

The Link

Wroxham and Hoveton
URC
wroxhamurc.org.uk
Joint December 2025
& January 2026



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

*Wishing you a very
Happy Christmas and
a Healthy New Year*



⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2:4-8 NIV)



**WARM
Christmas
WISHES**

To all at Abbotts,
Wishing you a Happy Christmas and
with many thanks for your support
throughout the year
Our Link newsletter is freely
coloured printed by Kelvin Dore of
Abbott's Estate Agents, Hoveton.



What's on in December & January: Events and Services Calendar

Thursday 27 th 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. <i>"Small Wonder – A Christmas Devotional Journey"</i> Week 1 of 4. See pages 8 & 10 for more information.
Sunday 30th Nov JAM 1st Sunday in Advent 	10:30am 4pm	Worship led by Mike Gibbs, Lay Preacher and member of Bowthorpe Church. <i>Beyond Sunday: Worship led by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson. See poster on page 9 .</i>
Wed 3 rd Dec	2:30pm	Elder's Meeting in The Hub.
Thursday 4 th 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. <i>"Small Wonder – A Christmas Devotional Journey"</i> Week 2 of 4. See pages 8 & 10 for more information.
Sunday 7th Dec JAM 	10:30am	Holy Communion Service led by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson.
Thursday 11 th 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. <i>"Small Wonder – A Christmas Devotional Journey"</i> Week 3 of 4. See pages 8 & 10 for more information.
Sunday 14th Dec JAM 	10:30am 3pm	Worship led by Revd. Carole Pearl, retired minister and member of our church. Advent Service @ St Helen's Catholic Church, Hoveton.
Wed 17 th Dec 	5pm	Ecumenical Carol Service in Roy's Coffee Shop Area. All are welcome.

 	Thursday 18th Dec 10.30-12.00 12:15 or 7:30pm (on Zoom)	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub including a short Carol service. Advent Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub. "Small Wonder – A Christmas Devotional Journey" Week 4 of 4. See pages 8 & 10 for more information.
 JAM 	10:30am 4pm	Carole Service led by Revd. Zephany Kennedy, previously from the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa and now living in Norfolk. JAM Nativity Service led by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson. See page 19 for more information.
Thursday 25th Dec Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Service led by Revd. Carole Pearl, retired minister and member of our church. No Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub.
Sunday 28th Dec	10:30am	Worship led by Revd. Tina Wilson, our Minister. <i>There will be NO Beyond Sunday.</i>
Thursday 1st Jan 2026	10.30-12.00	Community Café (only coffee/tea and mince pies) at The Hub. No Foodbank or Prayer Meeting.
Sunday 4th Jan 	10:30am	Worship led by Revd. Tina Wilson, our Minister. Followed by our Church Meeting.
Wed 7th Jan	2:30pm	Elder's Meeting in The Hub.
Thursday 8th Dec 	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Prayer Meeting in Room 2 in The Hub.
Sunday 11th Jan HC JAM	10:30am	Holy Communion Service led by Revd. Carole Pearl, retired minister and member of our church.
Thursday 15th Jan 	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub, continuing with our next to last Revelation series.

Sunday 18th Jan <i>Deadline for Link</i>	10:30am	Worship led by Revd. Zephany Kennedy, previously from the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa and now living in Norfolk..
Thursday 22nd Jan 	10.30am 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Bible Discussion Group in room 2 of The Hub, the final of our Revelation series.
Sunday 25th Jan JAM 	10:30am 4pm	Worship led by Mike Gibbs, Lay Preacher and member of Bowthorpe Church <i>Beyond Sunday: Worship led by our Minister Revd. Tina Wilson. See poster on page 9 .</i>
Thursday 29th Jan	10.30-12.00	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub.
Sunday 1st Feb	10:30am	Holy Communion Service led by Revd. Paul Whittle, a member of our church.
Wed 4th Feb	2:30pm	Elder's Meeting in The Hub.
Thursday 5th Feb	10.30-12.00 12:15	Community Café and Foodbank at The Hub. Prayer meeting in room 2 of the Hub.



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.



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 Minister's Letter.....

Dear friends,

Welcome is such a powerful and positive action. I remember how warmly we were welcomed, with words, actions, cards, and gifts. Recently, a member from Ipswich Road shared with me an experience of visiting another URC church, where he was given a welcome bag. He spoke of how valued it made him feel. Inspired by this, we would like to introduce welcome bags across our Mission Partnership in the new year, as a way of greeting all who are new to our churches.



As we welcome the season of Advent, I find myself reflecting on the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, the themes that guide us through these weeks of waiting and preparation. Since my ordination in September and the time I have already spent among you, I have felt a deep sense of gratitude and hope. Even though there are still boxes to unpack in the manse, I am daily reminded of the blessing it is to serve within the Norwich Area URC Mission Partnership.

In such busy times, opportunities for peace can feel few and far between. My prayer is that during Advent you will find moments of stillness, whether in worship, in nature, or in the quiet corners of daily life, where God's peace may rest upon you.

Over the festive period, I send you my warmest wishes. I am also mindful that Christmas can be a difficult time for some, whether through grief, loneliness, or other burdens. Please know that I hold you in my prayers, trusting that God's love surrounds you even in the shadows.

May the promises of hope, peace, joy, and love be real for you this Advent and Christmas.

With every blessing,

Tina

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

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.



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.**



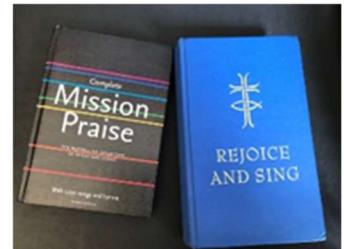
Hymns for Tina's Services!

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 Memorial Service was held on Thursday 30th October at The Hub, after Community Café. Revd. Carole Pearl led the service and it was again very well received by approximately 25 people.



Our Remembrance Service at St John's Church

Many thanks to both Revd. Tina and Don M for the very well received service.

£165 was donated in aid of the British Legion.

