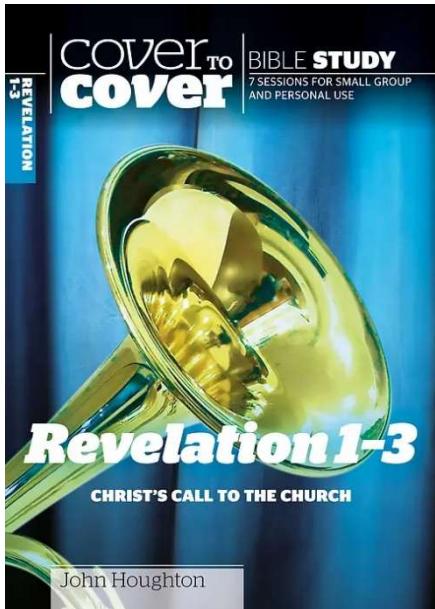
**(12.15 in room 2) on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday.
Please come along and let us learn together.**

Take and in-depth look at the message King Jesus sent to seven first-century churches, and be inspired to love Him supremely.

Christ's call to the Church

In His letters to the seven churches of Asia, Christ reveals His will for His people at all times and in all places. The book of Revelation is from Jesus and about Jesus. John Houghton shows us how, amidst the dramatic symbolism and powerful

imagery, Jesus is encouraging His people in their walk with God. Our hearts will be strengthened as we take His words to churches on board. Like John the apostle when he received the revelation, we will understand the urgency to repent where necessary. We will also catch a glimpse of Jesus, the one who loves us and has liberated us from the power of sin, in all His transcendent glory. Icebreakers, Bible readings, eye openers, discussion starters, personal application make this a rich resource for group or individual study.



BEYOND SUNDAYS

for those exploring faith beyond traditional church services

Just looking for a space to pause, reflect, and just be?

Join us for our monthly gathering, an open, informal space for conversation, reflection, and seeking. No pressure, no expectations—just a chance to explore life, faith, and the questions that matter in a welcoming community.



last Sunday of the month, 4pm



**The Hub, Wroxham & Hoveton
United Reformed Church,
114 Norwich Road,
Wroxham, Norfolk, NR12 8SA**

Whether you're questioning, exploring, or simply curious, you're warmly invited. Come as you are. All are welcome.



Memorial Service

At 12.15 p.m. on Thursday 30th October (after Community Café), we will be holding a short Memorial service to remember and give thanks for the lives of those dear to us who have died in the past year and other loved ones who have died, however long ago.

Everyone is welcome to join us at this service. If you would like

your loved one to be remembered by name, please give their name to one of the Elders. Each name will then be mentioned and there will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory.

Lynne H



WROXHAM AND HOVETON URC RECEIVES A 'FAITH IN ACTION CHURCH' AWARD.

On Saturday 11th of October I attended a meeting of the Eastern Synod at Christchurch URC, Chelmsford. After a short service of worship, we had a morning of speakers from around Synod on the theme of Inclusion and Diversity. At the end of the morning, our Moderator, Lythan, presented the Faith in Action awards to three churches, including us. We watched slides and a commentary from one church, a short video from another and our submission, prepared

by Barbara and myself, about our Community Café and how we try to support the local community and outreach to those around us.

We received congratulations from other Synod members, a certificate (pinned to the notice board in the porch) and a sticker to advertise our status. We also had several photographs taken! Well done and thank you to everyone who volunteers at Community Café, and everyone else associated with it.

Lynne H



Wroxham and Hoveton URC



Many congratulations to our Moderator, Revd Lythan Nevard, who has been appointed an Ecumenical Canon at Ely Cathedral. For the full story, see the URC website [here](#). She will be collated and installed at a service at the Cathedral

Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Ely during Evensong on 23rd November. This is an honorary role and will not affect her role within the United Reformed Church.



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?

