

AUTUMN 2019

IGNITE

SPARKING PASSION FOR THE GOSPEL
ACROSS THE UK



THE HEAT IS ON!

A LOOK BACK AT COUNTIES DAY 2019



ALSO FROM NOTTINGHAM TO ITALY - FAST FOOD & JESUS
CONNECTING WITH MUSLIMS - LESSONS FROM A GERMAN CHURCH PLANTER

WELCOME TO IGNITE

The world is shrinking. Technology, travel and social media have all contributed to the reality that we now live in a global village. Nowhere is that better illustrated than in this edition of Ignite!

Three stories demonstrate that mission is 'from everywhere to everywhere,' and remind us of the power of the Gospel to save and transform lives.

- A 'chance' encounter at the all-new Counties Day in June thrilled us as we discovered the story of Giovanni and Hannah, missionaries in Italy with a Counties connection. Read about it on page 12;
- On page 16, Dietrich Schindler, the keynote speaker at our Church Planting conference next February, shares his story and helps us explore parallels with the UK from his experiences in Germany;
- Julian Gutteridge helps us think through how to share the Good News with our Muslim neighbours on page 20.

Counties commitment is to make Jesus known across the UK, but I hope that Ignite will encourage you to believe that your commitment to the Gospel in your community, and your partnership with us has global significance!

Martin Erwin,
CEO Counties



Counties exists to make Jesus known across the UK through our evangelists, exhibitions and resources, in biblically faithful and culturally relevant ways.

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Every additional contribution will help us continue in our mission.

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10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 4 News in brief
- 6 Christmas planning ideas
- 10 Picture special of Counties Family Day
- 12 Life stories from Nottingham to Italy
- 16 Meet the German church planter
- 20 Bible teaching: Connecting with Muslims
- 26 Just a minute with Heather Scorah



16



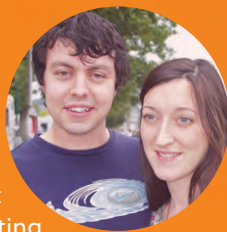
16

FAST FOOD & JESUS

A burger, fries and a conversation about the Bible are on the menu in North Devon where local evangelist Dave Symons is reaching out to young adults.

Over the last nine months, Dave (pictured top right) has been discipling a group of young adults (18-30 year olds) in the local McDonalds. A combination of Bible study, prayer and food have helped to make this group a success. Dave explains: "The 18-30 age group are often called 'the missing generation' in many of our churches. However, rarely is much organised that is aimed at reaching this important age

bracket."Over the last year I have been meeting with seven young adults for a Bible study in McDonalds. It's been great to look at God's word, pray together and see how everyone in the group has been growing their faith."After speaking to another Counties evangelist, Rob Watson, who has done work amongst this age group in Wirral, Dave and a local youth worker now plan to begin a breakfast Bible study group, aiming to help disciple 12 young adults.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

COUNTIES FAMILY DAY 2020

Saturday 27 June 2020

Tom Roberts Adventure Centre,
Newent, Gloucestershire

COUNTIES FAMILY & SUPPORTERS WEEKEND

Friday 30 October to
Sunday 1 November 2020

Daventry Court Hotel,
Bedfordshire

GET THE HELP YOU NEED TO PLANT A CHURCH

Are you thinking of planting a church or re-planting an existing one? Then a training event in September might be just what you need to start your journey. The M4 training process provides assessment, training and

coaching for church planting teams in the UK. The first event takes place **27 and 28 September** in Cinderford, Forest of Dean.

For more details email
cracknell@countiesuk.org

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

An outreach event to attract more men to church has been growing over the last few months in Devon. Steve Ellacott, Counties Associate evangelist in Devon, says: "Our monthly 'Who Let The Dads Out' has been growing over the last few months. There have been several sessions where we have had over 20 kids and over a dozen dads.