Photo (right) taken by Colin C, after The Wroxham Benefice Act of Remembrance.



Advent discussion groups

These are extra special this year, because all the Partnership churches are following the same theme, with one group in each church plus a Zoom session each week, all led by Tina. The groups are entitled: "Small Wonder – A Christmas Devotional Journey,"

Therefore, if for example you usually go to the Ipswich Road group on a Tuesday afternoon and one week find that you can't attend, don't worry, you won't miss it, because you can go to the same course later that week at one of the other churches in the Partnership or join online on the Thursday evening.

The groups run from Tuesday 24th November 2025 to Thursday 18th December:

Tuesdays – 2 pm Ipswich Road

Wednesdays - 10 am Fairland Wymondham **OR**

Wednesdays 1 pm St Peter's Jessopp Road

Thursdays - 12.15pm The Hub, Wroxham **OR**

Thursdays 7.30 pm on Zoom Joining details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82623824847?pwd=L992Cb6oSFhZho5ThnsgSvmKHvFa.1>

Meeting ID: 826 2382 4847

Passcode: 055208

Please contact the individual churches for further details.

Source: Audrey Elliott NAURC worship and notices for 21.11.25 email

Continuing in January, after
our Advent Bible Group



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.

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.



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Isaiah 9:2

Advent

Small Wonder – A Christmas Devotional Journey

All are welcome to join us

Week commencing: 24th November 2025:

Tuesdays – 2 pm Ipswich Road

Wednesdays – 10 am Fairlands, Wymondham OR 1 pm St Peter's, Jessopp Road

Thursdays – 12.15pm The Hub, Wroxham OR 7.30 pm on Zoom

Please contact the individual churches for further details.



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

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

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 21st am	JAM Rehearsals for the Nativity in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45
Sunday Dec 21st 4pm	JAM performance of "The Greatest Story Ever Told": A Nativity – Pantomime in Wroxham Church Hall.
Sun Jan 11th	JAM Session in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45
Sun Jan 25th	JAM Session in Wroxham Church Hall 10:15-11:45

JAMMY News - 26th October 2025

As the children arrived, we challenged them to write their name backwards, then place a mirror by the side to see how they did.

We gathered to share news together.

We talked about Halloween and who was going to be celebrating it. We learned how it all began years ago, and what it's become and whether the children really think about what we are celebrating, or is it just a bit of fun?

We talked about what some Christians might do instead, like carving smiley faces or crosses on their pumpkins rather than scary things.

Our reading today was taken from the middle of the Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon on the Mount is considered to be like a handbook on how to live; Jesus is letting the people know how they should live their lives, if they want to follow God. Their lives should be all about love, loving God, loving others. He told them they should be kind to other people, even if people were not kind to them. He taught them about forgiving others and he told them they should help others in need and not to judge others. Most importantly they should be peacemakers.

Then he used, as he often did, something every day, that everyone knew about, to explain what his followers would be like in the world if they lived God's way.

We read Matthew 5:13-16

We wondered, what does Jesus mean by being salt?

We asked the kids whether they like salt on their chips. Silly question, but it was unanimous yes! Why? It makes them taste better, of course!

For their snack today, they would have a pack of Walkers Salt and Shake crisps, just like the old-fashioned ones with the blue twist paper filled with salt, except the salt was in a white paper packet, so much harder to find! This meant they could try taste the crisps without salt, and then with, and see what tastes best for themselves.

Salt, in Jesus' time was one of the most sought-after commodities. They even used it to pay wages.

We asked the group how many different things do we use salt for?

We listed many different things.

Jesus uses salt as an example to help the people then, and us now, understand how we are to make a difference in the world.



JAM

Jesus wants us to be like salt to bring out the best in others just as salt does in our food. God wants us to affect the world around us; to be out there making a difference. He wants us to help heal people too, maybe just by caring and helping other people.

We watched a video with some salt challenges:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM4TpU2uz0g> (we edited out the first 2 minutes or so)

We thought about light; light is also something that we all crave and need.

But People feel drawn to God's light too; we are to show one another God's light and love. We don't have our own light, but we reflect the light of Jesus living in us.

Jesus is saying it's no good having God's light if you then go and cover it up. Jesus wants us to shine to be his light in the world, not to hide away.

Just like a city giving out its light, Jesus wants us to stand up for what matters and stand out, pointing to the goodness of God

Just as salt and light is necessary for life, we can, and we will, by following Jesus, make a difference to this world!

We listened to a new Song – “**Salt**” by Holly Halliwell

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6iy9zm5Qps&list=RDN6iy9zm5Qps&start_radio=1

We sang along and did the actions to “**I am a city on a hill**” by Nick and Becky Drake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Bmm4-MYkBk>

Prayer

Loving lord Jesus

Thank you that you have called us to be hope in your world

We think about all the places we go to school, home, clubs, family, friends and we pray we can be a light in these places.

Help us be like salt and light to those we meet this week, both bringing change, making a difference and reflecting God's love to the world. Amen



We tried several different salt challenges to emphasise its amazing properties.

Some of us painted stones writing the name of Jesus backwards to remind us to reflect God's love in the world.



JAM



Others made Sun catchers.

How you can support JAM.....

Please see the Nativity refreshment sign-up sheet found on the table in The Hub porch. We are looking for homemade sausage rolls and packets of small or usual sized mince-pies. If you are able to supply some, please sign up, giving your name, item of food and quantity. With many thanks.



See the poster on page 19 for more information.

Jammy News session 16th November 2025

Our final session this year before we begin rehearsals for The Greatest Story Ever Told (to be performed on Sunday 21st at 4pm – please come and support us if you can), was continuing with the Sermon on the Mount – The Beatitudes.

The Sermon on the Mount is a very famous sermon, what Jesus taught that day is considered to be like a handbook on how to live. Jesus is letting the people know how they should live their lives, if they want to follow God, these actions if put into practice form the foundations of the Kingdom of God in the world; When the words of Jesus are put into action, Gods Kingdom comes.