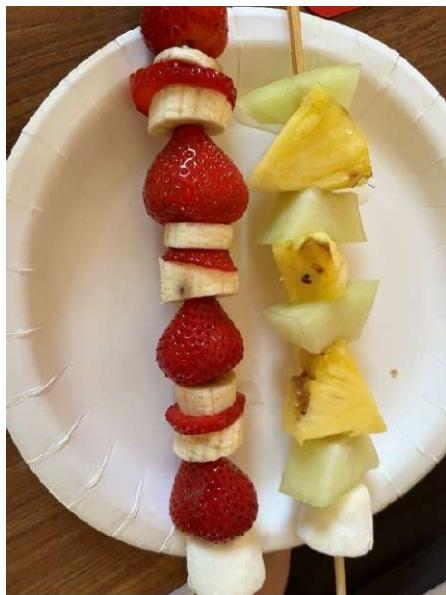
For our activities, past sessions and events please look at our website
www.wroxhamurc.org.uk/jam

Email Chris or Joyce at jam@wroxhamurc.org.uk or phone Norwich 783992 for more details. Upcoming sessions below:-

Sun Nov 2nd	JAM Session in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45 Packing Shoeboxes
Sun Nov 16th	JAM Session in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45
Sun Nov 30th	JAM Session in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45
Sunday Dec 7th	JAM Rehearsals for the Nativity in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45
Sunday Dec 14th	JAM Rehearsals for the Nativity in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45
Sunday Dec 21 st am	JAM Rehearsals for the Nativity in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45
Sunday Dec 21 st 4pm	JAM performance of The Greatest Story Ever Told: A Nativity – Pantomime in Wroxham Church Hall.

JAM SESSION 28th September – Fruits of the Spirit

When the children arrived, we made fruit kebabs, using marshmallow stoppers on the each end to keep the fruit in place, to have as our snack.



We shared our news together and looked at our up-and-coming activities running up to Christmas.

Our session today followed events after Pentecost with the setting up of the first groups of believers. These first followers, with the help of God's Spirit living in them, tried to live their lives in the ways Jesus taught.

In Acts 2:42-47 we read: The first Christians were like a great team, learning the apostles' teachings, spending time together, sharing meals and praying. They had everything in common, even selling their belongings to help those in need; their joyful hearts and praise for God made everyone like them. Because they loved each other and showed God's love to others, more and more people wanted to be part of their group every day.

We heard about Saul who changed his name to Paul and became the greatest missionary ever, spreading the Gospel (the Good News) around the Mediterranean, setting up many new churches / groups of believers and continued to write letters to encourage the new churches he had helped establish.

We watched the Saddleback Kids' video **The Miracle of Mercy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlXFy3zjJh4>

We looked at the New Testament, the four Gospels and then where Paul's letters can be found.

We particularly looked at Paul's letter to the Galatians where he wrote about the fruits/gifts of the Spirit, we read **Galatians 5:22-23** But the Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong.

We talked about the gifts and how we, with the help of The Holy Spirit, could grow these fruits as we try to follow Jesus. We wondered what the most important gift was....

Jesus said we should love God and love others.

We read **Mark 12:29-31** Jesus answered, “The most important command is this: ‘Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second most important command is this: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ These two commands are the most important commands.”

We watched an amusing video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_SVpWee2MA

Love is the most important fruit; everything else flows out from love. Jesus said if we love each other, people will see and know that we are God’s disciples

John 13:34 I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.

We filled in a prayer heart (see below) and prayed for people who need help today.



We also prayed that God would help us to grow the Fruits of The Spirit in us and then watched the **Kindness Boomerang**

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

We then learned a new song **Love in Action**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fbsn-YyFBm4&list=RDfbsn-YyFBm4&start_radio=1

We ate our kebabs and then went outside to fire rotten fruit with catapults at a large image of the world, symbolic of us spreading the “fruits” of The Spirit over the world.

We also spread acts of kindness by choosing to sponsor 2 Watoto children, Martin Ssekandi and Noel Obangakene.

Fantastic News

After trying hard for a long time, we have finally found our ideal candidate to join Norwich Area URC as a Children & Families Worker. Melissa Hall will start with us in the New Year, and we are looking forward to her devoting an average of 12 hours a week

to activities in Wroxham.

As well as helping with planning and delivering JAM sessions, we are hopeful that she will engage with St John’s County Primary School in Hoveton, as well as be involved in children & family focussed activities and services.

We all look forward to this new chapter with Melissa joining Tina as part of our NAURC staff team.