I discovered that if I sit on the floor playing with the toys and building bricks, the tots will come to me and join in, even the timid ones. "This establishes a bond of acceptance; so that on following visits they seek me out to play and do the crafts. This approach also helps in breaking the ice with the dads, as they join in."

REACHING FAMILIES ON THE BEACHES OF SOUTHWOLD

Counties evangelists Andrew and Rachel Mugford have been helping to lead a beach mission to reach families in Southwold. Churches across Sole Bay put on a youth event and a beach mission to help build relationships with local children and their families.

The programme included crafts, music, indoor football, drama and the opportunity for a trip up the bell tower. Since the event, a family bbq has been held and assemblies have been taken by church volunteers in the local schools.

UNUSUAL IDEAS FOR YOUR CHURCH TO REACH THE COMMUNITY THIS CHRISTMAS



Christmas may still seem a long way off, but planning will be well underway for many churches across the UK this month. The festive period is often the busiest time for churches with many non-Christians attending Christmas services, nativity plays and carol concerts.

Ignite takes a look at some of the more unusual ways Counties evangelists have been sharing the real reason for the season with their communities.

1 A 'SHEEP TRAIL' ACROSS A TOWN

Counties Associate Janet Hawking has been involved in a successful sheep trail in her home town in Pembrokeshire and believes any village or town could replicate the idea.

Janet shares: "We made lots of knitted sheep and asked if the local shops would display one and choose its name. Then we created a 'Sheep Trail' form and placed this in the local leisure centre and school around the end of November.

"Children and their families then had to visit the various locations and write the sheep's name on the trail form. We

included the Christmas story and an invite to our Christmas Celebration at church. All those who filled the forms in were asked to hand them in and a winner in each age group was awarded a special gift at the carol service.

"It has proved really popular. Businesses were pleased as extra people visited their shops and some have even asked for it next year. It also involved the children, so extra families came to the church celebration to receive the gifts."

For sample Sheep Trail forms search www.messychurch.org.uk

2 FAIRY TALE OF NEW YORK CAFÉ-STYLE EVENT

One of the most popular pop songs which gets played over and over during the festive period is The Pogues 'Fairy Tale of New York' song. Bath evangelist Craig Dowling spotted the potential of tapping into this and connecting the song to the Christian message. He has run six café-style events, from Scotland, London and Bath, where the song is listened to and discussions around its meaning and Christianity are held.

Craig explains: "A few Christmas' ago, as I looked at the current direction of the country, with its unsteadiness, the questions people have and how they generally feel, I knew I needed to find something very, very different to chat with people about at Christmas time, particularly for the many people who no longer connect Christmas with the church.

"As I researched an idea, I noticed that the 80s song from The Pogues - 'Fairytale of New York' - was still so popular with people all over the country, indeed it is still in the top five most listened to Christmas songs.

'However, when you break the song down and listen to it, you can see why it is so close to people's hearts. It tells of people going into life expecting everything, only to lose it all and have nothing, all based around Christmas time.

"So, my big idea was to run a café style coffee/ wine/ food event to explore this song. If I have the right people, we get a band to play it. There is an Irish vibe to the song, and sometimes we do some fun Irish dancing. We watch the music video and as the song has humour in it, and is so loved, it always turns out to be a very enjoyable event. It has worked really well every time and has been well received everywhere."

If you are interested in running a similar event, contact Craig for more details and advice: dowling@countiesuk.org



THE TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN COUNTIES AS AN EVANGELIST

Trainee evangelists Craig and Georgie Dowling and Paul and Laura Davies have successfully completed Counties Evangelists Training Programme and are now full-time members of the team.

Paul and Laura will remain focused in the South Wales area, carrying out extensive work in schools, local church ministry and beach missions.

Ignite catches up with Craig and Georgie to find out more about their plans for the future and what's so special about joining Counties.