We read from our Bibles Matthew 5:1-11 (International Children's Bible)

“Those people who know they have great spiritual needs are happy. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

Those who are sad now are happy. God will comfort them.

Those who are humble are happy. The earth will belong to them.

Those who want to do right more than anything else are happy. God will fully satisfy them.

Those who give mercy to others are happy. Mercy will be given to them.

Those who are pure in their thinking are happy. They will be with God.

Those who work to bring peace are happy. God will call them his sons.

Those who are treated badly for doing good are happy. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them..

We explored together the meanings of each these statements, focussing on being humble, having mercy and what peace means (this being quite timely after Remembrance Day, with several JAM members having been on parade). As part of being a peacemaker we looked at the importance of apologising when we hurt people. Saying sorry is important to show people we love them, and we don't like it when we hurt them. We get our example of a peacemaker from the Bible, of course. Isaiah 9:6 says, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be

called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Who is this verse talking about?

Jesus, of course! Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He is our example of how to bring peace and get along with everyone. Jesus died making peace between us and God.

When we follow Jesus by making peace, we are showing that we are children of God, like Jesus is.

We prayed using glass beads, asking God to be with us when we are sad.

We made pipe-cleaner crosses asking God to help us forgive people who may have hurt us.

We blessed each other with oil, drawing a smiley face on each person's hand.

We then used a prayer taken from URC resources:

Dear Jesus,

thank you that you bless us – and often when life is hard:

when we know we are poor in spirit – **you bless us** ,

when someone that we love has died – **you stay close to us** ,

when we are humble and meek in your presence – **you bless us** ,

when we are desperate for things to work out fairly – **you hear us** ,

when we are merciful to other people – **you bless us** ,

when we are trying to live pure and holy lives – **you reveal yourself to us** ,

when we make peace between people – **you bless us** ,

when people are horrid to us for following you – **you help us to rejoice in your love** .

Amen

Jesus, our teacher,

the world says get all you can:

you say be poor in spirit.

So do we.

The world says be tough:

you say be gentle.

So do we.

The world says hunger for more things, more

money:

you say be hungry for goodness and truth.

So do we.

The world says 'Me, me, me':

you say 'Us, us, us'.

So do we, Lord, so do we.

Amen.

We then learned the actions to a new song about the Sermon on the Mount

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzpO4GVZ6Bw>

We then had our snack and painted some peace stones.

JAM

JAMMY NEWS – SHOEBOX PACKING 2025

November 2nd saw us get together to pack up the items collected throughout the year for the shoe boxes, which go to children all over the world who, for a lot of them, will be the only gift they receive this year.



As you can see, we had all sorts of gifts for all ages. We had toys, games, school supplies and stationery items, personal care, hats, gloves, socks, accessories all crammed into the boxes together with a personal note.

During the year, we have collected lots of items from church members, community café users and other user groups from The Hub as well as generously being given lots from the Co-op Funeral Directors on the Norwich Road, who also collected items for us.



By the end of the session, we had packed 30 boxes ready for collection and sending off to end in the hands of a child that needs it.

Our thanks go to all who contributed items, money or helped on the day!

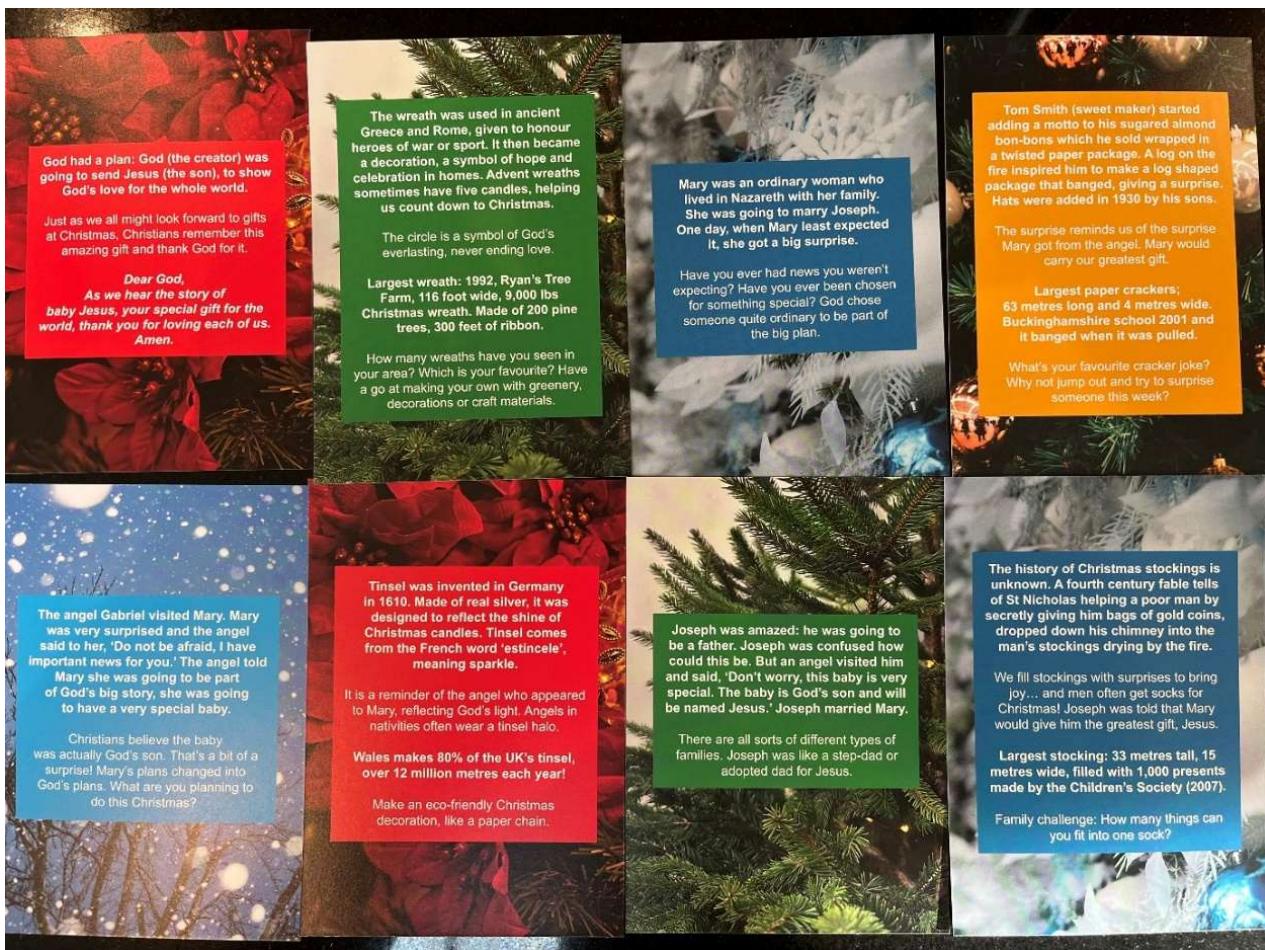
Advent Packs for St John's Junior School, Hoveton



