



The House of Genesis

A place for new beginnings



Annual Review 2017



*"Remember to entertain strangers for in so doing some have entertained angels unawares"
Hebrews 13:2*



Looking back...



An eventful year for The House of Genesis. Not just the comings and goings of residents, that's normal for us, although it has actually been a year of less movement than usual.

Shaun has been with us for a year in March, Ian and Andy for nearly as long, each of them has grown in their stability and determination. Each of them has, and still is, fighting their personal battles with addictions, depressions, and the ingrained habits often built up over years of insecurity and unhappiness.

It is good for all of us when they stay longer with us, they develop the wonderful qualities of trust and of hope for their futures, the staff are able to get to know each one a bit better and plan with them for their next steps in life.

We have had other changes - in January David Wells, our financial management man, moved on, but John Duvall, who has helped us in this respect for many years, has stepped up his involvement and visits the house regularly.

On the staff, Elaine left for a different sort of caring work, but we took on Steve, one of our longer-term residents to be a Trainee Support Worker for a year. This was an experiment that we thought about very carefully, but has worked well and he will shortly move on in to full time employment elsewhere.

Then there was the Bike Ride (see p6), and the sudden death of Richard, one of our founders (see p4). There was, and still is, the threat of The Cuts (see p7).

Community Chaplaincy - Norfolk

With funding from a Trust we have been able to employ a co-ordinator for the CCN work. Susan Carne has been a prison chaplain and knows her way around the system.

Under her leadership, CCN has developed well in the last year and is set to make a positive impact on some local men who have been in the revolving door syndrome – in and out of prison too many times.

Susan has got a small team of volunteers who are now trained to mentor and support men as they leave prison, to help them in their re- settlement in whatever ways they can.



Susan Carne - Community Chaplaincy co-ordinator.



Community Chaplaincy Norfolk is a service for men in Norfolk prisons – either Norwich or Wayland – working in conjunction with Christian charity The House of Genesis. The project helps men fulfil their good intentions on leaving prison. People can refer themselves or be referred by other agencies, such as the Prison Chaplaincy Team, a housing officer, a GP or a Probation Officer. Community Chaplaincy can help people who have already been released, or who are awaiting release from prison.



Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for new volunteers with the Community Chaplaincy. If you are interested then please contact Susan for more information on **07465 428456** or email **comm.chap.norf@hotmail.com**

Goodbye to Richard

I met Richard in 1999 when he was still serving a prison sentence. He lodged with me when he came out. It was his inspiration, and a lot of hard work by both of us, that started Genesis in December 2000.

Although he lived partly in France since 2005, he was always a part of my life and of the progress of Genesis. He had been here working with us for a few months last summer, and was planning to return, when a sudden heart attack while he was in France in August took him away from us.

Richard had a difficult start in life, as have so many of our men, but he leaves a legacy to be proud of and which has seen the flourishing of many ex prisoners over the years.

Val Dosworth
MBE



Richard's inspiration and dedication helped Val establish House of Genesis sixteen years ago.



Oren's baptism was conducted at Witard Road Baptist Church in May - he continues to work for Genesis and took part in the 200-mile fundraising bike ride in August.

A welcome encouragement

Oren came to us as a resident in November '14 and soon found his place in the house, gained our respect and began to sort his life out.

Oren moved on from us later in the Summer, but took part in the fundraising Bike Ride and now works for us, keeping Genesis tidy and in good repair.

After contact with one of the Chaplains in Norwich prison, he was ready to hear the Good News of the gospel and was baptised at Witard Road Baptist Church in May.

He is always happy to speak about his life and the major turns for good that it has taken since he came to us just over a year ago.

Fundraising cycle ride a success

Another main event of our year was *The Great Bike Ride*. As we talk with people about Genesis and the need that exists for places like this, we have been encouraged to add another house, or more places for men leaving prison who have nowhere to go.

So, last year, with the encouragement of Mark Bredin, the Quaker Chaplain in the prison, a major fund raising event was planned, bigger than anything we had done before.

Mark B, Mark Lowther, of our own staff, and Oren, by this time an ex resident, took a few days in August to ride 200 miles around the Norfolk coast.

Starting with a fanfare of trumpets at the gate of HMP Norwich and finishing very tired, 4 days later at HMP Wayland, they raised well over £30,000 from many sources and many donors, all of whom we very sincerely thank.



ITV featured the story – see it here: <http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2016-08-23/norfolk-prison-chaplain-gets-on-his-bike-to-help-ex-offenders/>



...and so to the finances

Like many other charities and voluntary organisations, Genesis is facing some degree of cuts in the amount of money that comes from what used to be called the Supporting People budget of Norfolk County Council.

