

Report from Chairman

Transforming Norwich Annual General Meeting – July 2017

Transforming Norwich has continued to deliver regular activities and events throughout 2016/17, and the work of this past year has been summarised below.

Transforming Norwich aspires to help equip, encourage, and empower by:

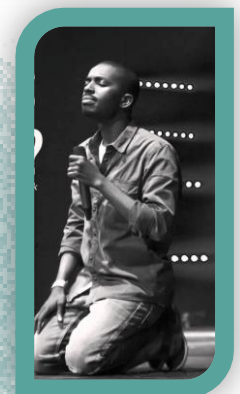
- Facilitating and encouraging the process of churches in Norwich growing together in worship, witness, service and evangelism.
- Assisting and encouraging churches in a variety of areas including evangelism and social action.
- Being a voice for all the churches and provide an effective communication network.

Ministers Together Lunches

Ministers Together Lunches have continued to take place on the first Wednesday of each month providing the opportunity for Ministers and Ministry leaders to get together, be strengthened and encouraged and to demonstrate unity and love for each other over sharing lunch and an informal time together.

At the monthly meetings we have heard from key note national and local speakers including;

- Toby Skipper, Kings Community Church - September 2016
- Catherine Hutton, Chapelfield Road Methodist Church - October 2016
- Prayer and worship hosted at Norwich Central Baptist Church - November 2016
- Bishop David Carr hosted at Alive House spoke on the pursuit of 'oneness' (John 17v21) - December 2016
- Madeline Light, St Stephens Church hosted at St Margaret's Old Catton - January 2017
- Julian Bryant, Christian Aid hosted at Alive Cowgate - February 2017
- Steve Uppal, All Nations Christian Centre hosted at St Cuthbert's Sprowston challenged us to consider what we are contending for - March 2017
- John Betts, Celebrate Director hosted at Princes Street URC - April 2017
- James Aladiran, Prayer Storm hosted at House of Prayer shared about the power of prayer particularly in the secret place (Mark 1 v35) - May 2017
- Toby Skipper, King Community Church hosted at SOUL Church - June 2017



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Prayer

A team from Transforming Norwich supported Jill Gower from Call to Prayer to help organise the **Global Day of Prayer** at Norwich Cathedral where a few hundred people gathered to join millions of Christians across the world praying together in June 2017.

This year the focus of prayer was around the 7 pillars of society, and there were two breakout times for people to spend time at prayer stations. The 7 pillars of society were; family and community; civic authorities; health; education; business and commerce; media and arts; church and ministries.

We also have regular prayer events, including **Transforming the Atmosphere** which meets monthly at House of Prayer, and **REVIVE** monthly prayer meetings meeting at Alive House. These times have provided the opportunity to come together to pray specifically for the City and County.



Mission and Social

Transforming Norwich continues to give support to both **Celebrate** (annual event which takes place in Norwich and Kings Lynn to celebrate, demonstrate and communicate the work of the Norfolk Christian Community), and also **Network Norfolk** (which provides a communication platform for churches, ministries and organisations to share about their work across the County).

At Celebrate in June 2017 Transforming Norwich supported Charities ENYP and Hope into Action to take part in the Norfolk feeding 5000 initiative. The Charities provided food - croissants, smoothies, soup, milkshakes, bread, banana bread, and fresh fruit and vegetable picnic project bags - and fed over 1200 people in 4 hours during the Celebrate event! The simple act of demonstrating love through the provision of free food led to some amazing conversations and the opportunity to share God's love and reach out and engage with people in a practical way.



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INCREASE Youth Conference

In November 2016 ENYP, Norwich Youth for Christ and Transforming Norwich hosted INCREASE - a youth conference designed for youth leaders and volunteers to be equipped and explore evangelism in order to 'increase' God's Kingdom.

Over 120 delegates during the two days heard from key note and seminar speakers, both national and local, including: Sam Ward (Message Trust), Matt Summerfield (Urban Saints), Dr Kate Middleton (Mind and Soul), Phil Timson (Hope Revolution), and Bethany MacDonald (The Naked Truth Project). The conference explored key topics including emotional health and wellbeing, pornography, the changing nature of schools work, discipleship, the challenge of youth ministry, calling and purpose, and evangelism.

Danny Doran-Smith, ENYP Director and Chair of Transforming Norwich said, "Increase was our first youth conference in the City, and one which we will build on next year. The opportunity to unite together to deliver this with Norwich Youth for Christ was a privilege, and we know that in unity God commands a blessing. We've received some great feedback about the conference and look forward to planning next year's conference. May the next season be a great season of multiplication in God's Kingdom".

Nick Blanch, Director of Norwich Youth for Christ shared; "What a powerful couple of days! We had some incredible talks and seminars that were challenging, filled with inspiration and gave practical wisdom in the ministry of young people. I believe it was also highly significant that we came together as a united group of people in prayer and worship to cheer each other on and pray for the young people of Norfolk - I look forward to what comes next!"



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Chairman's summary

After the Annual General Meeting in 2016 the Executive Team took the opportunity to meet together on 18th July 2016 to pray over the City and consider the year ahead for Transforming Norwich and the events we would support and lead on.

In the past year we have seen relational unity strengthened through the Ministers Together Lunches and numbers attending these have increased. We have also taken the opportunity to welcome new Ministers into the City and encourage them as they serve in their roles. The locations of the Lunches have been moved throughout the year - thank you if you have hosted we have appreciated the opportunity to visit different churches and the hospitality that you have provided. We welcomed national speakers as well as local speakers to share with Ministers at these Lunches which we hope has been an encouragement to you.

As you will have seen from this report Transforming Norwich has also had the opportunity to be part of prayer, mission and evangelistic events throughout the year to see God's Kingdom advance.

Thank you for the support you have given to Transforming Norwich over the past year both as individuals and as churches/ministries.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you in this next season.

Danny Doran-Smith
Chair of Transforming Norwich