This year we have managed to procure advent packs from the URC to distribute to 1 class of children at the local school.

As well as JAM families getting these packs, there will be 30 other local families able to use the alternative Advent Calendar card pack produced by the URC this year.

Each card is numbered, starting with 1 for the first day of Advent; the front has a picture and the reverse an explanation of the picture.



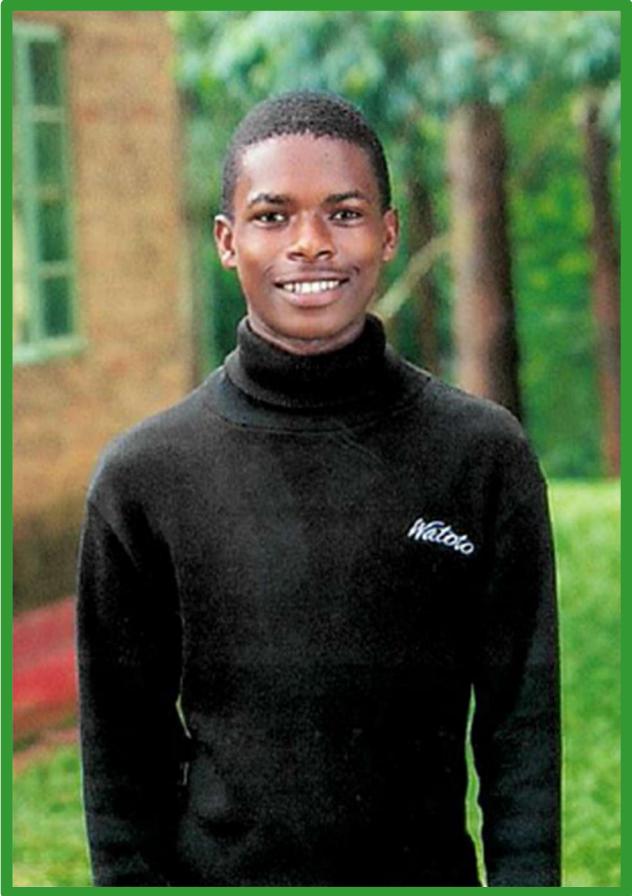
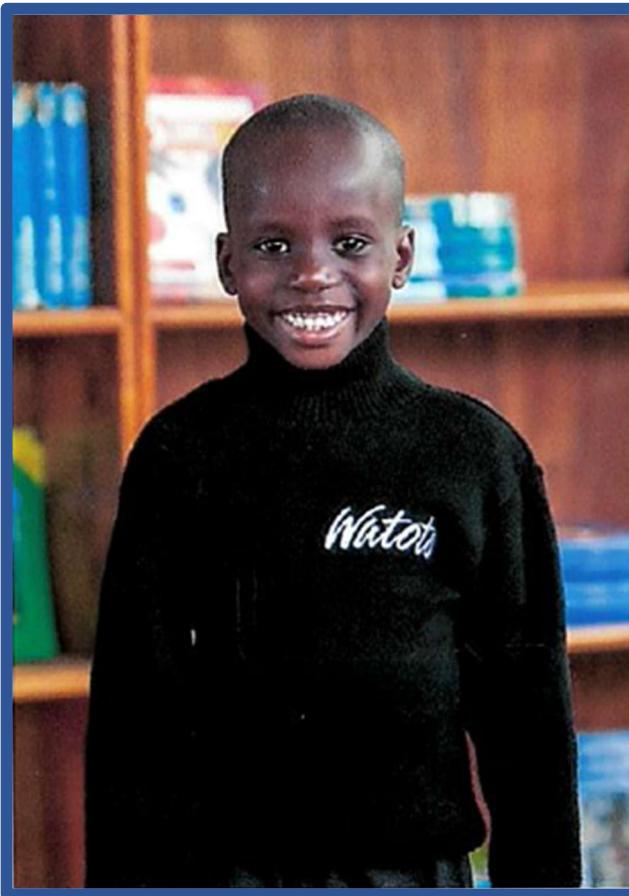
As you can see, some pictures are to do with the Nativity story and some to do with Christmas traditions and the facts on the back provide insights about the pictures.

Inside the pack there are also a set of cards to colour and create your own Nativity Scene.

We hope this will be a useful resource for the children to learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

You will also be pleased to know that Tina will be hopefully going to start leading assemblies at St John's in the New Year, Mel will be joining us in January as our Children and Families Worker, so we look forward to an exciting 2026!

JAMMY NEWS – WATOTO



Meet Garvin (left) and Martin (right) who are the 2 youngsters JAM and the church have agreed to sponsor. They live in a Watoto community, one setup in Uganda to help young orphans develop into educated and well-rounded adults. They do this by also helping single mothers to look after their own child(ren) as well as some of the orphans in a household. In this way each child lives in a home with 7 other children as their Watoto family and they live a normal family life with school, chores, games and fun.

We have to send £28 each month for each child and JAM will be engaging in fundraising activities to ensure they can pay for their £28, the church needs to pay for the other half.