- 1 Counties is very family focussed**
This is much needed as we serve God
- 2 Life time support**
Counties offers support for life time ministry
- 3 Opportunities**
Counties helps you see where your skills and abilities can be used to serve God most effectively
- 4 Open doors**
Counties puts you in contact with places to go, where you can best serve God
- 5 Prayer**
Counties commits to praying for us as a family, even asking for specific prayers for my children, which is amazing!

CRAIG'S TOP 5 REASONS



Welcome to Counties, where are you based? We currently live in Bath, with our two young children, but we are relocating to Ross-on-Wye in December and would value support and prayer for the move. We will be involved in one of the first M4 Church Planting initiatives, where we will lead the team at Henry Street Evangelical Church. We will work in close contact with Tim Cracknell as a Mentor and Forest Community Church, Cinderford.

What has been your experience of training with Counties? We have learnt deep, wonderful, and fantastic joy of vision, God's vision for His Church. I have been able to learn how to do vision, teach vision, grow vision. And I have done all this at my current church in Bath where I have been fully supported with great teaching and mentoring.

What is your area of ministry?

We have two areas of focus. First, we are focussed on Church Planting and Church Renewal, and helping churches discover their vision, do vision, and grow vision. Alongside that, we are extremely passionate about the poor, deprived, homeless and addicted, and the communities where they live. Often the two go hand in hand.

How will Counties help you in this work?

Counties has already shown me the places and areas to look at, they have arranged conversations and visits to allow time to explore where this ministry should happen. They have been a great help in seeing where God is guiding us to do such work.

READY TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

19-year-old Lizzie Bell joins Counties this month at the start of its new TEAM training programme, aimed at 18-30 year olds.

Lizzie, from Ross on Wye, will join fellow intern Tom Binding, to embark on a year of training and placements as part of TEAM from Counties in association with First Serve.

TEAM (which stands for Training in Evangelism and Mission) is aimed at helping students explore and develop their gifts, steering them towards ministry in their local church, or beyond.

Lizzie said: "I completed sixth form, and then did the First Serve Gap year programme. I have joined TEAM as currently I feel called to ministry in the UK, and I think this programme will give me great experience and training.

"I would love to be involved in Christian ministry in the future but at the minute I have no fixed idea of what exactly I want to do. I feel this year will help with this, as it will not only give me experience in Christian ministry, but I hope it will give me more of an idea about what I want to do."

Lizzie grew up in a Christian family and has always believed in God. She shares: "I have always known of God's love for

me and that Jesus died to save me. I first gave my life to Christ when I was four years old, and though I never really strayed, I don't feel my relationship with God became truly personal until I went to Soul Survivor when I was 14 and encountered God in a very new and exciting way.

"Since then it has been a journey of discovering God and continuing to delve deeper into His love and grace. I have become very passionate about serving God in a practical way, and although it isn't always easy, I am loving the opportunities such as this one which have arisen.

"I am so excited about the design of this TEAM programme and I can't wait to get started. To anyone else my age considering the TEAM programme, I would say it looks set to be a life-changing experience, and that if you feel this may be something God is calling you to do, keep praying and keep pushing the doors."

For more details about TEAM contact allison.smith@countiesuk.org or call 01373 823013.





HUNDREDS ENJOY THE HEAT AT COUNTIES FAMILY DAY

More than 700 people joined Counties at its annual event to bring together families, supporters, evangelists and staff to celebrate its work.

Temperatures soared as people gathered at the Tom Roberts Adventure Centre in Newent, Gloucestershire for the one-day event. Many non-Christian families came along for the day of fun activities, food, talks, worship and workshops.



As a parent I thought it was a very successful event. My daughter accessed lots of the activities and really enjoyed getting to know some of the team members. There was a great sense of freedom, but also it felt very safe.



Thanks for inviting me to help out at the best Counties day yet!



I thought the whole day was brill... what a Counties team.



FROM A COUNTIES CAMP IN NOTTINGHAM TO REACHING THE LOST IN ITALY

One missionary shares her amazing journey

An encounter at a Counties Christian camp over 25 years ago led a young girl to Jesus and inspired her to reach the people of Italy with the Gospel.

