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Welcome to the September 2021 edition of Imagine Norfolk Together's news and prayer letter (Great Yarmouth).

This newsletter is produced to share how local churches are at work in the community, and to provide you with resources which will help you in your own community ventures.

As always I would love to hear from you. Please ring me on 07471 357072 or email me at anna.heydon@togethernorfolk.org.uk

Anna Heydon

Spotlight on...

Interview with Hannah Ashpole

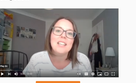
Magpies is a new parent / carer and toddler group which will be co-led by Matt and Hannah Ashpole from St Mary Magdalene Church in Gorleston. As we followed 2 year old Emmaus Ashpole round the house as she pushed a small pink pushchair, Hannah chatted to me a bit about their plans. Read the interview here

Read my interview with Hannah

Follow Magpies on Facebook

Acts 435 Norfolk Webinar

Last month Katie Greene from Acts 435 kindly led a webinar for people from churches and groups in Norfolk to find out more about Acts 435 and how it can help by directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of their help. You can watch the webinar recording by clicking below.



Watch webinar

Book Review

The Gift of Years - Joan Chittister

I was drawn to this book as I found out more about the role of Anna Chaplains amongst older people. However, as I read the book I was challenged to think about not only the process of aging, but about my attitude to life itself…

Read book review

Resources

Growing Good

The Growing Good Toolkit is a FREE six session course helping churches explore the connection between social action, discipleship and growth. Through six flexible, interactive small group sessions, we explore how our churches can be faithful and fruitful in our local communities.

I would be delighted to help any church in the Great Yarmouth Borough which is interested by organising and / or facilitating this course.

Find out more about Growing Good

Discuss running the course locally

Toolkit for Supporting Afghan Refugees

The Church of England has produced a toolkit to help Christians in responding effectively and appropriately to support refugees from Afghanistan. One of the things I really like about what they have produced is that it is useful for helping us to respond even if we don't have many refugees moving into our area (as tends to be the case here).

Access the resources

Funding

The Churches of any denomination across the country can currently apply for a £2000 grant 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, and Cinnamon projects are all designed to be easily replicable.

View list of Cinnamon Recommended Projects

Apply for funding

Reports

Restoring Social Confidence

A new report, "***Restoring Social Confidence: Lessons from faith-led social action during the COVID-19 pandemic***", has been produced by the think tank *Common Vision* from an analysis of Near Neighbours' work with faith groups and community organisations during the lockdown. You will see that the report captures the sadly familiar stories of grief, hunger, isolation, exclusion and domestic violence, but also shines a light on the distinctive contribution of faith-based social action during this time.

Read report

Left Behind Areas Report (OCSI)

The Community Needs Index focuses on the social and cultural factors that can contribute to poorer life outcomes in communities. This gives a different perspective to more economically based measures of local need.

This report suggests that deprived areas, when combined with the absence of places to meet, the lack of an engaged community and poor connectivity, fare worse than other deprived areas. These issues are common in coastal areas including in our own borough.

Find out more and access report

Anna Chaplaincy Impact Report 2021

I mentioned in my last email about the growing interest in Anna Chaplaincy across the county. You can read more about Anna Chaplaincy nationwide in their 2021 Impact report.

Read the report

Events

18th October - Anti-Slavery Day

18th October is Anti-Slavery day, and also the day on which this mural goes up in Great Yarmouth! Comissioned by Park Baptist Church and Imagine Norfolk Together, the mural is intended to raise awareness of the widespread presence of slavery in every community, and alert people about how to recognise it and how to respond. Great Yarmouth library will also be hosting a display of books related to the subject of slavery, more information and people to answer questions.

Contact me to find out more about the event or how you could help

Find out more about modern slavery and how to spot the signs

#DO5THINGS

5 ways to respond to this newsletter:

Follow Magpies on Facebook

Read 'Left Behind Areas' report

Watch Acts 435 Webinar

Apply for funding to start a Cinnamon project

Find out more about Growing Good

Let's talk about...

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

- How you are getting involved in your local community, and good news stories about the difference this is making.
- Events or groups you are running for the benefit of the local community or which equip for community engagement
- If you would like me to visit your church, church meeting or group
- Anything you would find useful in future editions of this letter

You can email me at anna.heydon@togethernorfolk.org.uk

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