We don't know yet just what or how much that will be, but as we operate on a tight shoestring, any cut will have a serious effect.

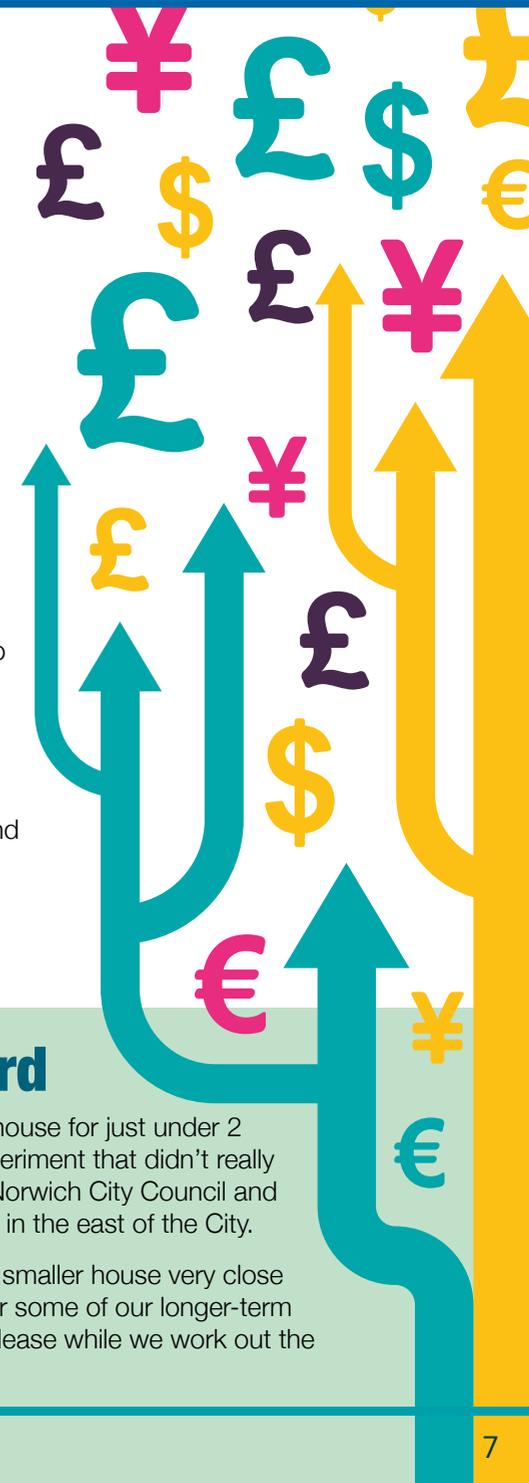
When we compare the vast amount that it costs to keep a man in prison with the pretty small amount that it costs for a man to live at Genesis for a year or so, it seems to make no sense that we may not have the necessary funding to continue. However, until we know the extent of the damage, we can only surmise.

At present the financial situation is healthy, and the savings towards our expansion stand at about £100,000. It won't buy a house, but it could go a long way towards a deposit for a mortgage.

...and looking forward

We have had our rented Dereham Road house for just under 2 years and decided that this was an experiment that didn't really work, so we are reluctantly giving it back to Norwich City Council and asking for something a bit nearer to our base in the east of the City.

In the meantime we have been able to rent a smaller house very close to House No1, which is serving as a home for some of our longer-term residents. We have this only on a short-term lease while we work out the next steps forward.



News of our staff and trustees



Our excellent Genesis staff are still spearheaded by Donna, now in her 6th year with us and backed up by Paula, Melissa and Mark. They are pictured above with the Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner at our main house.

In January David Wells, our financial management man, moved on. John Duvall who has helped us for many years has filled the gap.

Elaine left for a different sort of caring work, and we took on Steve, one of our longer-term residents to be a Trainee Support Worker for a year. This was

an experiment that we thought about very carefully, but has worked well and he will shortly move on in to full time employment elsewhere.

Our trustees have been diminished by the departure of Lil Standage after many years of service, but she is still involved and faithfully leads our monthly prayer times. We have welcomed Vic Ready, Church Pastor and Prison Chaplain to our number.

Thank you to all our supporters, too many to mention, without whom we could not operate.

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To all our supporters, far and near... your gifts of food, time, finance, clothes and furnishings are greatly appreciated. No matter how small or how sizeable, we're glad of your generosity... our work would not be the same without you. Thank you for helping people turn their lives around, we've been blessed by your gifts.

THANK YOU!