Thank you for all your prayers over the last many months.

Joyce

JAMMY NEWS : All- Age Service and Abseiling

On the 12th October 2025 we had a really enjoyable All-age Anniversary Service celebrating harvest, led by our new minister Rev Tina Wilson. The food items will be sent to support the Norwich Foodbank.



JAM Children and families attended, and the children participated by helping with welcoming, readings, a small playlet and singing.

The service was about the Parable of The Sower and how we should all try to grow closer to God so that we can encourage others to do the same. Tina delivered the message in a way that everyone could understand.

During the service Tina gave-out books to JAM members to celebrate the anniversary and also a little pack of seeds, issuing a challenge to see who could grow the biggest sunflower from the tiny seed.

Our thanks to Tina for such a wonderful all-age service and we look forward to many more in the future.

In the afternoon, we travelled to Norwich to abseil down the side of The Forum building; a group of us aged from 14 to 75+ took the “plunge” and, as well as being exciting/thrilling/terrifying/average(Don), as a group we have now raised nearly £1,600 to support the YMCA and their work with homeless young people in Norfolk.

Comments from Josh & Aydan:

Aydan- “It was a brilliant experience and a big thank you to everyone who organised and supported.”

Josh- “To infinity and beyond . such a great way to raise money for a worthy cause and a big thank you to all the sponsors and spectators!”





Many thanks for the photos from Joyce & Chris, Colin, Don & Rupert and Barbara



Wroxham & Hoveton
United Reformed Church



Operation Christmas Child The Shoebox Appeal National Collection Week (10 - 17 November, 2025).

*Let a child know they're loved this
Christmas!*

How can you take part.....

1. You can drop off some items to The Hub from the list below and the children of JAM will pack all the items collected into shoeboxes, ready to be collected by Samaritan's Purse, who run Operation Christmas Child. 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. We will be packing the boxes in early November so this is the last month you can add items.

We have not got as many items as we have had previously, so we are happy for any items to be added this month, there will be a box under the table in the porch for all the extra items you wish to donate.

2. You can pack your own box. Boxes and leaflets will be available at The Hub from October. Remember that a personal note /photo/greeting card may be added.
3. Or you can pack a box online at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/shoebox-online>

What should you put in your shoebox? See the Gift Suggestions below

Special Item Include a special toy that will capture a child's attention as soon as they open the box. Ideas include: Cuddly toy, Football and pump
Toy truck
Doll
Musical instrument

Accessories and other items

Hat, Gloves, Sunglasses, Cap, T-shirt, Socks
Flip-flops
Small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag
Hair bows or clips
Friendship bracelets (woven with yarn or embroidery thread)
Watch, Wind-up Torch, Necklace or bracelet, Stickers, A personal note and photo

Toys

Toy cars, Animal figures
Building blocks
Skipping rope
Tennis ball, Yo-yo
Spinning top
Mini frisbee
Fidget spinner
Finger puppets
Slinky
Travel games
Small musical instruments
Small puzzles etc.

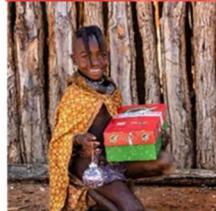
School Supplies

Pens, Pencils & sharpeners
Crayons, Felt tip pens
Ruler, Eraser, Writing pads or notebook
Solar calculators, Geometry set
Glue stick, Pre-inked Stampers
Colouring books
Watercolour paint set (solid only)
Safety scissors
Craft kits

Personal Care Items

Comb, Hairbrush, Toothbrush
Flannel, Bar soap (packaged and/or in a container), Sponge
Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (Fill an empty container with non-liquid items such as sunglasses or flannel to make use of the space)
Non-liquid lip balm, Nail clippers and file, Stick deodorant, Compact mirror

Please do not include these items in your shoebox
Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items (e.g. toy guns, model soldiers, military vehicles etc.); seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, knives, sharp or fragile items.



It's Shoebox Time!

Operation Christmas Child serves alongside local churches to share shoebox gifts and the message of Jesus in some of the hardest to reach locations in the world! From refugee camps in the Middle East and churches in war-torn Ukraine to remote villages in Africa and Central Asia, your shoeboxes offer hope and joy wherever they go.

