



Park Life

March 2020

Welcome!

If you've just walked into our church for the first time then a special 'hello' to you!

This month at Park we're continuing our series that takes a fresh look at some familiar Bible stories from Genesis. We've also launched our new 'Connect Groups' which are meeting in various homes across the town during the week. The purpose of these is to draw closer to Jesus and increase our dependence upon him.

We are a multinational church that holds services in English and Portuguese.

Our services are intentionally informal, so feel free to participate in as much or as little as feels comfortable.

Junior Church is held downstairs in the hall. Volunteers are DBS checked and will accompany the children down at the appropriate time in the service.

We have a prayer team who are also available to pray with you should you wish. You can spot them wearing a yellow badge.

You are also invited to join us afterwards for free tea, coffee, biscuits (and sometimes cake!) as we get to know each other better.

Please note there is no joint service at St. George's Theatre this month.

For more information on who we are and what we do please check out our website:
www.parkbaptist.church

Coming up on Sundays @ Park

8th March	Stories Worth Telling: Abraham & Isaac - Genesis 22:1-18
15th March	Stories Worth Telling: Isaac's Blessing - Genesis 27:1-29 (<i>Communion</i>)
22nd March	Stories Worth Telling: Jacob Wrestles God - Genesis 32:22-32
29th March	Stories Worth Telling: Joseph Sold Into Slavery - Genesis 37
5th April	Palm Sunday - Luke 19:28-44
12th April	EASTER SUNDAY - JOINT SERVICE AT ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE

Diary of a volunteer youth leader...

by Louise Lyle



Why do we volunteer? It's a question I find myself asking when I'm asked to do a job that scares me. It happened again just before I set off for an outdoor weekend last month, entitled *Kairos 2020* with the GY Youth For Christ team. Led by Ali Roberts and our own Amilcar, a dozen young people headed to The Kingswood Centre at West Runton, just past Cromer. There we met up with two other YFC groups and their youngsters, making 31 excitable teenagers and nine adult helpers more worried about the impending arrival of Storm Dennis.

After finding our rooms and enjoying a good dinner we had our first session about the Love of God - very appropriate, since it was Valentine's Day. Worship was led by The Sense, together with the YFC leaders, and we had a mix of worship songs, dance, ice-breaker games and teaching. The Holy Spirit really touched me; it happened when the young people were drawing heads, hearts and hands (to signify our thoughts, feelings and actions). I have shared previously about my struggle with throwing things away and I received a picture from God about Him being everything I needed; If He's everything I need then why do I need to keep things? Wow! It really hit me; first, one tear, quickly wiped away, and then a flood of them. So I slipped out unnoticed and sat on the step outside to gather myself. I have been strengthened for the task of decluttering since then. Thanks be to God.

On Saturday we had a number of indoor sessions, with The Sense leading a variety of styles of worship, and outdoor activities, one of which was zip lining. Now, normally I am scared of heights, but since my trip to Costa Rica in December where I tried zip lining and became terrified, God has subdued my fears so much that I actually enjoyed it this time!

The evening session was supposed to be around a camp fire, but Storm Dennis had other ideas and blew the camp fire away, so the organisers took us on a walk along the cliff path. Thanks to people's prayers for protection, nobody was blown over the cliff edge, and it was only me who slipped and fell in the mud! However, this gave me an excuse to return to base, have a hot shower and have an early night. Another blessing.

Sunday morning saw heavy rain at 07.30 and we all had the same thought: "we can't go outside in this!" We met for prayer, and Ali prayed that the rain would have stopped by 09.00, when the outside activities were due to begin. Yay, it did stop. Blessing after blessing. To top it all, several of our youngsters made a commitment to follow Jesus, and some prayed a re-commitment. Two prayed that they would find a church to go to. The Holy Spirit was definitely with us all, for whole weekend.

I have to give all the honour to Him, and I am so pleased I volunteered to go and help and be a small part in God's Great Plan. Please continue to pray for the work of Youth For Christ in our town, especially the young people that responded to Jesus during Kairos 2020.





WHO CARES?

People for Prayer

Please pray for the following people this month:

- **Martin Frisby** as he recovers from his chemotherapy treatment and awaits news on the next steps.

