

# Ignite

sparking passion for the Gospel across the UK



## Living the Passion highlights



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Football outreach

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Lasting legacy

We hope you will be encouraged to read the following stories recording God's goodness and describing plans for the ongoing work of Counties. The Lord knows how much we appreciate the faithful prayers of His people.

As we move forward, I have been reminded in recent days that we need to seek the Lord for His protection. We have an enemy who wants to hinder Gospel progress and discourage God's people - he "comes to steal, kill and destroy".

Could you please join us in praying through the armour provided for us in Ephesians 6?

**Belt of Truth:** Lord, please preserve our integrity and absolute honesty. Save us from every form of pretence or deceit.

**Breastplate of Righteousness:** Thank you for the provision of Christ's righteousness. Please preserve us from self-righteousness.

**Boots of Readiness:** We are thankful that you've entrusted the good news of peace to us. Lord, may we not hold back from total obedience to your prompting and direction.

**Salvation Helmet:** How we bless you Lord for saving us through the precious blood of Christ. Please give your servants full assurance of faith and enable us to bring our doubts and fears to You.

**Shield of Faith:** Thank you Lord that you are utterly trustworthy. Save us from trusting in ourselves and enable us to grow daily by trusting in your daily and hourly grace, without You we can do nothing.

**Sword of the Spirit:** Precious Lord, we are thankful for the living and enduring Word of God. Grant that we will take Your Word seriously and continuously as our constant guide. May we never devalue what You are saying.

Sisters and brothers, we are thankful for your partnership as we trust the Lord to protect us from the wiles of the Devil and the weakness of ourselves.

Yours in Him,



John Wilkes, Evangelist - CEO

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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Thank you for your valued partnership. We are glad to make Ignite available free of charge. It costs approximately £5 per year to produce and distribute six editions of this newsletter to you. Every additional contribution will help us continue in our mission.

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Please introduce *Counties* to your friends by following us on Facebook and Twitter



Facebook 'Counties Evangelism Network'  
Twitter '@countiesuk'

[countiesuk.org](http://countiesuk.org)

# Sharing the **best gift** this Christmas

**Evangelists up and down the country are gearing up for a month of non-stop Christmas activities in a bid to share the true meaning of the season.**

Here's a round-up of some of the events taking place this month:

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Saturday 5 December,  
6.30pm, Danbury Mission,  
Danbury: **Reaching Women**

**for Christ Christmas outreach supper.**

Senior evangelist Miriam Jelfs will be helping to organise this event in Essex. Celebrate the real meaning of Christmas with family and friends including mulled wine and supper. The People of the Green choir will perform songs and there will be a selection of readings and poems. To book visit: [reachwfc.wordpress.com/the-real-christmas-2015](http://reachwfc.wordpress.com/the-real-christmas-2015).

12

Saturday 12 December, Lock  
Heath shopping centre,  
Southampton: **Christmas**

**carols**, mince pies and mulled wine will be on offer in this annual event which Hampshire evangelist Gordon Curley helps to organise with other churches in the area.

1-18

Tuesday 1 – Friday 18  
December: Swansea  
evangelist Phil Davies

will be touring schools with **Open the Book** and **Christmas Wrapped**, talking to children about the real meaning of the festive season through story-telling, puppets and music.

5

Saturday 5th December,  
6pm – 8pm, St Leonard's  
Church, Bilston: **Reclaiming**

**Christmas.** West Midlands evangelist Paul Willmott will be speaking at this event, with local schools and churches all contributing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Paul will also visit 30 local schools sharing the real Christmas message with around 10,000 children and staff.

18

Friday 18 December,  
7pm, Grosvenor Church,  
Barnstaple: Trainee

evangelist Beverley Bedford will be preaching at a **Christmas carol service** - a great evangelistic outreach with over 2000 invitations given out prior to the event. The Barnstaple Concert Band will be playing carols and it is expected many un-churched people will attend.



# Reaching women for Christ

**A weekend conference for women to deepen their walk with God is being held next month in Suffolk.**

‘Moving on with God’ is the theme for the event at Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Friday 22 – Sunday 24 January.

Senior evangelist Miriam Jelfs said:

“This conference has been organised by Reaching Women for Christ – a group which aims to deepen our love for the Lord and His word, share fellowship and communicate our faith with others. It promises to be a great weekend.”

