Merry Christmas

When I was a primary school head teacher, the build up to Christmas seemed to go on for ever. Preparations usually began in January immediately after half-term, when the children started learning carols and rehearsing their parts for the end of the term performance. The endless carols, decorated numerous plays and our Father Christmas or least half a dozen times!

The story we present in school rights centres around the nativity never. We all love to see Mary and Joseph, the angels and the wise men, the shepherds and the sheep. However, we tend to gloss over the more difficult episodes in the story.

I imagine there must have been a fair amount of anxiety as Joseph and Mary journeyed to Bethlehem. The baby could have been born at any moment, they had no idea where they would stay, and they must have been very tired. Once they had arrived, there was no room available for them, I wondered if it might have been easier to have stayed in Nazareth, at least until the baby was born.

Once the baby was born, they had to flee to Egypt, another journey journey and this time to an unknown country. As refugees, they had to find somewhere to call home and Joseph needed to get a job. They had to settle into a community and get used to the customs and culture. They had to stay for an unknown period, until Herod died, before they were able to return to Nazareth. How long would this have been?

On that first Christmas, Mary and Joseph triumphed over adversity, but it wasn't without stress, anxiety and no doubt a fair bit of worry. Unfortunately, Christmas remains a stressful time for many families today. It is the time when marriages break, domestic abuse rises, financial debts increase, and the lonely feel their loneliness more than any other time.

Thankfully, there are some tremendous people and organisations across King's Lynn who work selflessly to help those in adversity. To you, in particular, I wish a very blessed and happy Christmas.

Andrew

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Carol singing at the Queen Elizabeth hospital
Purfleet Pathways: Volunteer coffee morning
Nhs Worry Bus Visits
CAN: Good Neighbour Website
CAN: Sharing flagship facility in King's Lynn
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NEWS

NHS
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

Invitation for Carol Singing outside of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn on Christmas Eve

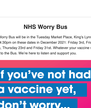
On Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve) at 6pm the chaplaincy at your local hospital invite you to come and sing carols outside the main entrance of the hospital. Because of infection control there are no visitors allowed inside the hospital. Therefore, we are planning on singing carols outside the main entrance and hopefully those wards that are above the main entrance will be able to hear the carol singers.

We would like to invite you to come and spread some Christmas cheer to those who are struggling over the Christmas period, then please come along at 6pm outside the main entrance of the hospital. Please wrap up warm and we will provide carol sheets and we will ask people to social distance from one another whilst they are singing. I'm afraid that no visitors will be allowed inside the hospital.

Any questions about this, then please contact the hospital chaplaincy on 01553 613441.

purfleet pathways

Volunteer Coffee Morning Tuesday 14th December 11am – 12
Purfleet Pathways, 56/57 Bergen way, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE30QLE



Anyone interested in volunteering with us please do come along and have a look around, have a chat and a piece of cake!

For more details please ring Tom Hopkin on 07552671075 or email tomhopkin@purfleetfuel.org.uk

NHS Worry Bus

The NHS Worry Bus will be in the Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn from 9.30am to 4.30pm on these dates in December 2021: Friday 3rd, Friday 10th, Friday 17th, Thursday 23rd and Friday 31st. Whatever your vaccine worries, bring them to the Bus. We're here to listen and support you.

New initiatives from CAN

CAN
Community Action Norfolk
YouTube

CAN's new website for their Good Neighbour Network is now live. Take a look and find out more about the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Good Neighbour Scheme

An invitation to help shape a flagship facility for King's Lynn

We at CAN want to create a flagship facility in the heart of King's Lynn town centre – and we need your help.

The community, and meeting the needs of local people, will be at the core of the new, modern, and accessible hub which will offer library services and learning – and so much more.

We want it to be a place that offers community and voluntary resources, and which – vitally – is accessible and inclusive for all. And, because of this, we are asking the people of King's Lynn and surrounding villages and parishes of King's Lynn to help us to develop the hub's offer so that it can provide the support, facilities, and services that are useful to you.