Please come and support the children of JAM at their Nativity:

The Greatest Story Ever Told – a Nativity Pantomime Sunday 21st December at 4pm
afterwards we will have a bring-and-buy sale to raise money for Watoto, we will also be providing mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine, so please come along and enjoy time with JAM at Christmas.

JAM

Sunday 21st December @ 4pm

Wroxham Church Hall

JAM presents

**A Nativity
Pantomime**



The Greatest Story Ever Told

**Come and enjoy this fun version of The
Christmas Story, suitable for all ages.**

**Afterwards there will be refreshments including
mince pies, sausage rolls, mulled wine etc.**

There will be a charity bring-and-buy sale.

JAM is the children's part of the United Reformed Church

Admission Free

The Hub, 114 Norwich Rd, Wroxham

JAM



Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club

President Chris Billing
Secretary Diane Harber

12th November 2025

The members of Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club send a kind thank you to the Norwich Area United Reformed Church members, especially Wroxham & Hoveton and Ipswich Road Churches for the wonderful, generous collection of warm winter coats donated to Wrap Up UK. You gathered so many coats again this year we were delighted.

This year we collected 700 coats in excellent condition, they have all been distributed to charities in Norwich and Gt. Yarmouth including YMCA, Leeway, New Routes, Dawn New Horizons and many more. I delivered coats myself and received appreciation and thanks wherever I went.

It is very comforting to know these coats will keep many families experiencing difficult times warm and cosy this winter.
Thank you so much,

Diane Harber
Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club.



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 Café 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





Let a child know they're loved this Christmas!



43 shoeboxes have been donated this year both to The Hub and online.

A super joint effort between the children of JAM, the congregation of our church and member of our community.



Don's message and Shoebox blessing from our Service

It is very nice this morning to be part of blessing our shoe boxes before they set off on their journeys to deserving children around the world.

Back in 2019 I was deployed as part of a small NATO evaluation team to carry out a capability inspection of the air transport wing of the Ukrainian Air Force. We were accommodated in the City of Zhytomyr close to the airbase about 80 miles west of Kiev. On the Sunday afternoon we had some downtime and I took the chance to explore the city. I visited many very beautiful churches and as I came close to the city hall I could hear the unmistakable sound of happy children laughing and singing. The doors opened and dozens of joyful children came out all smiling and very excited, each one holding a Samaritans Purse shoebox that they had been given. Coming from a church that participates in the program every year, it made me feel extremely happy to see the pleasure receiving a box had given them.

Ukraine even before the war was a very poor country, but I often think and wonder in the almost four years since 'Vlad the Bad' invasion what has become of all those happy innocent children and I pray that the message of the Lord's love through the shoeboxes will stay with them and guide them to a successful and loving future.

Let us now bless our shoeboxes for this year:

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with hearts full of gratitude and love, lifting up these Christmas shoeboxes and all the hands that have prepared them with care. Lord, you are the giver of

every good and perfect gift, and we ask that you bless these small offerings as they make their way into the hands of children who need to feel your love and presence. Father, we thank you for the opportunity to be part of your work, to share the joy of Christmas and the message of Jesus Christ through these simple gifts. We pray that every item inside these shoeboxes would bring happiness, comfort, and hope to the children who receive them. May the toys bring laughter, the school supplies bring learning, and the hygiene items bring health and dignity. But most of all, Lord, may these shoeboxes be a vessel of your love, reminding the children that they are seen, known, and cherished by you.

Lord, we pray for the children who will receive these gifts. You know their names, their stories, and their needs. We ask that you surround them with your protection, provide for them in ways beyond what we can imagine, and fill their hearts with joy and peace. If they do not yet know you, we pray that these shoeboxes would be a seed planted in their hearts, leading them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. May they come to understand the true meaning of Christmas—that Jesus, our Saviour, was born to bring light into the world.

We also lift up the families of these children, Lord. May these gifts be a blessing not only to the ones who receive them but to their entire households. May it be a sign of your provision and a reminder that they are not alone. If they are struggling, Lord, bring them comfort. If they are in need, provide for them. If they are searching, lead them to your truth.

Father, we pray for the journey of these shoeboxes. As they travel across cities, countries, and continents, we ask for your divine protection over them. Guide them safely into the hands of the children you have chosen. Bless the volunteers, the organizers, the transporters, and all those involved in making this mission possible. Strengthen them, encourage them, and let them see the fruits of their labour in the lives that are touched.

Lord, we also pray for all the other children receiving shoeboxes around the world. May each one feel the warmth of your love through these gifts. May they know that they are not forgotten, that they are deeply loved by you, and that they have a purpose in this world.

Finally, Lord, we thank you for the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ. As we celebrate his birth, may we be reminded of the joy, peace, and salvation that he brings. May these shoeboxes be a reflection of that love, a small token of the greatest gift ever given.

We place these shoeboxes, the children, and this mission in your hands, trusting that you will use it for your glory. May your love shine brightly through this act of giving, and may hearts be drawn closer to you.

In the precious name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Written by Don M

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.





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

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS:

List updated 11.11.25

- Long life Juice
- Long life Milk
- Microwave Rice
- Spaghetti
- Fruit
- Tomatoes
- Shower Gel
- Deodorants Male and Female
- Shampoo

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 pp at <https://www.bankthefood.org/downloadapp/>

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

Food Bank Prayer

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in. Matthew 25:35

God of faithfulness, Your generous love supplies us with all that we need. We know that all we have is yours. We celebrate the work that you have done in Norwich and Norfolk through foodbank by means of the generous support of many people.

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

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

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

'Listening to Winter' by Macrina Wiederkehr

The trees have shed their colourful autumn robes.

Winter is raging through the dark, empty branches
and I am listening.

I am listening to the roar and to the quiet of winter.

I am listening to a beauty that sometimes remains
unseen.

I am listening.