Guest speakers include Reona Joly, an inspirational speaker and a former missionary with Youth With A Mission and singer/songwriter Hilary Khoo. For more details visit [reachwfc.wordpress.com](http://reachwfc.wordpress.com)



Sizewell Hall.



Reona Joly.



Hilary Khoo.



A volunteer helps with gardening.

## Be good news on your street!

**Do you know about Neighbourhood Chaplains? This is a new scheme to train, equip and support church volunteers in house-to-house pastoral visiting and conversation evangelism.**

*Neighbourhood Chaplains*, which is being created by *Counties* with partners *Pastoral Care UK* and the *London School of Theology*, is not yet ready for launch but the team would welcome prayers, help, support and ideas from anyone who is able to contribute as it takes shape.

If your church would be interested in knowing more please see: [countiesuk.org/get-involved/neighbourhood-chaplains](http://countiesuk.org/get-involved/neighbourhood-chaplains)

# Jenny joins the Counties support team



"It's a great joy to join a team with such a vision for winning others to Jesus in the UK, I am thrilled to be here!"

Jenny and husband Simon Rossiter.

## A walk to the estate agents in the Wiltshire town of Westbury led new staff member Jenny Rossiter to a job at Counties!

Jenny, who had recently relocated to Wiltshire, was on her way to finalise a house move when she walked past the *Counties* office and recognised the logo from a poster at Moorlands College, and also from Minehead Baptist Church, where her children went to the *Life* exhibition.

Feeling a nudge from God, Jenny ventured in. After several meetings, a temporary role and interviews, Jenny was offered the job of Resources Officer, primarily focusing on launching the *Neighbourhood Chaplains* project. *Counties* CEO John Wilkes explained: "We were going through a staff review and Jenny came in at just the right time.

"It's not normally how we recruit staff but the Lord often works in mysterious ways, just like the story of David in 1 Samuel 16!" Jenny will work on developing one of

*Counties* new projects – *Neighbourhood Chaplains*, a model of ministry which helps churches meet a recognised need through visiting and befriending people in their local community. As Resources Officer she will help coordinate all exhibitions and resources.

The mum-of-three has just completed an MA in Applied Theology at Moorlands where she studied reflective practice, working with volunteers, context and mission, apologetics past and present, evaluation of community development projects and evangelism with families.

Jenny also worked for three years as a volunteer for Minehead Baptist Church on a team setting up 'The Hub' outreach project with unchurched families. She has worked in Business Marketing before becoming a full-time mum to three children, now aged 12, 9 and 6.

Jenny came to faith through Billy Graham's 'Mission England' in 1984. Jenny said: "It's a great joy to join a team with such a vision for winning others to Jesus in the UK, I am thrilled to be here!"

# Reaching the prodigals



Members of Dunvant Christian Fellowship in the early years (left) and at an outreach event.

**A church in South Wales is celebrating 100 years in service by holding a series of outreach events aimed at winning back the lost.**

Dunvant Christian Fellowship in Swansea was set up by a young couple in 1915, who started to meet in their house to study God's Word. The church grew until eventually in 1928 Dunvant Gospel Hall was built.

Now the church is a thriving Christian community and has been holding social events aimed at reconnecting with those who once went to church and held a faith but who longer go.

Events have included regular football matches, curry nights, music nights and a summer BBQ which saw more than 200 people attend.

Counties evangelist Phil Davies, who is also part of the leadership team at Dunvant, said: "It's been on my heart to repair, rebuild, restore and reconnect with those in their 40's and 50's who once walked with the Lord but have stopped going to church.

**“It's been on my heart to repair, rebuild, restore and reconnect with those in their 40's and 50's who once walked with the Lord but have stopped going to church.”**

Phil Davies.

"I keep meeting people who haven't lost their faith but who don't go to church. One family, who have recently started coming again, had been hurt by church and for two decades never went. But now they are back after they recognised God wasn't in their life and had a sense that something was missing – God drew them back.

"We try to meet individually and invite people to social events and speak the Lord's word into their lives. We want to say to people if church has hurt you, we are sorry.

"As Rob Parsons says in his book *Bringing Prodigals Home* 'Just pray when they return they meet the Father and not the older brother.'"



# John Lennox leads Bible teaching at Living the Passion

John Lennox preaching and audience (below).



"One of the best conferences we've been to."

Colin and Linda Johnson.





Delegates enjoy the exhibitions on display.

## **Prof John Lennox spoke on the subject of confidence at this year's sold-out Living the Passion conference in Hinckley.**

Almost 600 delegates, including 100 young people, enjoyed a weekend of fellowship, worship, small group seminars and Bible teaching from main speaker Prof John Lennox.