What do you mean?
We are holding an online workshop from **4pm - 5.30pm on Monday 24 January 2022** to get the views of community and voluntary groups working in King's Lynn – can you join us? We'd really like to hear your views. You can access the workshop via the link: Mapping-to-community-group-and-voluntary-organisations-in-Kings-Lynn-town-centre-tickets.pdf (1.1 MB) Friday 14 January to let us know if we will be joining us.

In the meantime, you can also have your say by:

- Filling in the survey here before 5pm on Wednesday 22 December
- Joining us at one of our drop-in sessions:

10am – 2pm, Thursday 9 December – Events Office, Tuesday Market Place
10am – 12noon, Saturday 11 December – King's Lynn Library, London Road, King's Lynn
2pm – 4pm, Saturday 11 December – Events Office, Tuesday Market Place
10am – 12noon, Thursday 16 December –King's Lynn Library, London Road, King's Lynn

Carers Matter Norfolk: assistive technology loan service

Carers Matter Norfolk
0800 083 1148

Carers from the King's Lynn area can now borrow assistive technology devices from the library. The Technology Enabled Care Lending Library allows people to try out devices that support independent living.

The Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Lending Library is a new service for King's Lynn carers and the people they care for. The service is initially available at King's Lynn library.

More Info

County Lines Training from St Giles for parents and professionals

St Giles
NCSI Programme
Turning a past into a future

Parents' webinar

Professionals' webinar

NORFOLK COMMUNITY LAW SERVICE

Women's Debt Advice Service

Are you:

- **Regularly worrying about money?**
- **Struggling to pay your household bills?**
- **Relying on your overdraft or credit card to get by?**
- **Missing repayments?**
- **Avoiding letters and calls from your creditors?**

If so, we can help. We have telephone advice appointments available with a female debt advisor.

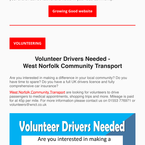
For more information or to arrange an appointment, call us on 01603 881244 or email debt@ncls.co.uk.

When contacting us, please let us know that you would like to access the Women's Debt Service.

All our advice is free, confidential and independent.

We are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority Ref. No. 525000

RESOURCES



The Growing Good Toolkit is a FREE six session course helping churches explore the connection between social action, discipleship and growth. Throughout the course, participants are encouraged to explore how your church can be faithful and fruitful in your local community.

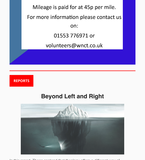
Growing Good website

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Drivers Needed - West Norfolk Community Transport

Are you interested in making a difference in your local community? Do you have time to spare? Do you have a full UK drivers licence and fully comprehensive car insurance?

We are looking for Volunteers to drive your passengers to medical appointments, shopping trips and more. Mileage is paid for at 45p per mile. For more information please contact us on 01553 776971 or volunteers@wnct.co.uk



REPORTS

Beyond Left and Right

In this report, 'These content that theology offers a different way of organising society, based on the ideals of love, mutuality, and the common good, in contrast to between political and social patterns that have typically been all odds. (DCF)

Read the report

Living Theology Forum

The Living Theology Forum is a dynamic meeting place for sharing ideas and conversations about faith, life, and the common good in the areas of economics, finance, and hospitality.

Visit the forum

FUNDING

Norfolk Household Support Fund

If you deliver vital food aid to people in your community, your church could benefit from the Norfolk Community Foundation. The Fund entitles you to £50 per household in either grants payable to your organisation to deliver food aid or Edenred grocery vouchers.

Find out more

Funding News

Grants for Norfolk churches

The Cinnamon Network is still offering £2000 grants specifically to churches in the Norfolk area to start a new Cinnamon recommended project. The list of possibilities is long, including job clubs, support for ex-offenders, houses for the homeless and much more.

View list of recommended projects

Apply for funding

LET'S TALK...

I would love to hear from you to discuss any of the following things:

- How you are getting involved in your local community, and any good news stories about the difference this is making
- Events you are running, which welcome the local community
- If you would like me to visit your church, church meeting or group
- Anything you would find useful in future editions of this letter
- Just to say hello!

Andrew Frere-Smith
t: 07949 964932
e: andrew.frere-smith@dioceseofnorwich.org

Imagine Norfolk Together is a partnership between the Diocese of Norwich and the Church Urban Fund. We support local churches creating stronger communities through social action.

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