


new  
ground



# L A T E S T

Growth and expansion in 2016

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Surprised by Grace

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Enormous vision for the poor

Issue 03 March 2016



## Has God forgotten Europe?


Join us in persistent prayer over the coming months for each of the countries in Europe

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For updating information go to:  
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Bienvenue à la troisième édition de notre magazine, *Latest*. It seemed appropriate to start this way since there is certainly a French influence through the following pages. But that's not all. Be prepared to be encouraged, amazed, stirred, challenged and energised. And this is just a soupçon of what God is doing amongst us. OK, I'll stop with the French now.

It's amazing to think that we're over halfway through the year in praying for Europe. This is such a good legacy from the great event at Ashburnham. See the reminder opposite and don't forget we're updating the website each month with information about each country we're praying for.

In this edition of *Latest* you can read about what Dave is looking forward to in 2016, one of the first churches outside of England to join Newfrontiers, an amazing story of God's provision of a building and a remarkable recovery from a degenerative illness.

We'd love to hear stories of what God is doing in your life and in your church. Why don't you drop us a line to tell us how you're taking *new ground* in your workplace, neighbourhood, family and city, so we can celebrate with you and give glory to God?

**Editor, *Latest***

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# GROWTH & EXPANSION IN 2016

by Dave Holden, **New Ground**

@DavidEHolden

I'm really excited about all we're going to see happen in 2016. It's going to be a year of growth and expansion for us as a family of churches, and I'm looking forward to the stories we'll be telling of what God has done by this time next year.

Church planting will be big on our agenda in 2016. When I gathered with other Newfrontiers leaders at our Newfrontiers Global event in Turkey last autumn, it was clear that church planting is coming back into the centre of what we're doing across the globe. This year, both in the UK and across Europe, we'll be planting new churches and new sites. We'll be

seeking to reach people in new cities and looking for opportunities for gospel advance in countries we're not currently working in.

We also have several key gatherings coming up this year. We'll be holding two major conferences in Romania, several events in France, and our main leadership conference in the UK in June. I'm so excited that this year also sees two Connect Conferences, one in the UK and one in France, serving our 20s and 30s. One of the great things that has happened as Newfrontiers has multiplied into many

## INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS TAYLOR

**Q.** Where are you from and where have you lived?

**C:** I was born and brought up in Botswana but went to boarding school in South Africa at the age of 12. Since school, I have lived in Cape Town, Edinburgh, London and now The Hague!

**Q.** Tell us a little bit about your family...

**C:** Karin is much nicer than me in (almost) every way. I was pretty blown away when I first saw her, and I continue to pinch myself when I realise I'm actually married to her. Karin and I married in 2003 and we have 3 kids – Simon, Daniel, and Ella.

**Q.** Where are you based now?

**C:** We live in The Hague in the Netherlands.

**Q.** What's your

**current role with  
New Ground?**

**C:** I'm part of the New Ground Core Team, and I lead the eldership team at Redeemer International Church in The Hague.

**Q.** What's your favourite place in the world?

**C:** The Hague!

**Q.** Who has most influenced you?

**C:** That has been a team effort! My parents have played a massive role, as has Karin. In terms of



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as a family of churches.

apostolic spheres is that there has been a growing identification with what we're about among the younger generation. Our two Connect Conferences this year will be a way we can continue to encourage this group and catch them up in God's mission.

I'm also really looking forward to seeing the first group of Academy students graduate this summer. The Academy is an amazing equipping tool, and we want to make sure that we make the most of it. We're already talking about how we can open up opportunities for the first group of graduates later this year. I'd also love to see more folk joining

the Academy across all the geographical bases in September. The intake for September 2016 will include students at new bases in France and Romania, alongside the existing bases in Edinburgh, London and The Hague.

Collaboration will also be a big thing for us in 2016. Last year saw us make great strides towards increased collaboration within the Newfrontiers family. I now meet several times a year with a group of key leaders from the UK-based spheres, and we will be seeking to build relationship and collaborate with spheres both in the UK and internationally as the year goes on.

It's so wonderful to look back on all that God has done among us as **New Ground** over the past couple of years. Let's pray that this year, we see even more.



Christian ministry the highlight reel would include David Holden, Stephen van Rhyn (the leader of Jubilee Community Church in Cape Town), Simon Pettit (the former leader of Jubilee Community Church), and PJ Smyth.

From a distance, I have been very influenced by the work and life of Tim Keller and Charles Spurgeon.