Hannah Donato was just 11 years old when she went to the Nottingham Christian Youth Holiday Camp, led by John Wilkes (Counties trustee, former CEO and former Counties evangelist) and Steve Parry (former GSUS Live Coordinator) with Counties evangelist, Bob Telford, leading the main talk.

And now Hannah, with her husband Giovanni and three children, is a

full-time missionary in Siena, Italy, working with Echoes International. She recently attended Counties Family Day, where she met Bob Telford and shared her story.

Hannah explained:

"Although I went to church as a child with my mum and grandparents, I had never personally put my trust in Jesus for my own salvation. That year at the Nottingham camp I was asking some pretty difficult questions to God because of a painful situation



I was facing in my family - my parent's separation.

Through the talks and much counsel and support from leaders, I realised that not only could I trust God with my problems but also as my Saviour. I understood for the first-time what grace was and how God had offered me the greatest gift in Christ. My teenage years were pretty up and down with things at home not improving, but from sixth form on I really sought to live my life for God."

At the age of 18, Hannah went to Italy for the first time on a mission trip with her church youth group. During the next few years at university, Hannah says God worked in her and gave her a conviction to reach Italians in God's global mission.

In 2003, Hannah met Giovanni whilst they were both volunteering on board an Operation Mobilisation ship in Trieste, Italy. She continued: "We have been serving the Lord in Italy for the past 13 years. We live eight miles away from the city of Siena, which is a small city in Tuscany, about an hour from Florence.

"The district we live in, Monteroni d'Arbia, is made up of about 10,000 inhabitants and there is currently no evangelical church in this area. We have lived in this area for the past five years and have been intentionally trying to share the Gospel in word and deed with those around us."

Sicilian-born Giovanni was brought up in an evangelical family and at the age of 17, at a youth camp, he committed his life to Jesus.

Below: A recent English Holiday Club we ran in our village





Left: A group photo of a GBU Leaders Training Weekend

Below: A birds eye view of our GBU Bible Studies



He said:

"From that day my life changed completely, fear of death was gone, the joy of salvation filled my heart and I had a strong desire to give my whole life to Jesus. Initially I thought God was calling me to Africa, but with time a strong desire grew in my heart to reach my own people in Italy."

During a two-month visit to supporters in the UK, the couple decided to visit Counties Family Day.

Hannah said: *"It was great to be there and see and taste for ourselves what Counties is currently involved in. The work of Counties has not only been fundamental in our lives on a personal level, but is also a fundamental work for the Church worldwide."*

People still need to hear the Gospel and hear it explained in a clear and relevant way which is exactly what Counties is trying to do. The Gospel is still 'the power of God that brings

salvation to those who believe' whatever immediate results we might see. Working in Italy, we don't see many immediate results, like across a lot of Europe, but we know that Jesus is still the only Saviour people need to hear about."

Counties Warwickshire evangelist Bob Telford commented: *"It was great to meet Hannah and Giovanni at the recent Counties Day. To discover that Hannah had come to Christ through*

my ministry at a youth camp years ago was a great encouragement. To know that she has been resolute about following Jesus and responsive to His call to serve, was good news and enormously heartening."

The encounter with the Donato's was a humbling reminder of what a privilege it is to preach Christ and help people come to Him."



"CHURCH PLANTING IS ALL ABOUT BREAKING INTO THE MIRACLES GOD HAS FOR US"

Dietrich Schindler certainly has plenty of experience with church planting. He has planted five churches in Germany; was the head of the evangelism and church planting department of the Evangelical Free Church of Germany, where he was tasked with helping the denomination plant 100 new churches in ten years (they saw 80 planted in that time); and is the author of several books including 'The Jesus Model: Planting Churches the Jesus Way.'

