

Seeing it Differently at Norwich Cathedral

8th – 18th August 2019



**Would you be willing
to help Norwich Cathedral
with some Serious Fun?**

The Fun comes in the shape of a 50ft high Helter Skelter in the Nave of Norwich Cathedral. The Serious comes in seeking out naturally occurring God-focused conversations.

Seeing it Differently is a 11-day missional event at Norwich Cathedral. We want to help people to literally see the Cathedral differently but also to open up the conversation as to how God can help us see life differently.

The star attraction of this event will be the traditional pepperpot shape helter skelter at the west end of the Nave. Climbing to the top of the Helter Skelter will give visitors a unique view of the Cathedral. It will also bring them closer to our wonderful roof bosses, which tell the story of our salvation from the Creation through to the Resurrection.

The helter skelter is only one of the ways we will be helping people think about the idea of Seeing it Differently.

Visitors will have the opportunity to lie down and look-up. Special mats will be provided to encourage visitors to lie down, look up and see the Cathedral from a new perspective. We know from previous experience that visitors find this a profoundly moving and numinous experience.

There will be the chance to walk a labyrinth. The experience of walking the labyrinth does not just move people to a different physical space, it also moves the walker to a new emotional and spiritual space and, again, helps people see their life differently.

Within the Cloisters there will be blind trust trail. When we cannot see, how then do we experience life differently? There will also be the opportunity to literally sit inside the Bible with our Bible Box. How does it feel to be completely surrounded by the Word of God?

On display at the East end of the Cathedral will be ten stories describing how Jesus has helped particular individuals see life differently. Alongside this, twice each day we will be offering "Walking Salvation", a chance to walk the length of the Nave and hear again the story of Salvation as captured in our roof bosses. There will also be a range of free Christian resources to be shared with interested visitors.

To make each of these activities a genuine opportunity for God conversations we will need the support of a large team of trained volunteers.

Please will you consider helping us?

- Two volunteers will be stationed at each of the Seeing it Differently zones both helping people to engage with the activity as well as being open to those naturally occurring God conversations that may emerge.
- Each volunteer will be expected to attend a day's training at the Cathedral. The training will explain more of the missional intention behind this initiative and help individuals grow in confidence in speaking about their faith as well as learning to recognise the moments to speak and the moments when listening is enough.
- Each volunteer is asked to volunteer for a minimum of three shifts during the twelve day period – you would be very welcome to volunteer more often during this event! The morning shift is 10.00am – 1.30pm and the afternoon shift is 1.30pm – 5.00pm. Sunday shifts will be 12noon – 3.00pm

If you know others who might be interested in getting involved, please pass this information on to them. Members of all Christian denominations are welcome as volunteers with this project.

If you are interested please contact:

Volunteering@cathedral.org.uk or phone Julia on 01603 218448. You will be sent a simple application form to complete and asked to indicate which training day you can attend and your availability during the event. All volunteers will need to complete a Confidential Declaration form along with having enhanced DBS clearance and to have attended Level C1 Safeguarding training. Where necessary we can arrange both of these – please see the application form.

Volunteer Training Dates

Each volunteer will need to attend one day of training in Prior's Hall at Norwich Cathedral, 10am-3pm. N.B. We regret Prior's Hall does not have level access; please let us know if this presents a problem for you.

Saturday 1st June
Saturday 8th June
Saturday 15th June

Wednesday 19th June
Monday 24th June
Saturday 13th July

Associated Events

The Night Before

On the evening of 7th August at 6.30pm, before Seeing it Differently begins, all volunteers are warmly invited for a time of silence and prayer to commend this venture to God.

Mission Ideas Exchange

On Monday 12th August 6.30 – 8.00pm there will be an opportunity for churches to share their own thoughts and ideas for outreach and mission and to discover more about the thinking behind the Seeing it Differently event. A chance to learn from one another and be inspired.

Closing Worship

On the final Sunday evening, Volunteers will be invited to join with others for an informal act of worship at 6.30pm to mark the ending of this mission activity and to pray for all who have been touched by it.

Legacy

We hope Seeing it Differently will have an impact long beyond its twelve days. In particular we hope it will:

- Encourage those who might never have thought about visiting Norwich Cathedral to come into the building and realise this is a space where everyone is welcome.
- Provide opportunities to sow seeds of faith, (re)kindle dormant faith and help others connect with the community of faith.
- Raise up a group of people from across the diocese, city and county who feel more confident in speaking about their faith and be enthused for mission and outreach.

Conclusion

This proposal in many ways has echoes of the traditional beech mission; amidst the fun and enjoyment of the day seeking natural and gentle ways to have God conversations. A cathedral may not be the natural home of a helter skelter but that is precisely part of the draw. It is the unusual that helps create the missional opportunity. We will be doing what cathedrals have always done: helping people see things differently and make connections with the things of God.



Seeing it Differently will take place at Norwich Cathedral from 8th -18th August 2019, 10am-5pm, (Sundays 12noon-3pm). Admission to the Cathedral is free (donations always welcome!) with £2 per ride on the Helter Skelter.

For more information about this event please contact Canon Andy Bryant on 01603 218331 or canon.missionandpastoral@cathedral.org.uk.

To volunteer to help with this event either email volunteering@cathedral.org.uk or phone 01603 218448 to request an application pack.

Pictured above is an artist's impression of what the helter skelter will look like in the Cathedral. Picture: Annette Hudson, Paul Hurst and Irvin Leisure