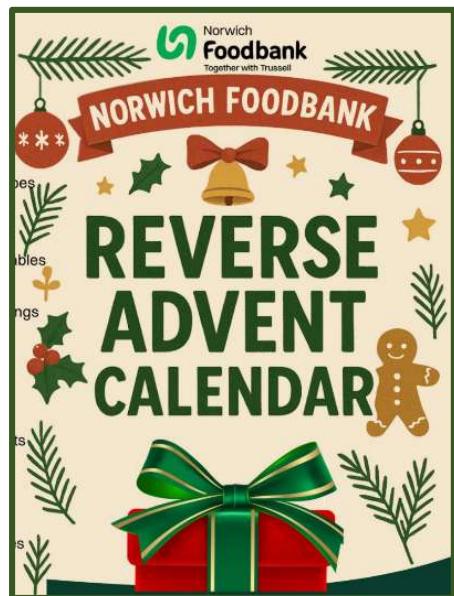
I am listening to the seed hidden in the earth.

I am listening to the dark swallowing up the light.

I am listening to faith rising out of doubt.

I am listening to the need to believe without seeing.

Source: <https://norwich.foodbank.org.uk/2025/10/26/foodbank-prayer-letter-november-2025/?ref=givefood.org.uk>



Information source, (abridged):

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

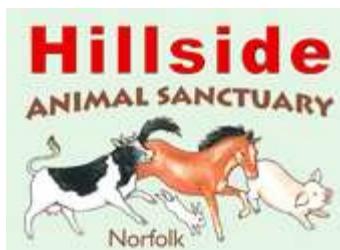
Photo contributed by Colin C

The idea behind this project is that during the run up to the 1st December, people / groups / families donate one item a day for 24 days from a foodbank list and then the 'whole' donation is brought to The Hub by Sunday 23rd Nov. From where all the contributions have been delivered to the Foodbank Warehouse in Norwich on or around 27th November, to give time to process and distribute items and "goodies" to the Foodbank clients before Christmas.

Many thanks for all the boxes and bags of necessary and Christmas Foodbank items donated by members of our church and which were blessed by Revd. Carole P in our service.



Community Café Give Away.....



- £75 donated to....

Hillside Animal Sanctuary, Frettenham, and West Runton, Norfolk.

Hillside Animal Sanctuary is home to over 4000 animals, and is one of the UK's most successful campaigning organisations for the animals' cause. Hillside is home to over 2500 horses, ponies, donkeys and mules alongside rescued sheep, pigs, rabbits, ducks, hens, goats, and many more. Hillside was formed after witnessing the plight of the battery hen and has since helped and campaigned for animals in need, in particular those who are abused within the intensive factory farming industry.

There is also an on-site museum where you can relive the farming experience from days gone by, and children can play within the activity areas.

Sources of information: <https://www.norfolkbroads.com/link/hillside-animal-sanctuary-640/>
<https://norfolkcottageagency.co.uk/visit-hillside-horse-sanctuary/>



- £75 donated to ...

Broadland First Responders (Following our excellent first aid course by George.) Broadland First Responders are volunteers who provide pre-hospital emergency care in the [Wroxham, Hoveton, and surrounding villages](#) area of Norfolk, UK. They are a Community First Responder (CFR) scheme, meaning they are trained by the [East of England Ambulance Service](#) to attend certain emergency calls in their local area to provide help before an ambulance arrives.

The group is a registered charity that relies on donations to support its operations and is currently recruiting new volunteers. 1st Responders have to pay for their own equipment.

Source of information: AI overview via Google.

- £75 donated to.....



Nicky's Foundation

This charity is run by a local lady living in Wroxham.

Nicky's Foundation aims to improve the lives of vulnerable people and people with disabilities living in South West Cameroon by:

- Providing specialist equipment in the community
- Supporting vulnerable children and children with disabilities in going to school
- Sponsoring the referral for specialist medical and surgical interventions

Promote income generating activities within the community which are sustainable, such as:

- Supporting the development of small businesses for individuals
- Supporting the developments of micro projects in the local communities

They aim to do this by following the community based rehabilitation model and working in partnership with existing organisations in the region. All successful applicants are supported in finding a sustainable solution to their difficulties and wherever possible will receive on-going supervision from locally based fieldworkers and volunteers.



As an retired teacher, a grandma and “eco person”, I was very interested to receive and read this from our dear Rev Carole P – (Our retired and recycled ex-minister!)



Our Eco Church...

Throughout 2025 our recycling was funded by a grant from Veolia.

Unfortunately this grant is not available to us for 2026 and I haven't been able to find a similar obtainable grant for this year. If you hear of one, please let me know otherwise we will have to totally fund our recycling projects ourselves!

Barbara W

https://www.teachthefuture.uk/action/petition?link_id=4&can_id=f9a4c8ed0097e9f0bf85211ebef84cb6&source=email-mythbusting-misleading-net-zero-narratives&email_referrer=email_2966774&email_subject=more-teaching-on-climate-change-announced&&

Subject: More teaching on climate change announced!

From: Freddie at Teach the Future <hello@teachthefuture.uk>

We've spent six years campaigning for education on climate change and sustainability to be integrated across all subjects and key stages.

Today (Nov 5th 2025), the Curriculum and Assessment Review published their report with their recommendations on changes to what we learn at school and college in England.

We may not have won on getting climate change and sustainability embedded into all subjects but our continuous advocacy has been a big part in shaping the changes to come:

Education on climate change and sustainability is **listed as one of five key skills/knowledge areas that education should prepare young people with**

Climate education and sustainability is to be **more strongly integrated throughout citizenship** (to become statutory from KS1), sciences, and geography, and sustainability within D&T

There's a **new enrichment entitlement** which includes access to nature and outdoors

Subject content will have **more focus on solutions of climate change**, not just the causes and impacts

FIND OUT MORE: go to - https://www.teachthefuture.uk/blog/more-teaching-on-climate-change-in-schools-announced?link_id=1&can_id=f9a4c8ed0097e9f0bf85211ebef84cb6&source=email-mythbusting-misleading-net-zero-narratives&email_referrer=email_2966774&email_subject=more-teaching-on-climate-change-announced&&

We now need to keep up the pressure on government to implement these recommendations - and quickly. We won't stop campaigning until every young person has access to solutions-focused, justice-driven climate and nature education across every subject - transforming the face of education to shape a fairer, greener future.

