

East Northants Faith Group (ENFG) update, combined issue for November and December 2023

Working closely with the charity Encompass (formerly East
Northants Community Services)



WANTED – BUDDING NEWS PODCAST PRODUCERS AND INTERVIEWERS



As mentioned last time, following the recent replacement of many BBC local radio programmes by regional ones, much further removed from the listener, efforts are being made to continue to provide a **regular supply of religious news and broadcasting within Northamptonshire.**

This is being done through wider use of the weekly 15 minute church service that **Rev Paul Needle** has been producing for the Higham Ferrers and Chelveston Churches since the Pandemic - and hopefully by supplementing it with **about 15 minutes of local Christian news and interviews each week, if volunteers can be found to produce it.**

Anyone is welcome to **sign up to the existing weekly podcast** by emailing Paul Needle (paulneedle@aom.com) or to access the podcast online at <https://www.stmaryhighamferrers.org/sunserv>.

Anyone wishing to volunteer in any way or to find out more is also encouraged to email Paul.



Some forthcoming Encompass fundraising events:

Fynnus Fogg concert on Saturday 10th February at the Athletics Club, Newton Road, Rushden. Encompass will receive 100% of the money raised. Details to follow.

Bring back the Rushden Street Pastors!?



Following the open meeting in October about **relaunching Street Pastors** in Rushden, volunteers are still needed. If you are also interested, please contact Andrew Presland (andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com), who will pass on your details.

From 'Rothwell Independent Church' - a regional centre of non-conformity in Cromwell's time - to the Congregational Church and then the United Reformed Church and then to no church at all when it closed quietly in October last year... Is any group or individual interested in trying to keep the building going, as a church or at least to preserve its heritage? Please feel free to respond below. Brochure and other details are [here](#).



If any group or individual is interested in trying to keep the building going, as a church or at least to preserve its heritage, please feel free to let me know. Andrew Presland
andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com

UPDATE ON UKRAINE SUPPORT



Visa data for individual local authorities continue to be published at 9.30am each Thursday, broken down by the location of the sponsor and available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-s-for-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-numbers-of-visa-applications>

As at 19th December, for people with sponsors in North Northamptonshire, there had been:

- 1,015 visa applications confirmed
 - 851 visas issued
 - 729 arrivals in the UK



Are you from Ukraine?

Are you hosting guests from Ukraine?

Meet with others

Saturday mornings 10.00 – 11.30

at The Shared Church in Ringstead NN14 4DA
(on the footpath between High Street and Back Lane)

We are also hoping to provide language lessons

More information from:

Revd Rick Preston 01933 626368

minister@RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk

Angela Davis 01933 622316

secretary@RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk

www.RingsteadSharedChurch.org.uk

Ringstead Shared Church has reviewed the above arrangements at the start of the year and is now open only on the 3rd Saturday morning each month from 10.00 – 11.30 for Coffee Cake and Chat.

Every other Saturday from 12 noon to 2pm, **Beat Route Radio** presents a **bilingual show** connecting estranged families and friends with family and friends back home in the Ukraine. To tune in, ask Alexa to "Launch Beat Route Radio" or find us at www.beatrouterradio.co.uk and click "Listen Live"

If anyone would like to be a part of the show sharing with Ukraine please contact Liudmyla who will be hosting it. Her email address is liudmyla.budina@gmail.com.

As mentioned previously, several groups are providing or co-ordinating Ukraine support locally, including:

- **North Northamptonshire Council** - <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/ukraine>
- **Irthlingborough Library** – social group, first Tuesday of each month, 2 to 3.30pm. Ukrainian guests are welcome to come and enjoy the resources in the library and share their experiences. Hosts also welcome. Tea and coffee available £1 per person (Refreshments for children free): irthlingborough.libraryplus@northnorthants.gov.uk.
- **Rush2The Den** in Fitzwilliam Street, Rushden - Ukraine Hosts & Families - Meet & Greet -5.30 to 7pm on Wednesdays (see RUSH 2 TheDEN on Facebook)
- **Encompass** and **East Northants Faith Group**.
- **Peterborough Cathedral**: <https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/ukraine.aspx>
- **Various local churches**, including **Ringstead Shared Church** – see opposite, and...
- **Oundle Baptist Church** is running a weekly Ukraine drop-in on Fridays from 10am to 12 noon: for guests from Ukraine and their hosts, at The Hub, Fletton House, Glapthorn Road, Oundle. Details from Robin or Jan Croxon, or robincroxon@yahoo.co.uk.
- **Employment Support** with Julie Howarth at Rushden Salvation Army (16-20 Church Street, NN10 9YT) each Tuesday – freephone 08000 652 4276, or just turn up.