Dietrich lives in Frankfurt, Germany, with his wife Jan and will be a guest speaker at a Counties Planting Network conference next February (2020). Ignite meets Dietrich to find out more about his ministry.

So where did it all start? I am the product of German parents who emigrated to the USA and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I was born in 1958, the first of three children.

My mother was a vibrant believer, who was the spiritual motor of our family. My father was not a Christian at the time. I was raised in the Lutheran church, baptized as an infant,

MEET THE GERMAN CHURCH PLANTER

confirmed, active in Sunday School, but was not a follower of Christ.

That changed when I was 15 years old, when our Lutheran church had a young couple take over our youth group. Rick and Charlene were vibrant Christians and they took a special interest in me, loved me, spent time with me outside of our youth meetings.

At the age of twelve I was accosted and beaten up by a group of young black men. They pushed me to the ground, kicked and beat me with their fists. I was stunned and hurt, both physically and in my soul. I developed a hatred towards black people. Soon after turning 15, I attended a youth conference in a hotel in Chicago. I went for the adventure. When I got to my hotel room, I discovered to my great dismay that one of my three roommates was a black teenager, probably two years older than I was. Almost immediately something in me went dead. I thought, "either he will not survive this week, or I won't."

The black teenager turned out to be a beautiful, caring follower of Jesus. He, along with the 500 other high schoolers, combined with great teaching, won my heart. At the end of the week I wanted what they had. They had Jesus. I gave my life to Jesus and was literally transformed.

Why did you become so passionate about church planting? The passion for church planting grew during my studies at Columbia Bible College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. In my

sophomore year at Columbia, in an introduction to a missions course, the professor made one statement that turned me around. At that point I knew I was called into full time ministry and thought the Lord wanted me to become a pastor in the US.

Then came the professor's turn-around statement: "The gifts that God has given us, aren't culturally static." It took a while before what he meant sank in. The spiritual gifting determines the ministry, not the geography. If God had gifted me with the gifts of teaching, faith, and leadership, then I could actualize those gifts in any cultural setting and see fruit.

When I realized the portent of the professor's phrase, I said to the Lord, "Lord, I don't have to stay in the United States do I?" He seemed to say, "No you don't." "Where should I go?" was my response. He said, "Consider your name (no American in his right mind names his son Dietrich!), you love Germany, you speak the language, you know that the spiritual need there is much greater than in the US.

"I told Him that I would begin to prepare for a life of service in Germany unless he would close doors. The doors have always remained open.

In another class the professor challenged us to pray, think about and formulate a goal for our lives. The goal was to be something above and beyond what we could accomplish by

our own means and capacity. As a 20 year old, my life's goal became "five to grow before I go"; to plant five churches in Germany before the Lord took me home.

Later, while working on a Master's degree at Trinity I became a student of Dr. David Hesselgrave who wrote one of the first books to be published in English on church planting: *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally*. That book and Dr. Hesselgrave's teaching became fuel for my passion for church planting.

Can you talk through your first church plant? My wife and I were in our mid-twenties when we came to Germany in 1985 (along with two small children) to join a team of five missionaries who were planting a church in a suburb of Frankfurt. The church plant grew out of contacts that some of our women missionaries had with local women in their Bible

studies, and from children's work.

We tried various forms of outreach and did see some people come to Christ, but still the fruit was meager. Even in the 1980s in Germany a nominal Christian was hesitant, to the

"We learned that we lived and ministered out of the light that we had, and that God was faithful, often despite our short-comings."

point of opposition to anything that was not either Lutheran or Catholic. Cultural Christians considered evangelicals to be a sect.