Donate and help us keep up the pressure: Go to -
https://www.teachthefuture.uk/action/donate?link_id=3&can_id=f9a4c8ed0097e9f0bf85211ebef84cb6&source=email-mythbusting-misleading-net-zero-narratives&email_referrer=email_2966774&email_subject=more-teaching-on-climate-change-announced&&

Freddie

Teach the Future P.S. If you haven't already, could you sign our petition?

See link below.

Contributed by Rev Carole P

Do you know.....?



How many extra tonnes of rubbish does the UK generates during Christmas?

Over 3 Million Tons

That's a lot of wrapping paper, tape and decorations which cannot be recycled kerbside.

This year, how will you try to reduce your contribution to this amount?

Here are a few tips.....

Wrapping paper

Did you know that we throw away a whopping 227,000 miles of wrapping paper every year in the UK? That's enough to reach the moon!

Use recyclable wrapping paper where possible. Remember if it's got foil or glitter on it then it can't be recycled and could contain plastic.

If you're not sure, a quick and easy way to check is the scrunch test. Scrunch the paper into a ball. If it stays closed, it's recyclable - though any plastic tape, ribbons and tags need removing first.

If it springs open again, it can't be recycled - but try to think of ways to reuse it before resorting to the general waste bin. Can you use it as wrapping again, or repurpose it for crafting?

Unfortunately, tissue paper and crepe paper aren't recyclable either, the paper fibres are too short to be recycled and turned into anything else. Where possible keep these to be reused another time. Tissue paper can often be reused and if made from recycled materials, it can eventually be composted.

Lots of gift packaging, - gift bags and boxes very often have plenty of life left in it after being used once, so try to reuse them wherever you can.

Bows

Instead of adding plastic ribbons to your gifts that will end up in landfill, why not use a more sustainable alternative like a fabric bow that can be kept and re-used on future gifts.

Tape

You can now buy plant based, biodegradable clear sticky tape, in addition to sustainably sourced, heavy duty and easy to tear parcel tape.

Christmas Lights

500 tonnes of Christmas lights are discarded every year in the UK. If they are still in working condition, please give them away or donate them to a charity shop e.g. The Lions Shop in Wroxham. Then switch to using LED lights on your Christmas tree – you'll be using less energy but make sure you switch them off at night!

Sources: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/24-ways-to-waste-not-this-christmas>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/12/christmas-waste-recycling/>

<https://www.lesswaste.org.uk/reduce/lets-waste-less-at-christmas/>

terracycle.co.uk



Thank you for scattering stars in the heavens like sequins on a gown.

Thank you for the incredible marine, avian, reptilian and mammalian life that we have barely begun to comprehend yet are already destroying through our selfish behaviour.

Help us to stop seeing it all as shoes, bags, clothes, medicine and food.

Teach us to live in harmony with your creation, so we stop burning the world to the ground. Amen.

Source: URC Daily Devotion Sunday 26 October 2025 Written by *Kirsty-Ann Mabbott, Church Related Community Worker, Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys, Oxford*.

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

Audrey's email:
audrey.elliott23@gmail.com



**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:

3rd Dec 19th Dec

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!

Ipswich Rd URC's Eco Cafe.....

Our next event on **Friday January 30th 2026, 10am till 1pm**, soup and rolls will be available as well as hot drinks and home baking. The theme will be Reuse.

Ann, one of the trustees of *Scrapbox will give a talk about 10.30am and will bring a selection of Scrapbox things to sell.

Contributed by Viv Henderson

***Scrapbox -** Scrapbox is a re-use Scrapstore, one of approximately 70 throughout the country and the only one in Norfolk.

We collect, process and sell a wide variety of clean, waste materials, mainly donated by local commercial companies which can then be re-used in the community by schools and playgroups, art, drama, and music workshops, clubs and individuals for creative art and craft purposes.

Source & more info: <https://scrapbox.org.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/>



The Wonder Christmas Show

15k free tickets for Soul Church Christmas show

Up to 15,000 people are expected to attend this year's free Christmas spectacular, The Wonder, which returns over two December weekends to SOUL Church in Norwich and tickets are available from this Sunday (November 9).

"At SOUL Church, we love to celebrate Christmas and to give something back to our community,"

said Senior Pastor Jon Norman. "The Wonder is our gift to the city - a show that brings families together, shares joy, and reminds us all of the message at the heart of Christmas."

The much-loved Christmas spectacular, returns on December 6, 7, 13 and 14, for two weekends of dazzling performances bringing festive joy, family fun, and a powerful message of hope to thousands of guests across the county and beyond, say organisers.

Now in its 8th year, The Wonder has become a cornerstone of Norwich's Christmas season. The free, family-friendly production blends live music, dance, stunning visuals, and storytelling with appearances from Santa, larger-than-life characters, and breath-taking effects and surprises that capture the true wonder of Christmas.

Performances will take place at SOUL Church, 55 Heartsease Lane, Norwich NR7 9NT, with multiple show times each day. Tickets are completely free and will be released to the public at 5pm on Sunday November 9 at: www.soulchurch.com/thewonder

This year's production will have over 300 volunteers, from cast and crew to front-of-house and hospitality teams, all working together to deliver the unforgettable experience that has made The Wonder one of the city's most anticipated festive events.

SOUL Church is a vibrant Christian church in Norwich, led by Pastors Jon and Chantel Norman. Its mission is to bring faith, hope, and love to the city and beyond through Sunday services, community outreach, youth and family programmes, and initiatives led by the church's outreach arm, The Soul Foundation. Learn more at: www.soulchurch.com

Pictured above is The Wonder at Soul Church last December.

Source of article with picture:

https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/727760/Network_Norwich_and_Norfolk/Regional_News/Norwich/15k_free_tickets_for_Soul_Church_Christmas.aspx



Norwich Cathedral choir releases festive album

Enjoy carols sung by Norwich Cathedral Choir on a new album that has been recorded to celebrate the festive season.