Adrian Plass and his wife Bridget entertained at an after-dinner talk, whilst Christian illusionist Todd Alexander amused families with his special tricks.

The conference was organised by *Counties, Church Growth Trust, GLO, Church Planting Initiative* and *Partnership* to bring together supporters to grow in their faith and be strengthened for mission.

Keynote speaker, Prof Dr John Lennox, reminded the audience of how and why we can have complete confidence in the Gospel. Speaking to a packed-out crowd, Prof Lennox said: "When you meet somebody new ask them questions, it changes the dynamics of things, it's much easier to ask than answer!

"The key to relationships, if the person discovers you are a Christian, is you should say 'I have no idea what triggers being an atheist, what's your story? Why do you believe this?' I am very aware that I have double the number of ears to the number of mouths! Give people the chance to give their world view, often it leads to good conversations."

**“Powerful, gracious and informative teaching by John Lennox on how to think Biblically on contemporary issues and be better equipped to witness to those opposed to Christianity, particularly atheists and agnostics.”**

Just one of the comments from a guest at the conference.

Prof Lennox then went on to talk about 2 Peter 1:16-18, he said: "The Bible tells us to always be ready with answers... It's a deep challenge to all of us – the idea that there is a danger in trusting reason and argument. Let's notice the attitude of the apostles – trusting God, then using reason. We need to be real, if ever we are going to demolish arguments..."

"Faith is a precious thing – people think it means believing when there is no evidence but we know there is evidence! The Christian faith is evidence-based, John's Gospel is reason written so that you might believe. Atheism is a belief system! Our faith is valuable because it is evidence-based.

"An experience of seeing God and His kingdom and power – this transformed Peter, this isn't a myth, it's real! ... A nanosecond after death everyone will know the reality of the kingdom of God. It's utterly real... at the top of that mountain Jesus began to shine, the light source came from the face that was being rejected."

*"We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." 2 Peter 1: 19-21 (NIV)*

Adrian Plass signing his new book (right).





# Match of the day!

**A number of football teams in Suffolk have given the red card to the presence of referees - preferring to settle any differences on the pitch using a Christian ethos.**

Teams in the Fellowship Football and Friday Fives Football League involve over 100 men playing weekly matches, with many affiliated to local churches, although around 80% of the players are from a non-church background.

Counties Suffolk evangelist Tim Ayrton, who is a football chaplain for the Friday Fives, explained: “We hold a monthly social meeting to discuss with the players football related problems from a Christian perspective. We ask non-believers to respect the Christian principles - swearing is not allowed and any disputes on the pitch are settled between team captains.”

“We hold a monthly social meeting to discuss with the players football-related problems from a Christian perspective.”

Tim Ayrton, new Friday Fives football chaplain.



One of the founders of the Fellowship Football Paul Tamsett explained the reason for having no referees: “The job of the referee is to see the rules of the game are being adhered to. The referee however, does not have the power to change the temperament of a ‘hot head’ or the will of a player who is determined to cheat. He can only punish him.

“What is really needed is a change of heart in the attitude of the offending player, so that he stops wanting to break the rules.

“It is our belief that if we truly love God and value honesty and fair play (because they are important to Him) and if we truly think more of the opposing team and our own team mates than we do the result of a game of football, then we will all see the benefit with our games played in a friendly atmosphere yet managing to retain a healthy competitive edge.

“In this way it should be possible for us to play without the need for any referees. We see this as a true test of the quality of our Christianity. Sadly, it is unrealistic to expect perfection in this. We are flawed human



A team from the Fellowship Football league.

beings after all. Thankfully, so far, we’ve had relatively few problems.”

The Fellowship Football League also offers a Soul Café twice a season to team players – with a quiz, food and a talk on Biblical issues such as forgiveness, offence, honesty and fairness.

For more information on Fellowship Football call Paul Tamsett 0790 8001558 or Friday Fives call Matt Ayrton on 0779 2083832.

**“We see this as a true test of the quality of our Christianity.”**

Prayers before the game.





“It is wonderful to see her **legacy** being used in such a **positive** way.”

Cousin Margaret Edwards.



Sarah Patricia Dening.