**Q. What do you like to do for fun?**

**C:** I enjoy most sports. I love travelling and experiencing new cultures. I also make (not very good) stuff out of wood.

**Q. What are you most passionate about?**

**C:** Being a part of starting and strengthening Gospel-preaching, Gospel-living, multicultural, multiplying churches!

**Q. What are your hopes for 2016 personally?**

**C:** I really want to grow in being a Spirit-filled leader. It seems like the more experience I get in leadership, the more I realise my need to be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Q. What are your hopes for 2016 for New Ground?**

**C:** I would love us to get some real traction with church planting into new cities. With the first bunch of Academy graduates, it is my desire to see many deployed in church planting contexts around Europe and beyond.

For more info about the New Ground core team visit:  
[newgroundchurches.org/about](http://newgroundchurches.org/about)

# CHURCH ON THE ROCK

*by Jonathan Le Tocq*

Victor Hugo, one-time resident of Guernsey, described the Channel Islands as “pieces of France fallen into the sea and picked up by England”. From his home you can see the other islands (Jersey, Alderney, Sark, and Herm) and the French coast. The Islands are not in England, or the UK, but are the remains of the ancient Duchy of Normandy. Guernsey gained independence in 1204 but has remained faithful to the successors of the Dukes of Normandy, the British monarchy.



Church on the Rock traces its history back to the 1980s, when a group of young people from Methodist backgrounds encountered the Holy Spirit and started gathering as Guernsey

Christian Fellowship. In the late 1980s we developed relationship with Newfrontiers, and Jon and Judith Le Tocq returned from London to help lead the church. In the early days there were fewer than 30 adults, but the church has now grown to around 200. Dave Holden has been involved from the start, helping us to reach out beyond Guernsey. A prophetic word about being “stepping stones to France” was realised early on when Paul and Mandy Hayter moved to help plant the first Newfrontiers church in France.

In the 1990s, the church developed good relationships with the other evangelical churches on the island and has since been involved in initiatives like the Guernsey Evangelical Alliance, Street Pastors and Prison Fellowship. We’ve also been involved in speaking out prophetically on social issues, praying





“We have recently  
planted a new congregation in the  
capital, St Peter Port.”

for government, and lobbying for reform. This led Jon to stand for election, and he now serves in government as Chief Minister.

As the church has grown, so has the leadership team, with some of the children of the original 30 now leading in the church. Jon remains a teaching elder but has passed the team leadership to Paul Chesworth as his political role and involvement within **New Ground** have developed. We have recently planted a new congregation in the capital, St Peter Port, and are raising funds to redevelop our 200 year old facility in the north of the island. It's an exciting time for Church on the Rock!

Church on the Rock

Web: [rock.gg](http://rock.gg)

🐦 @COTR\_Gsy



## RENNES 2016

Rennes 2016 is a conference (26 – 28 August) for **New Ground** churches from the north and west of France, and the Channel Islands. It will be an opportunity to gather together to develop relationships between churches and to enjoy times of worship, Bible teaching, and prayer. The gathering is a faith-response to the promises which God has given us for this region of France.

Further details will soon be available

at: [eper-larencontre.org](http://eper-larencontre.org) or

[newgroundchurches.org/events](http://newgroundchurches.org/events)



## CONNECT FRANCE

Connect France will gather young adults aged around 18 to 30 for teaching, worship and lots of fun. The event will be held in Valence from 1st-3rd July and follows the success of a similar event held last year. Some of our young emerging French leaders will be leading the weekend.

If you're a young adult considering whether God could be calling you to France, Connect could be a great opportunity for you.

Further details will soon be available at:

[newgroundchurches.org/events](http://newgroundchurches.org/events)

## **RICHMOND**

On Good Friday, Vineyard Life Church will be joining with other local churches and community groups to stage the annual Richmond Passion Play. A large cast, choirs and scenery will all combine to bring the story of Easter to life on the streets of Richmond.

## **WATFORD**

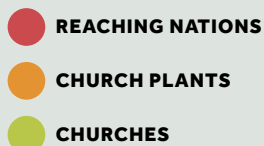
Our building's too small, and we're planting into Hemel Hempstead. We have a fantastic group meeting midweek in Hemel who are eager to see the gospel impact the town. Join us in praying for a venue with room to grow for Watford and for good foundations to be laid in the Hemel group.