Lord of the Dance: Christmas Carols from Norwich Cathedral has been released on all major streaming platforms and features the choir singing 20 carols ranging from Away in a Manger to The First Nowell and Sussex Carol.

The album was recorded in Norwich Cathedral's Nave in June this year, with the choir joined by

music ensemble Onyx Brass and David Dunnett who retired as the Cathedral organist this summer after an incredible musical tenure of 29 years.

Norwich Cathedral's Master of Music Ashley Grote, who conducted the choir during the recording, said: "I'm really thrilled with our new Christmas album, *Lord of the Dance*, which is a collection of some of the best-loved carols, some in new arrangements.

"The combination of the Cathedral Choir, the newly rebuilt organ, along with award-winning ensemble Onyx Brass is a very special sound.

"It was wonderful to work on this project with Norwich-based independent record label Deux-Elles Classical Recordings; they have managed to capture a sense of what it is like to be in Norwich Cathedral at Christmas time.

"I hope that the album will bring a lot of joy to people this Christmas!"

The title track is a new arrangement of *Lord of the Dance* by Ashley who has also created new arrangements of *O Come, Emmanuel*, *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night*. Also featured on the album are new arrangements by leading choral composer Bob Chilcott and popular arrangements by Sir David Willcocks and contemporary works by Sally Beamish and Will Todd.

The album was the first recording at the Cathedral since the Cathedral's historic pipe organ underwent a major rebuild in 2023, and the cover artwork celebrates the organ by featuring the special star – known as a cymbelstern – that decorates the top of organ.

About 50 singers from Norwich Cathedral Choir perform on the album, including choristers, lay clerks and choral scholars.

The album has been recorded and produced by Norwich-based independent record label Deux-Elles Classical Recordings. It was made possible due to funding from The Statham Society, Norwich Cathedral's group of dedicated music supporters, and a generous legacy.

The CD album of *Lord of the Dance: Christmas Carols from Norwich Cathedral* is available to buy now for an introductory price of £10 from Norwich Cathedral Shop and online at <https://cathedral.org.uk/gift-shop/>

The album is available on all major streaming platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, Apple Music Classical, Amazon Music and Presto Classical.

For all the latest information about festive services and events at Norwich Cathedral, visit cathedral.org.uk/Christmas

[Picture by Bill Smith](#)

Source of this article including the picture:

https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/Articles/727745/Network_Norwich_and_Norfolk/Events/Events/Norwich_Cathedral_choir_releases_festive_album.aspx

A BLESSING AS YOU JOURNEY INTO THE NEW YEAR

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around you and your sense of mystery be deepened.

May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness can never put out.

May you be blessed with companions on the journey, friends who will listen to you and encourage you with their presence.

May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your heart, daring to face the questions and holding them until, one day, they find their answers.

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding

May love flow in you and through you to those who need your care.

May you continue to dream dreams and to reach out into the future with a deeper understanding of God's way for you. Amen

(Lynda Wright
Hay and Stardust,
Wild Goose Fellowship)

Contributed by Revd. Carole P

Rotas (Please swap if necessary)😊

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

*Please note that some changes have been made to the rota diary and these have been underlined.

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
30 th Nov am JAM	Liz H	Don M	Felicity G	Caroline L & Bob R	Ann Marie W	Barbara W & Lyn M
30 th Nov (eve)	-	Lyn M	-	-	-	
7 th Dec JAM HC	Kevin B	Lynne H	Kathleen W	Jean S & Bob R	Ann O	Paul T & Verna C
14 th Dec JAM	Lyn M	Barbara W	Barbara C	Paul T & Colin C	Barbara W	Kevin B & Sarah B
21 st Dec JAM	Don M	Sarah B	Frances M	Several needed tbc	Lynn R	Colin C & Frances B
25 th Dec Christmas Day	Lynne H	Kevin B	Whoever available	Kevin B & Lynne H	From 21 st	n/a
28 th Dec	Colin C	Don M	Felicity G	Don M & Margaret C	Lyn M	Barbara W & Lyn M
28 th Dec 4pm	NO Beyond Sunday Service					
4 th Jan 2026	<u>Joyce B</u>	<u>Chris B</u>	Kathleen W	Paul T & Bob R	<u>Joyce B</u>	Frances M & Frances B
11 th Jan JAM HC	<u>Margaret C</u>	<u>Lyn M</u>	Ann-Marie W	Liz H & Ann O	<u>Joyce P</u>	Paul T & Verna C
18 th Jan	<u>Barbara W</u>	Lynne H	Frances B	Kathleen W & Lynne H	Lynne H	Colin C & Don M
25 th Jan JAM	Liz H	Margaret C	Frances M	Don M & Colin C	Liz H	Felicity G & Lyn M
25 th Jan 4pm	-	Sarah B				
1 st Feb HC	Don M	Colin C	Ann-Marie W	Sarah B & Kevin B	Ann O	Barbara W & Lyn M
8 th Feb	Lynne H	Barbara W	Barbara C	Jean S & Paul T	Barbara W	Kevin B & Sarah B

15 th Feb	Kevin B	Joyce B	Kathleen W	Barbara C & Margaret C	Lyn M	Frances B & Frances M
22 nd Feb	Lyn M	Sarah B	Felicity G	Colin C & Don M	Joyce B	Paul T & Verna C
22 nd Feb 4pm	-	Barbara W	-	-	-	



Church Member's Christmas Card Post Box.....

Continuing from the success of the church post box, Colin is again organising the collection, sorting and distribution of our church Christmas cards. Unfortunately due to the logistics of this operation, this box is only for Christmas Cards addressed to Church Members.

The box will be located in Room 2 and will be emptied during the last Sunday service before Christmas. After the service on that day your cards will be ready for collection.



Please note.....

It would be appreciated if you would write clearly with no abbreviations or nick names – first name and surname is best.

Thank you Colin.

Church Contact Details

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

**The deadline for submitting
information/articles for the
February issue of the Link is:
18th January 2026**