Is something happening on the Rushden East development?

The planning applications section of the latest edition of *Nene Valley News* (December 2023, p6, <https://nenevalleynews.co.uk/e-version/>) indicates that some sort of decision regarding the main planning application for Rushden East is due – which was submitted back in November 2020 - to take place on 2nd January 2024.

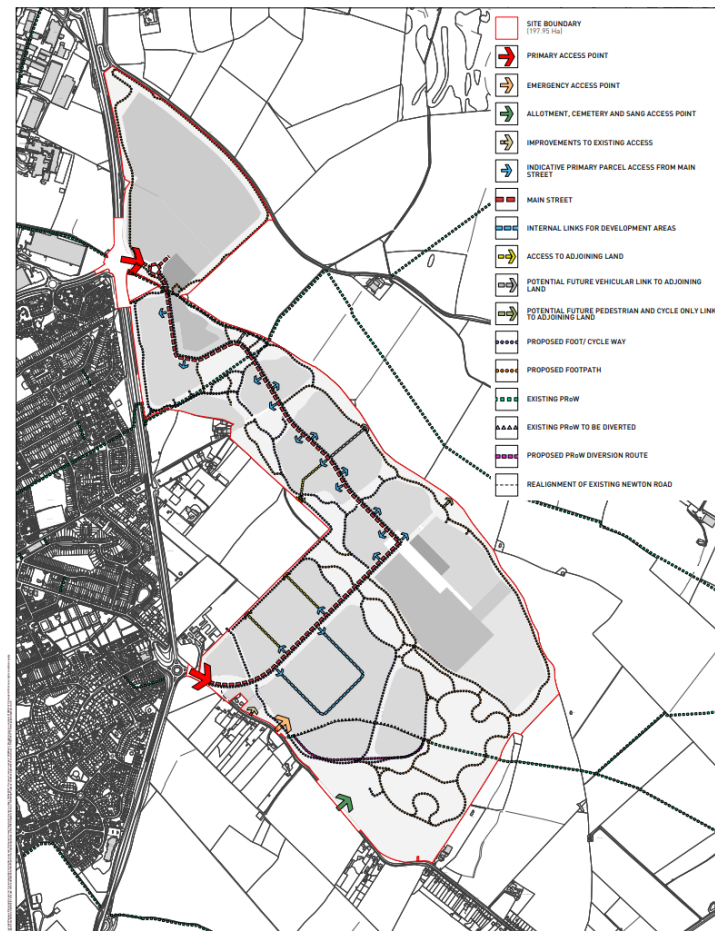
The summary given is below (and I have emboldened what seem to be some of the main points):
20/01453/OUT | Outline Planning Application for a **Sustainable Urban Extension comprising residential development of up to 2,200 dwellings** (Class C3), **residential institution** (Class C2), **up to 110,000 square metres of employment development** (Classes B2 (General Industrial), B8 (Storage and Distribution), E (comprising Office, Research and Development of Products or Processes and Industrial Processes)), **two local centres, two primary schools, one secondary school**, details of the principal accesses from A6 /John Clark Way roundabout and Newton Road, secondary vehicular and non-vehicular accesses, **public open** space including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, cemetery, allotments, noise mitigation features, drainage, primary sub-station utilities apparatus and associated engineering works, demolition of existing buildings, earthworks and ground remodelling (All Matters reserved except Access) | Rushden East Urban Extension Liberty Way Rushden Northamptonshire

All the details are at

<https://publicaccess.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QJDTAGGO0HW00>

- including 310 documents and 64 comments at the time of writing this.

The Access and movement parameter plan is below – the details are not readable at this scale, but it shows the two main access routes as being: i) from the roundabout at the top of John Clark Way and the ii) A6 bypass/Newton Road roundabout, Rushden.