Each gift reminds a child that they are known and loved.

Would you consider packing a one this season?

If so, Shoebox leaflets, wrapped and unwrapped shoeboxes are available from Shoebox Drop off point: The Hub, Home of Wroxham and Hoveton United Reformed Church, 114 Norwich Rd, Wroxham, Norwich. NR12 8RZ. (Open Thursday mornings 10am-12noon for Community Café).

Drop off Deadline: Sunday 16th Nov

Thank you on behalf of all the children who will receive shoebox gifts this year. Your generosity is impacting precious young lives all around the world!

For more information and additional drop off point contact Barbara Westwood Tel: 01603 783379. Additional drop off point – the porch of 163a Norwich Rd, Wroxham. NR12 8RZ.

We also have a box in The Hub porch for Shoebox items which JAM will use to fill extra boxes. Monetary donations towards the transportation of the boxes are also welcomed.

We Honour You Today

To all of our veterans
Far and near.
We thank you for your service
For all those years.

You sacrificed your time,
And some gave your life.
You preserved our freedom
By willingly paying the price.

Many of you
Were sent overseas.
You were wounded in battle,
With scars and disease.

But courageous and brave,
You weathered the storm.
You faced every battle
With faith and beyond.

We honour you with joy
For all that you've done.
You stood strong for our country,
For our daughters and sons.

So no one stands alone,
We walk hand in hand.
Remember, we are with you.
Together we shall stand.

We salute you today.
Hear what we say.
Let our words speak eloquently
In this special way.

On this day,
Let us express our love and thanks
For the sacrifice you paid.
You served in honour
For many years and days,
And we will never forget
How you were strong and brave.

Written by: Susan R. Smith. "We Honor You Today." Family Friend Poems, May 26, 2017.
<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/we-honor-you-today>

Remembrance Day

11:11:11

Honoring the
bravery and
sacrifice of all
the women
and men whos
lives have
been lost or
forever
changed, while
fighting for
OUR freedom
and serving
OUR country.



"Lest we forget"

For sale.....

Beautifully re-made Christmas cards on sale

NOW:

- Religious and Non-Religious.

- **Packs of mixed designs cards £2.50 per religious pack or secular pack.**
- **Individual Cards 50p each.**

In aid of Grassroots Charity, funding an orphanage and school in Tanzania.



Christmas Hamper.....

We plan to have our annual Christmas Hamper fundraiser for St Martin's Housing Trust - Helping the homeless to build a better life in Norwich and Norfolk .

Our basket will have lots of quality yummy Christmas goodies! Tickets are £1 each and are available at our Community Café on a Thursday.

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Christmas Community Cafe Dec 18th.

If anyone wants to give any items to go in the basket, please see Liz and let her have them by early November. Thanks Liz H x



Mollie

Moving here in August 1970 we first visited the church whilst worshiping in Hoveton Village Hall. Shortly after that there was a Sale and mum had willing hands so was asked to help on the Cake Stall where she stayed for almost 50 years!! Years back we had choirs singing every Sunday and on special occasions which mum greatly enjoyed. Ladies fellowship saw mum an active member for many years.

Nativities in the past saw mum provide sausage rolls by the plate load. Most fun was while we held our big concerts, mum very often sang and even learnt to tap dance for the occasion.

Following Covid mums energy and fitness restricted her ability to go out, but was always

keen to know what everyone was up to and how people were. The Link was always read as soon as I brought it home.

On behalf of Dad and the family I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, messages, cards, offers of help whilst mum was in hospital and since her passing, it has been gratefully appreciated.

With love and thanks from Ann



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

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS:

List updated 02.10.25

- Soup (packet or tinned)
- Long Life Juice
- Custard or Rice Pudding
- Pasta (500g)
- Long Life Milk (UHT)
- Custard or Rice Pudding

We have plenty of:

Baked Beans & Sanitary Items

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.

On average we are currently providing food for around 1,200 adults and children every month.

Thank you!

We also are grateful for financial donations; details of how to give can be found on our website

- norwich.foodbank.org.uk or directly through our Bankuet account: www.bankuet.co.uk/norwich Thank you!