## The **gift** of a life-time

**The gift of a quiet and faithful Christian woman from Somerset will have a lasting impact for the kingdom of Christ for years to come.**

Sarah Patricia Dening - known as Patricia – passed away in 2013, leaving a gift of £230,000 to *Counties*. This exceptional gift is now funding the development and ongoing costs of a brand-new, state-of-the-art resource for schools and outreach - *Key to Life*?

*Key to Life?*, set to be launched early next year, is a purpose-built unit telling the story of Jesus through a fully immersive and sensory experience. Churches and youth workers will be able to hire it for school visits and outreach events as a way to connect with their communities.

Patricia had a heart for evangelism and outreach and her will specified five

charities, including *Counties*, where she wished her legacy to go.

Her cousin Margaret Edwards said: “Patricia was a very caring daughter who looked after her parents for years. She never married but she made the most of her life and would travel miles for organ and recital concerts.

“It is wonderful to see her legacy being used in such a positive way.”



Children are set to benefit from new resource.



It is hoped hundreds of children will visit the new resource *Key to Life*?

**“Patricia** has left us a fine example of this wonderful opportunity that we can **invest** for **eternity**.”

John Wilkes, CEO *Counties*.



Patricia was born in 1931 and attended schools in Yeovil and Taunton and worked as a medical secretary for many years. Her hobbies included stamp collecting, photography, beekeeping, piano and organ and singing with the village choir.

She lived in Sampford Brett, near Minehead, and attended Alcombe Evangelical Church before joining Millbridge Church where she played the piano. After retiring she worked part time in the Office of National Statistics in Bristol and was also the secretary of the West Somerset branch of Christian Endeavour. Patricia moved into the Wyndham House nursing home in Minehead in 2012 after her health deteriorated. She died the following year at the age of 81 during a church service held at the home.

Revd Matthew Cottington, of Millbridge Evangelical Church, paid tribute to Patricia at her funeral. He said: “Patricia was a very quiet, kind and extremely private lady who enjoyed life. Running through it all was Patricia’s faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She loved the Lord and had many friends from church in the area.”

John Wilkes, CEO of *Counties*, said: “Patricia has left us a fine example of this wonderful opportunity that we can invest for eternity! Over the years, we’ve been privileged to see how earthly wealth can be sown to reap heavenly outcomes! We praise God for such generous and responsible partnerships!”

For more information on leaving a gift in your will please contact *Counties* on 01373 823013.

# Introducing new **GSUS** Live co-ordinator Glyn...



Glyn(dwr) and Ninon Davies.

**GSUS Live has a new co-ordinator – meet Glyn(dwr) Davies from Swansea! Glyn, 64, is married to Ninon and they have three married children, Craig, Ruth and Claire plus three grand daughters.**

Glyn was born in Congo to missionary parents but after a dramatic family escape moved to Wales in 1960. He worked in printing in the local newspaper for many years and has recently worked for Parklands and Woodlands Church as admin and church worker.

*Ignite* talks to Glyn to find out more!

**Welcome Glyn to Counties! Tell us more about your early life in Congo:**

My dad worked for WEC International, a Christian charity which takes the Gospel to people who have yet to hear it. He met my mum in the Congo and after they married in the UK they went back and were hugely involved with the revival there!

In 1960 Congo was in turmoil - seeking independence from Belgium. The missionaries were advised to leave - thus in quite a big convoy of vehicles we headed for the Kenyan border. We travelled through

an army camp and were not spotted - a remarkable example of God's perfect timing and protection in a storm!

**When did you first hear about GSUS Live?**

I first saw *GSUS Live* back around 2000 at CRE! We then asked if we could have it in Swansea and were told we had to wait at least two years.

What a resource - I've been passionate about *GSUS Live* ever since and have volunteered since 2002! I'm so excited at the opportunity of joining *Counties* to help make a difference in young people's lives.

**What made you decide to take this role?**

I returned from a mission in China and there was this 'God incident' opportunity to join *Counties* and work on *GSUS Live*! I agonised and prayed much over this potential change of my life - I'm nearing 64 and thought - is this what God wants me to do at my age? At a funeral of a very dear friend we were challenged to 'take and carry the baton.'

**What encourages you about GSUS Live?**

After this year's *GSUS Live* tour in the Swansea area, local churches are now working together in one local school (which had previously no church contact before our visits!)

Following our visit in 2015, one local youngster and his mate knocked on the door of a local pastor and asked could they come to church that Sunday! Following several visits to church he has now become a Christian.

This is what *GSUS Live* is all about!



# Working together to support churches



The new brochure is out now.