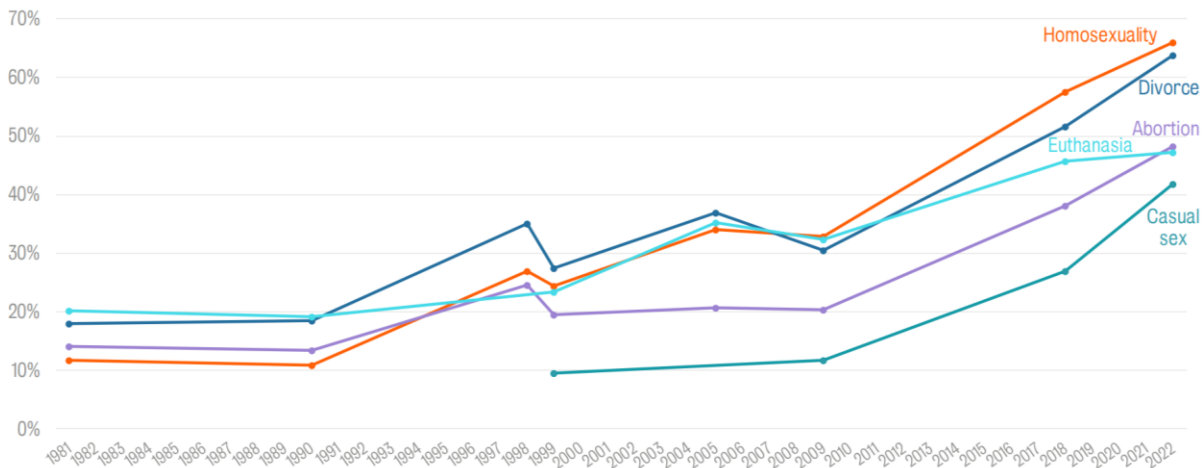
World Values Survey - some key findings from a faith perspective

About the UK in the World Values Survey...

- ...trends from 1981, covering over 110 countries, over 290 questions
- ...3,600 random probability interviews in UK, incl boosts in Scotland, Wales and NI, in 2022
- ...first time UK a full participant in over 15 years

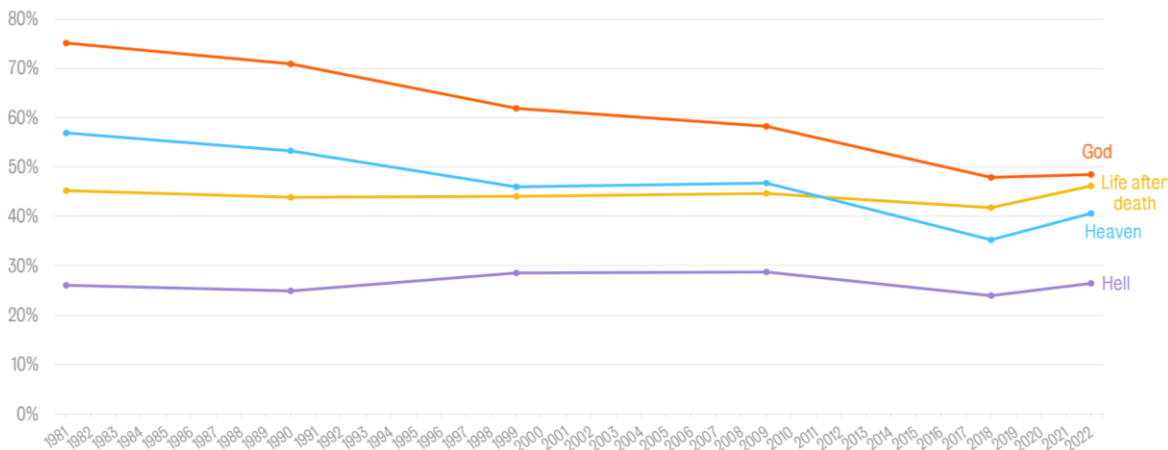
We have become much more socially liberal over the last four decades

% of British public who say ____ is "justifiable"



We're increasingly godless...

% of British public who believe in ____



A few thoughts: these are some of the findings from a presentation given by the researchers recently at my (Andrew Presland's) place of work, at DLUHC, being UK figures that may be relevant to us – e.g. if we work in a church or community group. **Although the upward trends on social issues may be as expected, is anyone else quite surprised that all of the latest (2022) percentages are still some way below 100%**, implying that 35% don't see homosexuality as justifiable, with 'not justifiable' figures of roughly 38% for divorce, 50% for abortion and euthanasia and over 55% for casual sex? It doesn't seem that the broadcasting media expect the people to whom they are broadcasting to hold this diverse range of views, despite the modern-day promotion of diversity. Presumably these vary a lot depending on a person's faith (if any), with – for example - orthodox Christians and Muslims generally being socially less liberal than many other groups. **The small increases in the various beliefs since 2018 are also interesting** – perhaps a combination of people reviewing their beliefs during the Pandemic and recent inward migration?