Please remember that.....



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

“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



At our recent Church Meeting, we agreed that as a church there would be the opportunity to join in with this project.

How does it work?.....

The idea is that, in the run up to the 1st December, people / groups / families donate one item a day for 24 days from our list and then the 'whole' donation is brought to The Hub. From where all the contributions will be delivered to the Foodbank Warehouse in Norwich on or around 1st December to give us time to process and distribute items to our clients.

Why?

The idea came about for 2 reasons:

1. Lots of people want to donate at Christmas time so this was a way of having a specific ask with items we need and
2. Doing it leading up to 1st December is a timeframe that works really well for the warehouse because so often donations come in in Christmas week and people are very upset when we say we may not get their goodies out in time because of time / deliveries etc.

What to put in my box? & When do I start?

More details are to follow including:

- An up to date list of items needed for you to choose your daily items from
- Dates confirmation, but to give you an idea.....

- Start collecting on Friday 31st Oct
- Finish on Sunday 23rd Nov
- Deliver to The Hub on Sun 23rd Nov
- Collection from The Hub and delivery to The Norwich Foodbank Warehouse on Thurs 27th Nov ready for distribution.

Information source: Hannah Worsley,
Norwich foodbank Project Manager,
Tel: 03003651123 or 07955 920590



St Matthew 1: 18 – 25

Today's writer: *The Revd Dominic Grant, minister, Barnet URC and St Andrew's Chesterfield Road URC*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reflection

"It all seemed so straightforward. There was I, no great catch, I'll admit, just a tradesman who'd been alone a few years too many, and in a northern town where work is scarce.

"But yet the match seemed good. Her family was keen on me – and I on her, it's true – just a shy, blushing lass... I worried, though, about the age difference. They said, don't fret: protect her, and she'll love you. And besides, her mum is keen on genealogy – apparently we're both of David's line! Not that I'll be challenging for the throne any time soon – you don't mess with Herod!

"We laughed, and ate, and by the evening's end young Mary and old Joseph were betrothed. And for a fortnight, it was bliss... until she came to me, as white as leprosy, said, Joseph, Joseph, we must talk... and wept. "Forgive? Why, I'd forgive her seven times, or even seven seventies! But yet, there is forgiveness, and there is what's right. She's shown she is not mine, I thought, and so it's best that I just... quietly... let her go.

"But then the angel came to me as well. And that changed everything – again. Told me that Mary was blameless – told me to stay with her, protect her, and protect her child. "That was nine months ago. Now here I am, bewildered, and a surrogate father. And now I'm left not knowing what to do. For if this child is who he's said to be, then how can I raise him? Most of my work is crosses for the Romans now – no place for any child – certainly not this one.

"It all seemed so straightforward – once. But now I have a bride to care for – and her child – suppose old Joseph may yet learn to live by faith, for her sake, and for his."

Prayer Lord of loyalty and love:
if ever my pursuit of righteousness
puts someone else's safety at risk,
then please challenge my priorities.
If ever my fear of shame
pushes me towards a wrong path,
then please correct my course.
And if ever my efforts to obey you
leave me uncertain or afraid,
then please comfort me in my
bewilderment.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Community Café Give Away.....

• £75 Hearing Dogs for Deaf People



What we do: We rebuild connection, companionship, and confidence through trained hearing dogs, practical and emotional support services; transforming the lives of people who are deaf or have hearing loss.



At Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, we understand that deafness and hearing loss affect so much more than just someone's ability to hear.

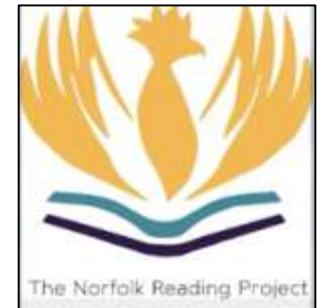
Invisible and often isolating, hearing loss can affect every aspect of someone's life, from their independence and relationships to their sense of safety and mental health.

That is why, in 1982, we began training our highly skilled assistance dogs and now offer a range of other peer support services, too. Through these clever canines and personalised support, people living with deafness and hearing loss can rebuild connection, companionship and confidence that transforms lives.