- **Sandra Grey** and **Brenda Berry** as they continue their recover from recent operations.

- **Maxine & John Corrigan** as they prepare to move to North Walsham.

- For our new **Connect Groups** starting this month.

On **Tuesday 17th March, 7.30pm at Kingsgate Church**, a vision evening will be taking place to launch 'Who Cares East Coast', a local mission initiative for churches across the area.

The evening is being introduced by Sandy Millar, former Vicar at Holy Trinity Brompton, and Who Cares? founder Rob Tervet will explain the vision behind the initiative and how it provides a framework for mission in a local area.

The mission provide a way for lots of churches to get together to share the gospel of Jesus by asking the question "what hurts the most?"

We took part in this around 6 years ago, when it first launched and the results helped shape our approach to mission. All are invited to come and hear how we can get involved once more.

Delving into the Old Testament

Lessie Keenan reflects on what she learned from the recent Bible study course held at church

During February I had the privilege of going to a weekly Bible study (although unfortunately I missed the first week!)

The three weeks I did attend I found very interesting. It was a very relaxed atmosphere and any questions could be asked, without folk who asked them feeling silly. We sat around tables in groups of our choice each week and talked about different parts of the Old Testament, with Peter leading from the front and introducing the weekly theme.

The first week I attended was called 'Mapping the Old Testament; God, Israel and Land.'

As a person who, to be honest, read some of the Old Testament from obedience, rather than interest, this has sparked more than a passing interest. We were given print outs of various maps, but the one that really helped me personally was 'Travelling Through the Old Testament'; a time line of all the books of the Bible and what was happening in the story of Israel, from Genesis through to the exile and eventual return to Jerusalem.

The next week we talked about promises and covenants in both Testaments and how that them runs through the Bible. The final week we discussed Psalm 23 and different approaches to reading the Bible. Once again I was challenged about the differences between how I have always perceived it, what the text actually says on its own and reading it from the perspective of the author.

A very blessed three weeks! If anyone finds difficulty with any of the above, or whose interest has been sparked by what I have said, I would encourage you to ask Peter for the accompanying booklet.

I am already excited about next term's Bible Study. If you didn't get to this one I would encourage you to 'taste and see' for yourself?

Connect Groups



**CONNECT
GROUPS**

'Connect Groups' are replacing the existing House Group network in an effort to refocus our effectiveness in growing as disciples of Jesus. Here's all you need to know...

From March our new Connect Groups will start meeting at various times and places throughout the week. Here's the current list of groups being launched from week beginning 2nd March:

Day	Venue	Host	Group Facilitator
Tuesday, 7.30pm	Central GY	Pat Hillier	Nigel Parrott
Tuesday, 7.30pm	Ormesby	Su Robinson	Claire Hamilton-Deane
Wednesday, 7.30pm	Caister	Brian & Marilyn	Claire Timothy
Thursday, 11am	Central GY	Sandra Grey	Lessie & Richard
Thursday, 7.30pm	Bradwell (Men's Group)	Nick Symeou	Peter Timothy
Friday, 3pm	Central GY	Pat & Andy	Pat & Megan

The key purpose of the groups is to seek God's presence together so that we may be renewed by the Spirit. It is hoped that these might become places of encounter with God so that we might be made more like Jesus and grow in our faith. It is also hoped that this will help deepen our relationships with each other so that we might help and support one another better as we face the ups and downs of life.

Meetings will entail a variety of things; from times of prayer and waiting on God, to Bible studies, social time and space to practice/develop the gifts of the Spirit.

On **Friday 3rd April, 7pm** our regular joint prayer meeting will be devoted to a celebration evening in church to worship, pray together and share the highlights of what God has been doing in each group.

Prayer Meetings

Our current weekly prayer meeting on a Thursday has now changed. We will instead be meeting as a whole church for an informal time of worship, prayer and fellowship on the first Friday of the month, 7-8pm.

Our intercessors team will continue to meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 7.30pm.

The prayer room will be open on the first and third Thursdays, 7.30pm, to provide an optional place for Connect Group leaders to come, receive from God and be recharged/renewed.