Data from the survey are available at <https://www.uk-values.org>.

Two forthcoming training courses from Hope for Families

Registration bookings are open for the following two courses which will be held online via Zoom.

HANDLING ANGER IN THE FAMILY

This 4-session course focuses on how you and your child can understand and manage anger in a safe and healthy way.

Date and time: Tuesday mornings 10:00am-12:00pm, 16th January - 6th February 2024

Cost: £12.50 per household including accompanying parent handbook (RRP. £9.99), additional resources and goodies. **Bursary places are available for parents who qualify (providing a 50% discount on registration).**

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/757679759557>

Time Out for Parents - Children on the Autism Spectrum

This 4-session course is designed to give extra support to parents and carers of children on the Autism Spectrum.

Date and time: Thursday evenings 7:30pm-9:30pm, 25th January - 15th February 2024

Cost: £12.50 per household including accompanying parent handbook (RRP. £9.99), additional resources and goodies. **Bursary places are available for parents who qualify (providing a 50% discount on registration).**

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/time-out-for-parents-children-on-the-autism-spectrum-registration-775449780167>

If you would be interested in hosting a course for a group of parents or carers you work with, please feel free to get in touch with Louise Willis, Hope for Families Founder/Coordinator, louise@hopeforfamilies.org.uk

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



HANDLING ANGER IN THE FAMILY

Sessions for anyone parenting children aged 5 to 16

Date
Every Tuesday 10am-12pm
16th January - 6th February 2024

This course will be run online via Zoom

Book your place online
visit www.hopeforfamilies.org.uk/events

For more information
Contact Hope for Families on
07784 333825
or email hello@hopeforfamilies.org.uk



Common-sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Sessions for anyone parenting autistic children aged 3 to 11

Date
Every Thursday 7:30pm-9:30pm
25th January - 15th February 2024

This course will be run online via Zoom

Book your place online
visit www.hopeforfamilies.org.uk/events

For more information
Contact Hope for Families on
07784 333825
or email hello@hopeforfamilies.org.uk



Common-sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship

Update on Illuminate

Illuminate will be a week of activities for children at local secondary schools from 3rd to 10th March next year. During the day, the team will be working in five local secondary schools – Rushden, Ferrers, Huxlow, Manor and Sharnbrook, supporting the work of each school on some of its priority areas, such as mental health and wellbeing. This will be followed by evening concerts, where the Christian message will be shared by the dynamic and lively band LZ7.

For those of you who pray, the December prayer letter is below, including information on several specific needs:

ILLUMINATE


PRAYER LETTER

Issue Four

DECEMBER 2023

Welcome to issue 4 - Ready to Go!

- 5** Secondary Schools
- 5** Days of school visits
- 2** Special concerts by LZ7
- 12** Follow-up AAA Discipleship sessions
- 8/9** March are the dates of the concerts



We are reaching hundreds of young people with the love and message of Jesus Christ.

ADD ILLUMINATE TO YOUR PRAYER LIST AND PRAY FOR LZ7 IN THEIR MINISTRY

Needed:

- Stewards and Set-up teams** needed for the events on March 8th and 9th, with training given
Sign up: https://signup.com/mobileweb/2.0/vspot.html?activitykey=202541202018#choose_event_page
matt.crox@gmail.com
- Team members for a youth group** for a Youth Group starting at PRBC on March 15th for 12 weeks are needed.
A Tester session is planned held Saturday, January 20th, 10-12pm at Park Road Baptist Church
- Prayer intercessors** from now until after the mission
Contact Steve Pearman if you want to join a prayer team
- Good communication** between the churches in the area in preparing, implementing and follow through
- Accommodation** for the band during the week (March 4th - 9th)

IMPORTANT: SPECIAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MEETING ON ZOOM: NOV. 30TH

FUND

We have a new Go Fund Me page at gofund.me/3c4c4037 where we are looking to raise £5000, particularly for the follow-up and discipleship work.

Alternatively, people can make donations directly to:
Account Name: Whitetriars Church PCC
Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account Number: 65829077

Other prayer points:

Pray for Revival with our Young People!
There will be a spiritual battle going on -
Pray for victory!

The schools:
Ferrers, Huxlow, Rushden, Raunds, Sharnbrook