## **SEVENOAKS**

Hope Church in Sevenoaks ran the Freedom in Christ Course twice last year and saw a remarkable amount of fruit. Many people found the Holy Spirit revealing areas of bondage and falsehood in their beliefs, and experienced significant freedom, sometimes from issues that had dogged their life for many years.

## **ST PETER PORT**

At Church on the Rock, we have recently launched a meeting in St Peter Port, the only town on Guernsey. We see this as an opportunity to reach into a new community. We are now a small but growing group of around 30 people, meeting in a bar in the town.





#### **BRUSSELS (PRAYER DAYS)**

See [newgroundchurches.org/events](http://newgroundchurches.org/events) for more details.

#### **PARIS**

Having baptised three people in three years, in September 2015 we started praying for 10 baptisms and for significant conversions in 2016. January saw three baptisms, and we have three more soon. God is also sending us increasing numbers of non-Christians, many of whom are responding to Jesus.

#### **CLUJ**

This year we are planting a church into Cluj, the second city of Romania. After completing an internship at Crawley Community Church, Flavius Ianchis recently moved back to Cluj, his hometown, to lead the plant where he is already meeting with a small group twice a week.

# REACHING EUROPE

## STORIES

# HAVE I BEEN HEALED?

*by Steve Cornford*

*The Kings Church, Mid-Sussex*

At first I thought the relentless fatigue might be parenthood, the onset of middle age - or both! It wasn't until my toe swelled up that a specialist diagnosed arthritis.

Doctors gave me an assortment of drugs for the condition, the pain and the side effects. I took the medicine and we prayed. Despite it all, knifing pain spread though my feet, hands and other joints. Life got more painful and less mobile. I became a wheelchair user for all but the shortest distances. Also, I couldn't help noticing my doctor, in addition to the arthritis, started talking about my disability. It wasn't all physical pain.

Eventually, they added another drug. It seemed to offer small improvements until my liver got in trouble forcing a partial pause in treatment. While my liver recovered the arthritis got worse. At this unlikely point last summer, a friend took me to a healing evening at an Anglican church. Someone prayed and I felt an incredible sense of God's presence with something like hot oil in my knuckles then running down my arms. I didn't know if God was healing me or just telling me He loves me, I was so grateful for either possibility.

Actually, I didn't notice any difference until two days later when I suddenly discovered I could walk - the more I did the better I felt! Later I realised I'd slept without painkillers since that evening. I've had no pain or fatigue since which is absolutely brilliant. In fact, I appear to have regained all the physical capabilities of an unfit middle aged man!

Discussing the difference with doctors and other agencies has been fun. As a





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I didn't know if God  
was healing me or just telling me  
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for either possibility.

result, I'm not taking any medication and doing fine. I'm very conscious that remissions from arthritis are possible so I've been reluctant to claim something only time can really tell. Have I been healed? Instead of debating that one I prefer living with my radical, unlikely health change, like the man in John 9:25, very grateful to God for every day without pain or fatigue.



## AN ANSWER TO 25 YEARS OF PRAYER

I've been praying for my dad to give his life to Jesus for 25 years. He's 89 and has been a traditional Anglican 'church-goer' on and off all his life...



NEWGROUNDCHURCHES.ORG/STORIES

[NEWGROUNDCHURCHES.ORG/STORIES](https://newgroundchurches.org/stories)



## LEG GROWS...

Several weeks ago I was stationary in the car with three grandchildren in the rear seats. A large delivery truck reversed and collided with my car...



[NEWGROUNDCHURCHES.ORG/STORIES](https://newgroundchurches.org/stories)

CHURCH PLANTING

# SURPRISED BY GRACE

by David Straughton



For some time we have sensed God speaking to us about planting two new King's Church venues in the Harrow area. Taking God at His word, we have been praying, raising up elders and leaders, and launching outreach and ministry initiatives in preparation.

We have received several key prophetic encouragements over the months, including a provocation from Phil Moore to think 'outside the borough'.

As an eldership, we felt that our first venue would be planted out in around 18 months. So imagine our

surprise when towards the end of the summer we were invited to put in a proposal to take on the lease of a church building, with a 220-seat auditorium and 6 smaller meeting rooms, in Kingsbury.

At first we were reluctant, feeling it was too soon. However, we agreed to visit the venue. As soon as we entered, we knew that God wanted to give it to us as a 'grace gift'. Confirmation came when we realised the building is right on the border of Harrow and Brent, but crucially in the Borough of Brent. We smiled as we thought back to Phil Moore's provocation!

