



Churches Together in King's Lynn newsletter March 2023.

In the opening prayers for the executive of Churches Together in King's Lynn **Revd Karlene Kerr**, the moderator, prayed that **Jesus would show himself to us** and lead us in our work for Churches in King's Lynn.

Karlene described to the group the vision of the transfiguration which she had experienced in the past. The experience was of a loving and beautiful being. The memory of this never fades, she said. Another executive member said that her husband had also seen a similar vision and **Brendan Mooney, the Chaplain from Tapping House**, had met patients near the end of life who had experienced similar visions.

Revd Brendan Mooney has worked as the hospice chaplain at the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House for the past 2 months. Brendan previously worked as a social worker and with the NSPCC in the Southwark area of London. He then trained as a psychotherapist before undertaking a Master's degree in Theology. He is a member of the Episcopal Church which is governed by an Archbishop and has members with diverse involvement.

Brendan's hospice work involves the care of everyone, not exclusively Christians. Brendan supports patients and their families who are facing the end of life and helps them to find meaning and spirituality in their lives. He also supports staff who find the work challenging, particularly when there is the death of a younger person.

The hospice runs 8 in-patient beds, a 24-hour help line, hospice at home and outpatient support services including bereavement support. It is important for those facing death that the hospice engages and interacts with the community because there is a community dimension to death. All churches have members who are experiencing life threatening illnesses and who need support. **Brendan would be pleased to talk in your church** about the need for community support at the end of life and the services offered by Tapping House.

Brendan kindly agreed that the executive could host a public meeting at the London Rd Methodist Church in June 2023 at which Brendan would speak about '**Psychospiritual Care at the End of Life**'. Peter emailed Jan McQuade of the Methodist Church **and it was agreed that the meeting would be held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 starting at 7.30pm.**

The Food Hub: Andrew Frere-Smith is co-ordinating this project to start a food shop with low prices for the people of the North Lynn Estate. The shop will be based at **4 Walpole Rd, King's Lynn PE30 2DZ**. The first meeting of about 8 volunteers was hosted by Andrew at The Discovery Centre on Columbia Way on Monday 6th March. Andrew is waiting for the

Freebridge team to convert the flat on the ground floor at 4 Walpole Rd. into a shop premises. Locally sourced food will then be sold there at reduced prices. If you would like to volunteer you can email Andrew at andrew.frere-smith@dioceseofnorwich.org or look at the Nourishing Norfolk Network website <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com>

Celebrate: Olivia O'Neill is co-ordinating this free family fun day which will take place on **Saturday 22nd July 2023** on the Walks between 12noon and 5pm provided that the £5000 can be raised to fund it. To date, Olivia has £1,200. If your church would like to take part, please email Olivia on oliviakingslynn@gmail.com
Olivia has been offered £5000 by the Passion Play Trust to organise a Passion Play in King's Lynn in 2024.

Foodbank: The Foodbank, unfortunately, continues to be busy and the coming months will be an interesting time for us: energy prices are a key driver for people needing help from the Foodbank, and there remains uncertainty as to what the government will do in the coming weeks. Council Tax is also due to increase by an average of 5% in April which will also have a big impact on the people who need our help.

On the positive side, the new community supermarkets that are due to open up in both North and South Lynn will hopefully decrease the burden on us at the Foodbank. This would be very welcome as food stocks of particular items are running perilously low (especially tinned fruit and small bottles of squash, but also tinned meat, tinned fish and pasta sauce). We have good funds to purchase items, but bulk buying is not as easy as it would first appear as supermarkets don't like bulk purchases which disrupt the supply chains and 'Cash and Carry' purchases are more expensive than supermarkets.

At the end of January, we appointed an Operations Coordinator who is learning the ropes in the Distribution Centre, and this is enabling me to begin to get out and about more. In the last month I've had interesting meetings with the council and also continued the hunt for new Distribution Centre premises continues. Life is busy!

We would very much welcome your prayer support in the following areas: Prayers for clear and quick food purchasing pathways. Prayers for more opportunities to raise awareness of the work of the Foodbank and the causes of poverty. Prayers for more suitable premises. Prayers for the continued wellbeing of staff and volunteers.

Thank you all for your support. Kind regards **Helen Gilbert, Project Manager.**
helen@kingslynn.foodbank.org.uk

Debt Centre: I am pleased to announce the appointment of a **new Debt Centre Manager**. The successful candidate is **Steve Lofts from the King's Lynn Christian fellowship**. He will start the centre manager and debt coach training this month and should be seeing clients by the end of April. The addition of a debt coach that can drive, means that we can resume a CAP service to a broader catchment area.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to severely impact our clients' Mental and Physical health. I have many single parents on my caseload, and the stress of surviving on such a small budget is intolerable for most of them.

"Universal credit has been underpaid for so long that it is impossible for people to survive on the amount they receive when prices are going up all the time." Helen Gilbert King's Lynn Foodbank

Another challenge for some of our clients in social housing is inadequate flooring. Some rooms have no floor covering, adding to the cost of heating their homes. All charities have experienced a financial shortfall during the cost-of-living crisis, please pray that God will provide for all CAP services across the nation. Kind regards **Laura Joslin Debt Coach-King's Lynn Christians Against Poverty** laurajoslin@capuk.org Mob: 07984962625.

Night Shelter: The shelter has housed 21 guests so far this season. There have been 4 positive 'move on' cases, 21% of the total. There have been 161 visitors at the door so far this season and this compares to 197 in the whole of last year's work. Of the 161 coming to the door, 39 have completed referral forms.

The Night Shelter has recently secured a £30,000 donation from the Mercers and we continue to talk to the Borough Council about funding issues. The Trustees of the Anne French Memorial Trust have awarded a grant of £5000 to the shelter.

Any person wishing to volunteer, donate or support the shelter can email Lucy at nightshelter.steering@gmail.com

The United for Warm Homes Campaign is being run by **Friends of the Earth** <https://unitedforwarmhomes.uk/> and supported by **KLimite Concern**, led by **Daphne Sampson**. Following a meeting at the Gaywood Library on 20th February 2023 the group are working to raise awareness and funds to progress the work of reducing carbon emissions from home heating locally. Figures produced in 2019 showed 16.6% of households were in fuel poverty in West Norfolk and this rose to 30.4% in the Gaywood Clock area.

The group organised a High Street collection in King's Lynn on Saturday 11th March and a petition signing on the High Street on 18th March. The group are also organising a round table discussion on Monday 3rd April from 1-2pm at the Friend's Meeting House, Bridge St. If you would like to contribute you can email Daphne on daphne.sampson@btinternet.com

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Peter Coates (secretary) <https://petercoates.ampbk.com/>  
18/03/23