• £75 to The Norfolk Reading Project

According to Government statistics, one in four children are now leaving primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

This is a local charity whose aim is to support teachers in improving literacy standards across Norfolk.



We do this by providing trained volunteers to support children's reading on a one-to-one basis within Primary Schools. This is completely free of charge for schools.

Our volunteers are given an understanding of the importance of phonics in learning to read, in line with the emphasis placed on this in the New National Curriculum. This focus on phonics is particularly welcomed by teachers as it supports rather than conflicts with their class teaching. Our volunteers usually go into school for a half day, so about 2-3 hours. Some stay longer and provide a full day in school.

Our charity was started in 2015 in response to increasing concern about reading standards across the county and the impact this has on future prospects. In the last few years we have trained over 400 volunteers and we are supporting more than 50 schools throughout the county.

Volunteering as a reader in schools is a wonderfully rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Source: <https://www.thenorfolkreadingproject.co.uk/>

To find out more about TNRP go to our website:
www.thenorfolkreadingproject.co.uk or email us at info@thenorfolkreadingproject.co.uk and we will get back to you.

- £75 to WaterAid UK



We're an international not-for-profit, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation.

Since 1981, we've directly reached 28 million people with clean water; 28 million with decent toilets; and 26 million with good hygiene.

Only by tackling these three essentials in ways that last can people change their lives for good. With our supporters and partners, we will change millions of lives for the better.

When a community gets clean water for the first time, it's the start of something truly life-changing.

Right now, millions of children around the world like Obse in Ethiopia don't have clean water to drink, decent toilets to use or good hygiene to protect themselves. Without these basics, breaking the cycle of poverty is just a dream.

But when you help WaterAid dig a well or install a tap in a community, you're changing the lives of children for the better. Your donation today, can help children to stay in school instead of wasting their precious childhood walking to collect water. Together, with your help, we'll keep working until everyone, everywhere has clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.



Don't forget to have a go-Could you design a logo?

At the recent Mission Partnership Leadership Team meeting, it was agreed that we need **a logo for the Norwich Area URC Mission Partnership**-a logo which all 4 churches can put on their newsletters, websites, noticeboard, publicity, writing paper etc-something which conveys that we are all part of the Norwich Area URC Mission Partnership of 4 churches. You don't need to create it on a computer, it can be designed by hand and then we can arrange to recreate it on a computer or digitise in another way. Please send your suggestion to me by 30th November and I'll also try to answer any queries about it. The entries will be looked at by the Mission Partnership Leadership Team/Joint Ministry Group. The prize for the winner is seeing their logo in print and maybe on noticeboards as well! **I have still only had 2 submissions!** Audrey E

Carole's 80th Birthday

Our lovely dear friend Carole Pearl celebrated her 80th Birthday on the 3rd October and so it was super to be able to share our greetings, and best wishes to her on Sunday 5th October.



Carole was taking our service (no rest for her!) and when she arrived she seemed happy to have a gorgeous glittery 80th Birthday garland to wear.

I think everyone was so happy to contribute to her birthday gift showing our appreciation for all that she has done particularly when we have had no minister, she has taken services, led Elder's meetings and attended more other meetings than she probably ever expected to do in retirement!

More than that, she has laughed and cried with us, held us in our prayers so we say Thank you and Happy BIRTHDAY.

A lovely rose, Golden Bouquet and the money gift was given which Carole is planning to spend on some treats (I think a bird bath bought so far).



At the end of the service, we enjoyed some yummy cakes. Kevin and Sarah had researched and made a gluten, dairy free cake so Carole could enjoy a cake she was able to eat. There was a selection of other cakes, so Thank you to Kevin and Sarah.

Written by Liz H



Thank you.....

Dear Friends,

Just over 8 years ago Douglas and I moved to the beautiful county of Norfolk. Douglas had been retired for a few years and together we decided to move to the Norwich area to be nearer two of our children and their families. My third son lives in Australia, a little too far and the spiders are a bit unfriendly...

I looked at the map and plotted a 20 mile radius around Norwich. We looked, either physically or via the internet at a total of 16 homes for sale, none of which ticked all the boxes. The seventeenth proved to be *the one*, a bungalow in a quiet village and with a garden. We fell in love with Managlade the first time we viewed it and after all the usual delays and pit falls, we moved in.