We learned that our theological education did not meet the demands that church planting affords. We were trained to function as pastors, not missionaries. Therefore, our model became attractional – inviting non-Christians to come to the meetings we were having. We learned that it was very advantageous to formally align with an established German evangelical denomination. This gave us credibility in the eyes of many Germans and allowed us to tap into many good resources that the denomination offered. We learned

Below: Frankfurt today

DIETRICH'S KEY POINTS FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

- 1 **Make sure of God's calling and the integrity of your motives.**
- 2 **Find the best teaching and mentors on church planting.**
- 3 **Partake in a church planting assessment and a church planting boot camp.**
- 4 **Visit vibrant church planting ministries and learn all you can from them.**
- 5 **Do not go it alone. You need a team of humble and gifted people to see God's blessings.**

that we lived and ministered out of the light that we had, and that God was faithful, often despite our short-comings.

Do you have any words of encouragement for church planters in the UK? Surround yourself with proven church planting practitioners. One does not have to make every mistake in the book, if there are others who can guide us. Trust God, pray and fast, expecting Him to lead and bless. Church planting is all about breaking into the miracles God has for us – miracles that we will never see happen, if we do not step out in faith.

Do you think we have similar challenges in the UK as you have in Germany, when it comes to establishing churches? Absolutely.

We live in an increasingly secular environment that is getting more and more hostile toward Christianity. One great challenge that both of our countries face is how to reach those in our societies that have no Christian background.

You do not have to overcome God's reluctance when wanting to plant churches. He wants to see new vibrant churches established all over the UK and in Europe. What the Lord longs for are men and women to long for Him and are willing to take great risk to see great and miraculous things happen.

To read this article in full, visit www.countiesuk.org/latest-news/counties-updates For more information on the planned conference see the back page or email cracknell@countiesuk.org



CONNECTING WITH MUSLIMS THROUGH CROSS-CULTURAL EVANGELISM

Bible teaching with Julian Gutteridge,
Counties Hull evangelist.

We are living in an increasingly multicultural society in the UK where there are many Muslims. According to the Office For National Statistics, there are approximately 3.4 million Muslims living in the UK.

Muslims have come to live in the UK from all over the Islamic world. There has never been a greater opportunity to reach so many, even greater than going to their own countries of origin.

Why do we need to reach them?

Like all of us, Muslims are sinners in need of knowing God's forgiveness and his eternal acceptance through Jesus. They may claim to worship the God of Abraham and Moses, but they are actually worshiping a god that has evolved out of a pagan past, Allah. Like many religions, Muslims are trying to gain eternal acceptance with God through good works and ceremonial rituals.

However, Biblical Christianity teaches us that we can never make ourselves right before the Holy God by good works and religion (Galatians 2:16). Once more, the Bible teaches us that Jesus is God come down to us in human form. In order to rescue

humanity from the consequences of their sin through His once for all sacrifice upon the cross. In the Great Commission in Matthew 28, Jesus told his Disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. All nations includes all those Muslims who live here in Britain who have come to us from all over the world.

But how do we reach them?

To reach out to Muslims with the Gospel we must be prepared to cross over the cross-cultural barrier. For example, in 1 Corinthians 9:20-22, Paul became all things to all men in order to bring people to faith in Jesus. To a Jew he became as a Jew, and to Gentiles he became like a Gentile. This does not mean he sank into the same

sinful practices or participated in false religious practices. What it means, he was prepared to know their culture and beliefs in order to connect with them.

Connecting what Muslims believe about Jesus with the Gospel

In Acts 17:23-28, Paul had been debating the Greek philosophers in the Areopagus in Athens. He had noticed that they were very religious in every way. He then used the example of the altar to a unknown god as a way of introducing them to the concept of the only true, invisible wise God who created all things.

He then quoted from two of their Greek poets. The Cretan poet Epimenides: 'In Him we live and move and have our being.' Then secondly from Arastus: 'We are his offspring.' If we seek to reach out to Muslims with the Gospel it is important that we are not only prepared to cross the cross-cultural divide but also understand what Muslims believe and find useful quotes from some of their sources through which we can use to explain the Gospel more clearly.

Alal Ad-Din Muhammed Rumi

Rumi was a Muslim poet from the 13th century, who wrote in one of his poems: 'Jesus is the embodiment of unimaginable love and beauty!' What beautiful words which we can use to share with Muslims about the real truth of Jesus in the Bible!