**A new one-stop directory - which aims to give you all the information you need to help strengthen your church - has been launched.**

The Church Support Network, a group of like-minded charities who work together to serve evangelical and independent churches in the UK, has put together a guide on a range of services.

Topics such as evangelism, training, networking, church planting and growth, joint events and overseas mission are all covered with links to websites and contacts to find out more information.

An online version is available at [churchsupportnetwork.uk](http://churchsupportnetwork.uk)



Information about *Counties* inside the guide.

## Partner with us

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Your details will be kept on our database and may be shared with a local COUNTIES Evangelist, but with no other persons or organisations.

☐ Please remove me from your mailing list

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I would like to partner with COUNTIES.  
Please find enclosed my/our Gift of

£

(please make cheques payable to Counties)

To give online by debit or credit card visit [countiesuk.org](http://countiesuk.org)

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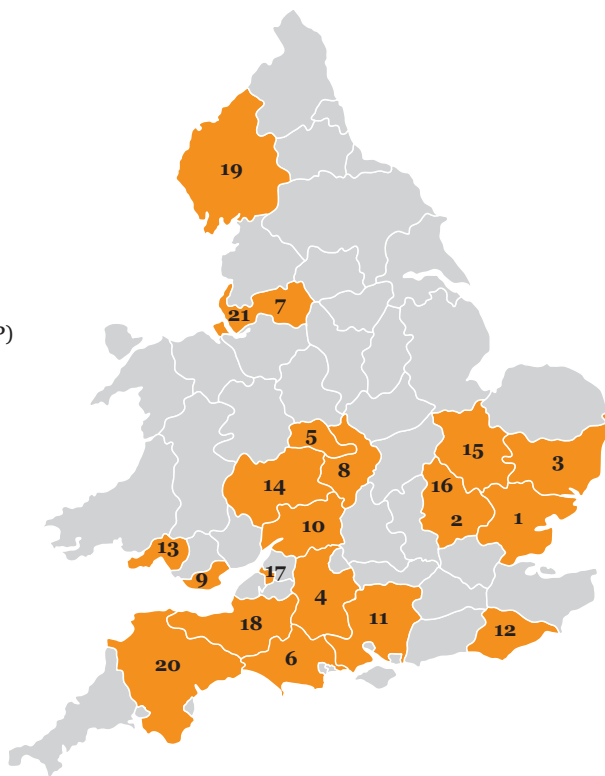
COUNTIES  
30 Haynes Road  
Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3HD

Please pray for 'vacant' Counties

# Your local evangelists

1. Charles & Elizabeth Addoco  
Andrew & Rachel Mugford (ETP)
2. Will & Lynne Andrews  
Kim & Jo Hobbs (ETP)
3. Tim & Joy Ayrton  
Tony & Ruth Hood
4. Jonathan & Heather Brain
5. David & Lindsey Brown  
Andy & Isobel Hodson  
Paul & Vanessa Willmott
6. Ian & Sally Carr
7. Tim & Charissa Cooke  
Martin and Angie Korchinsky (ETP)
8. Ivor & Angela Cooper  
Bob & Rita Telford
9. Clive & Fiona Cornish  
Mike & Janet Thomas
10. Tim & Katrina Cracknell
11. Gordon & Penny Curley
12. Ray & Carol Dadswell
13. Phil & Sheila Davies
14. Martin & Rachel Erwin
15. John & Rachel Hardwick
16. Colin & Linda Johnson
17. Steve & Dawn Loader (ETP)
18. Mike & Su Strange
19. Matt & Nicola Rich
20. Beverley & Bryan Bedford (ETP)  
David & Katie Symons
21. Robert & Sarah Watson

ETP- Evangelist Training Programme



## Seniors and widows

Grace Anderson  
Tom & Madelene Bathgate  
Jean Campbell  
Geoff & Isobel Carr  
Roger & Hazel Chilvers  
Lionel & Mavis Clargo  
Rose Geary  
Stephen & Jean Gillham  
Victor Jack

Andy & Miriam Jelfs  
Phyllis Jenkins  
Hettie Hall  
Wendy Iliffe  
John & Jane Martin  
Dennis Pierce  
Ruby Powell  
Dick & Betty Saunders  
Gladys Whittern

All *Counties* evangelists are self-employed, receiving support from our funds, as the Lord provides. We welcome approaches from new evangelists, potential trainees or associates, particularly in vacant counties. Call John Wilkes on 01373 823013 for an informal discussion.