The Norfolk dwelling children were delighted, the dogs loved the area and so did we. Then came the next search – where would we find a church? Looking at the Synod year book I found that the Norwich area of the URC boasted no less than five churches. We decided to take a trip into unknown territory and, with me at the wheel of Harris, my trusty Yaris, we went to search for Wroxham and Hoveton URC, aka the Hub. On the appointed day I drove along the road, and after three journeys back and forth, turning around in Roy's car park we headed for home. Then it happened, a quick arrow prayer asking for God's help, and we saw beyond the tree and shrubs a beautiful modern building. The Hub!

The rest is, as they say, history. When we moved here to rural Norfolk we did so to be near our family. Little did we know what God had in store for us. A wonderfully warm and vibrant church, soon to become our God family. A family where we found a warm welcome and our God given home.

Soon after our move I was invited to preach in Trinity URC, Ipswich Road and Jessopp Road and our very own Wroxham and Hoveton, aka the Hub. Just over two years ago I was given the immense privilege of serving as your Interim Minister. This has been a blessedly happy experience, bringing me into closer contact with the Hub family and giving me the opportunity to continue my pastoral ministry for a while.

I loved and love being a part of the most spiritual and loving church I have ever served. When, unbelievably, I celebrated my 80th birthday I was amazed, humbled and lost for words at the beautiful cards and very generous presents (including Sarah's yummy cake). I just want to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to each one of you for your love and kindness. Thank you for joining me in this chapter of my ministerial journey. I look forward to whatever God has in store for us as together we begin a new chapter with Tina our lovely new Minister.

God bless you,
Love, Carole

A Grandparent's Prayer

Lord, thank you for the gift of grandchildren – these noisy, sticky-fingered bundles of blessing.
Grant us humour when they exhaust us,
Patience when they confuse us,
and wisdom when they ask questions like,
'Bapou' (the Greek word for grandfather), 'is there Wi-Fi in heaven?'
Help us to pass on not only stories and sweets but a living, lasting faith.
May our legacy be laughter, love, and lives that point the next generation to Jesus. Amen.
Grace and peace,

J.John
ijohn.com

Source: connect@jjohn.com

Be by Al Denson.

Be here in my eyes
So others may see
The beauty and presence of Your love
In one who was blind but now believes

Be here in my heart
Flow through my blood
Strengthen my soul and wash me clean
A living example of what our grace has done

I will walk beside You
I give You my life
And when others seek to find You
May I be a light that shines

Be here in my hands
Give me Your touch
Use me to comfort and to build
Shelter for those who need Your love

Breathe words to my lips
So I may speak
Echo Your truth and living words
Lord, make me all I can be

I will walk beside You
Jesus, I give You my life
And when others seek to find You
May I be the light that shines



To listen to this go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DJufnUnx-M>



Many thanks for the love, visits and support during my recent hospitalisation. I am now home, feeling a lot better. But awaiting a medical before I am allowed to drive again,
God bless Douglas



*Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need*

Source: Lyrics from Beauty for brokenness by Graham Kenrick

Eco tips for this month:

- Check your tires: Ensure your car's tire pressure is at the proper level, as cooler temperatures can decrease it and reduce fuel efficiency.
- Introducing locally and seasonally grown foods to your diet benefits you, your community, and the environment. Try selecting seasonal foods that minimise the distance travelled, and energy consumed for your meals.
- Move your plants indoors. This will protect them from cold temperatures, but also clean the air inside and brighten up the interior of your home. Houseplants can do a lot to improve your indoor air quality, especially in the colder months when we tend not to open our windows so frequently. Clean indoor air is often overlooked, but it is very important as it has multiple benefits such as boosting productivity, increasing levels of calmness and optimism, reducing stress and lowering blood pressure *. If you do not have any houseplants, now may be a good time to get one or two!

Local Recycling Opportunities.....

Old compost bags and unwanted flower pots can now be recycled at Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Salhouse. The 2 containers are found on the right hand side of the drive.

Our Eco Church...

This year our recycling 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.