The charity offering the lease already sensed God's favour towards us and unanimously agreed to give it to us. We were, and still are, blown away by God's amazing grace to us.

On 1st January we collected the keys. The initial lease is five



years and will be extended by a further 20 on renewal. The charity are heavily subsidising our rent for three years and have agreed to set future rental payments according to what we can afford. They have also pledged £125,000 so that we can extend or refurbish the building as we think best. God is so very good!

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As soon as we  
entered, we knew that God  
wanted to give it to us as  
a 'grace gift'.

Three of our elders are spearheading the initial outreach phase. Whether they will be the guys who lead this new venue remains in God's hands, but they are just the men to take things forward at this stage. Please pray for them and for us as we see a new venue open up and thrive in the community.

by David Straughton  
King's Church Harrow  
Web: [kingsharrow.org](http://kingsharrow.org)  
Twitter: @kcharrow



## SOUTH EAST LONDON

This year is a significant one in the life of New Community Church. Not only do we celebrate our 40th birthday, but we will also be launching a new venue in Eltham, South East London. God loves Eltham and the thousands of people who live there, and in April we will be taking the big step of becoming a multi-venue church as we launch our public meetings in Eltham and relaunch Sidcup as a venue in its own right.

We feel that God has spoken to us very clearly about writing a new chapter in the New Community story, and Eltham is just the first step. We believe He's called us to a season of multiplication, and so we are planning on launching new venues right across South East London and, God willing, beyond. At the moment we're planning on Welling in 2017 and then, who knows?

Web: [newcommunitychurch.org.uk](http://newcommunitychurch.org.uk)  
Twitter: @newcomchurch



# ENORMOUS VISION FOR THE POOR

by Natalie Williams



Over the past few years, care for the poor has made something of a comeback in churches across the UK. Previously, churches here were thought of as the places to turn to when in need, but for a variety of reasons that seemed to decline over the last few decades.

The revival of care for the poor as a key part of church life came with the global financial crash in 2008. This can be seen in the increased number of church-based Trussell Trust foodbanks, from 29 in 2008/09 to 445 in 2015.

Across the UK, churches are running foodbanks, debt services, pregnancy crisis support, children's lunch programmes, houses for asylum seekers and many other projects. Most **New Ground** churches in both the UK and mainland Europe are increasingly involved in social action.

For many of us, though, we are yet to become intrinsic parts of our communities, known by residents and decision-makers for having answers to some of the tough problems. Though we can't all become William Wilberforces, we can build relationships with our communities so that we get invited to partake in discussions and decisions affecting our area.

It's this desire to be at the heart of the local community, making a difference to the poorest through frontline help and influencing decisions, that has led King's Church Hastings to increase my hours to focus in our area, which has some of the worst social statistics in the UK.



For the last three years I've been running communications for **New Ground** but recently left that role in order to spend more time pushing us into social action and social justice.

The elders at King's Hastings recently re-wrote the church's vision with care for the poor as one of the three key 'things we do'. I'll be exploring what

it means for social action to be in the very fabric of who we are as a church, rather than just something that a number of the church are involved with.

#### Jubilee+

This will complement my role with Jubilee+, the Christian charity formed in Newfrontiers that works to help our UK-based churches to be champions of the poor and a means to healthy communities across the nation. Jubilee+ assists all of the UK spheres, as well as some church groups outside of Newfrontiers.

As well as an increased role at King's, I will remain working for Jubilee+ one day a week and will also continue to be involved with **New Ground**, advising on care for the poor. I'll bring experience and knowledge from Jubilee+ on the national level, together with the hands on experience from Hastings as we press into this area.

God has an enormous vision for the poor – His heart is for them to be raised up, becoming “oaks

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As we increasingly become key players in our local communities, God will undoubtedly move in the lives of many people.

of righteousness”, who themselves “build... raise up... [and] repair” what is broken (Isaiah 61:3-4). As we increasingly become key players in our local communities, God will undoubtedly move in the lives of many people, not just restoring them materially, but also spiritually.

by Natalie Williams  
King's Church Hastings  
**Web:** [kingshastings.org](http://kingshastings.org)  
🐦 [@KingsHastings](https://twitter.com/KingsHastings)

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His heart is for them to be raised up, becoming “oaks of righteousness”, who themselves “ build... raise up... [and] repair” what is broken (Isaiah 61:3-4).



For 20s and 30s  
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