WHAT DO MUSLIMS BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS?

It is important to note that the Jesus of the Quran is not the real Jesus of the Bible. However, there are some things we can agree on.

- Born of Mary - Luke 1:26-27/Quran, Surah 3:45-47
- Israel's messenger - Malachi 3:1/ Surah 3:49
- Jesus prophethood - Luke 24:19/ Surah 19:30-34
- Born sinless - Hebrew 4:15/ Surah 19:19
- Word of God - John 1:1/ Surah 3:45
- Performed miracles - Matthew 8:14-17/ Surah 3:49
- Israel's Messiah - Matthew 16:16 / Surah 3:45
- Fulfilled the law - Matthew 5:17/ Surah 5:46
- Given the Gospel - Mark 1:1/ Surah 5:46

Therefore, when engaging with Muslims with the Gospel it is good to focus upon those things we agree on. Then deal with Muslim objections (based on the Quran) with regards to Jesus's crucifixion and sonship. For example, when dealing with the issue of Jesus being described in the Bible as the Son of God, we must clarify to Muslims that we don't mean he is the biological son of God. But rather the eternal Son of God (see 2 Samuel 7:12-14/Psalm 2).

In fact, when Muslims describe Jesus as the Messiah they are already unknowingly saying he is the Son of God. This comes out in Mark 14:61 when the High Priest Caiaphas asked Jesus: 'Are you the Christ, the son of the blessed one?' Here we see in the Jewish faith that Messiah and Son of God meant one and the same thing.



Connecting with Muslims

We have found in our local ministry a number of things useful:

- Door to door visits in Muslim areas, giving out literature in their own languages
- Running English classes in church
- Dialogue with Islamic leaders
- Volunteering in the refugee centres
- Inviting your Muslim neighbour for a meal
- Teaming up with Christian organisations in the UK already working with Muslims

There are many ways we can reach our Muslim friends. It's a matter of having the heart to do so and doing it.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAPLAINS CONTINUES TO GROW ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Churches around the country are reaching out to the lost and lonely in their communities through Counties Neighbourhood Chaplains scheme.

Around 15 churches have now been trained and are out regularly in their areas showing the love of Jesus through house to house visiting, offering practical help and a listening ear.

The scheme aims to equip and encourage local churches to visit their neighbours through a practical training course which includes supplying churches with a uniform and a handbook. They are also supplied with branded greetings cards to leave a personal note with neighbours.

One church in Newport, South Wales, has recently launched Neighbourhood Chaplains and reports a good reaction from the community. Tomi, the local organiser, said: "We have now been out twice, and it's been a big success! Last week people we spoke to were extremely grateful that we were offering help and thought it was an excellent idea for churches to be doing, even if they felt well supported and didn't wish to be involved.

"A couple of people said they would like help, but they hadn't worked out what, so we offered to return this week. On our return, they remembered us and had jobs for us to do! One involves sorting out the recycling and putting it out every week, and the other a one-off gardening issue. So we have contacted our 'helping hands' people with a view to introducing them this week.

"The calling card system also worked well, as those who didn't want us to call simply put the card in the window and we left them alone. We did in fact put a note through to say we had seen the card and wouldn't trouble them again, but suggested they kept the number in case they needed help in the future. That way they won't have to leave the card in their



Want to find out more about Neighbourhood Chaplains?

The next information events will be held on:
21 September in Rawnsley Suite Keswick, Cumbria
28 September at Ladyfield Church Chippenham, Wiltshire
9 November in Ballymena, Northern Ireland
www.countiesuk.org/neighbourhoodchaplains

window forever, but they'll know we care enough that we actually did come round, but respected their wish not to be disturbed.