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 for Making Connections
Hoveton & Wroxham
Nov 5th 19th Dec 3rd 19th

 **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

 **Jam Jars needed.....** We are collecting empty
clean jam jars for three of our Community Café
Supporters - Annie, Neil and Martyn. They are looking
for clean pound jars or smaller with metal lids. If you
can remove the paper labels that would be brilliant!

Christmas at the Movies by Candlelight
22 Nov 2025, 19:30 - 21:30
Location: Nave, Norwich Cathedral

Get ready to unwrap a holiday treat with London Concertante's Christmas at the Movies concert, a jolly journey through the heart-warming and hilarious worlds of beloved Christmas films. This festive celebration boasts a programme of music from timeless films, including 'White Christmas', 'Love Actually', 'Home Alone', 'Elf' and 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Experience the magic of Santa's workshop and embark on a train ride to the North Pole - Christmas at the Movies promises an unforgettable evening of music, laughter, and holiday cheer. Doors open at 6.45pm for the concert which starts at 7.30pm. The show will finish at about 9.30pm and includes a short interval. Click the button below for full details of the concert, ticket prices and how to book. [Book tickets](#) Please note this is an external event that is not run by Norwich Cathedral. For further enquiries about this event please email info@candlelightconcerts.co.uk

**The Original Norwich Charity Christmas Card Shop
will open its doors once again at St Peter Mancroft
Church.**

This year, the shop - which will be celebrating 60 years - will be open every day except Sundays, starting from 10.45am on Tuesday October 16 through to Saturday December 13.

It will offer a range of customary and seasonal items, such as single and pack Christmas cards, calendars, wrapping paper, tags and more.

With around 100 volunteers donating their time to the cause, the shop will represent 30 different charities including Alzheimer's Society, Amnesty International, East Anglian Air Ambulance and others.

The official opening of the shop by the lord mayor, councillor Paul Kendrick, will take place on Thursday October 2025 at 11am.

Last year alone, the shop raised more than £44,000 for these charitable causes.

Source: <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/25545220.charity-christmas-card-shop-return-norwich-2025/>

- Please note that we have had to change some of the duties for November .
- The names have been underlined to show the new person on duty and so please use the rota below.

Rotas (Please swap if necessary) ☺
 If you are welcoming, please make sure you arrive by 10:00,
 Thank you

If you would like your name to be added to one of the duties on our rota, please see Lynne H.

Date	Vestry	Welcoming Elder	Welcome Team	Readers	Flowers	Coffee
26th Oct JAM	Kevin B	Lynne H	Barbara C	<u>Don M & Paul T</u>	Margaret C	Paul T & Verna C
26th Oct 4pm	-	Barbara W	-	-	-	
2nd Nov HC	Barbara W	Lyn M	Frances M	Colin C & Margaret C	Lynne H	Joyce B & Margaret C
9th Nov Remembrance Sunday	Don M	n/a	n/a	Don M & Paul T	n/a	n/a
16th Nov JAM	Joyce B	Kevin B	Frances B	Kevin B & Sarah B	Liz H	Colin c & Don M
23rd Nov	Sarah B	Barbara W	Ann Marie W	Kathleen W & Lyn M	Lyn M	Frances M & Frances B
30th Nov am JAM	Liz H	Don M	Felicity G	Caroline L & Bob R	Ann Marie W	Barbara W & Lyn M
30th Nov (eve)	-	Lyn M	-	-	-	
7th Dec JAM	Kevin B	Lynne H	Kathleen W	Jean S & Bob R	Ann O	Paul T & Verna C
14th Dec JAM	Lyn M	Barbara W	Barbara C	Paul T & Colin C	Barbara W	Kevin B & Sarah B
21st Dec JAM	Don M	Sarah B	Frances M	Several needed tbc	Lynn R	Colin C & Frances B
25th Dec Christmas Day	Lynne H	Kevin B	Whoever available	Kevin B & Lynne H	From 21 st	n/a
28th Dec	Colin C	Don M	Felicity G	Don M & Margaret C	Lyn M	Barbara W & Lyn M
28th Dec 4pm	-	Lynne H	-	-	-	

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

**The deadline for submitting
information/articles for the
Joint December & January
issue of the Link is: 23rd
November**