"This has been a really positive experience, even where our help wasn't needed at present. Thank you for letting us be involved"



JUST A MINUTE

WITH HEATHER SCORAH



Praise & Prayer editor, Hev, joined the Counties team in 2004 and has been a wonderful support at the Counties office over the years. This month she leaves Counties, as she embarks on an exciting new chapter in her life. Ignite finds out more

You are leaving us, what will you be doing next? Going to be an Ordinand, training to become a Vicar in the Church of England!

What has been the best part of working with Counties all these years? Being able to see God's hand moving and working through the Counties family and having the privilege of sharing their stories for the prayers of our supporters.

What will you miss? Being on the receiving end of regular 'Good news' and my co-workers!

Any advice for your replacement? Seek to be a vessel for God to speak through your words, and biscuits: eat them!

What has encouraged you the most in your job?

I once met a prayer supporter in a local hospital who shared how committed to praying for the work of Counties she was. It was very encouraging that Counties is supported by many prayerful saints and we all have an important role to play in bringing in the 'Good news', whether from our kitchen table, out in the work place, witnessing on the streets or preaching from the pulpit.

What is your favourite Bible verse and why? It's Leviticus 20:26 at the mo. Our set apartness to be God's, the call to be Holy like Him, so challenging, so exciting! To have been bought in to be part of God's Holy nation by Jesus... such a privilege!

How do you like to worship? I love to sing & play the piano, but I also love trying to be creative in my worship through Bible and prayer journaling with paint, stickers, pens, fabric, all sorts!

What do you do in your spare time? Bible journaling, trying new recipes and soaking in my hot tub!

YOUR LOCAL EVANGELISTS

ESSEX

Charles & Elizabeth Addoco
Shaun & Livi Almond (ETP)
Andrew & Rachel Mugford

HERTFORDSHIRE

Will & Lynne Andrews
Kim & Jo Hobbs

SUFFOLK

Tim & Joy Ayrton
Tony & Ruth Hood

NORTH DEVON

Beverley & Bryan Bedford
Steve Ellacott (AE)
David & Katie Symons

CORNWALL

Jacquie & Tim Bodman (ETP)

WILTSHIRE

Jonathan & Heather Brain

WEST MIDLANDS

Jordan Armstrong (ETP)
David & Lindsey Brown
Andy & Isobel Hodson
Paul & Vanessa Willmott

DORSET

Ian & Sally Carr

GREATER MANCHESTER

Tim & Charissa Cooke
Martin & Angie Korchinsky
Lee & Lesley Marsland (ETP)

WARWICKSHIRE

Ivor & Angela Cooper

CARDIFF

Clive & Fiona Cornish
Mike & Janet Thomas (AE)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Tim & Katrina Cracknell

HAMPSHIRE

Jamie Broadey (ETP)
Gordon & Penny Curley

AE – Associate Evangelist
ETP – Evangelist Training Programme

SWANSEA

Paul & Laura Davies
Phil & Sheila Davies
Steve & Gwyneth Treseder (AE)

BATH

Craig & Georgie Dowling

EAST YORKSHIRE

Julian & Elizabeth Gutteridge

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

John Hardwick

PEMBROKESHIRE

Janet Hawking (AE)

BEDFORDSHIRE

Mark & Amanda Bingham (ETP)
Colin & Linda Johnson

BRISTOL & AVON

Steve & Dawn Loader

LONDON

Caleb & Adanesh Mathewos (ETP)

CUMBRIA

Matt & Nicola Rich

SOMERSET

Mike & Su Strange

WIRRAL

Robert & Sarah Watson

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Grace Anderson, Tom & Madelene Bathgate, Jean Campbell, Roger & Hazel Chilvers, Lionel Clargo, Ray & Carol Dadswell, Stephen & Jean Gillham, Hettie Hall, Wendy Iliffe, Victor Jack, Andy & Miriam Jelfs, Phyllis Jenkins, John & Jane Martin, Ruby Powell, Betty Saunders, Bob & Rita Telford, Gladys Whittern.

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