

# Future plans Lyn Milns

Ive asked Nigel and Dave if I could share with you about my future plans.

When you live on your own theres no one to talk to in person, the bonus of that is I do a lot of talking to Jesus. Like everyone Im getting older which means life is getting shorter. Ive decided that I really dont need to be living in a 3 bedroomed house full of stuff, so Im sorting my house out this year and looking at moving options in January. Im praying that I can stay in Dereham as its where my heart and soul is.

Ive also had to consider the things that I do, are there other things I need to change especially as Im going to be 75 years old next year.

20 years ago there was a lot of issues with youth hanging around the town and I couldnt understand why someone dosnt just go out and talk to them. I shared this with Ian Clark and he said that the early morning mens prayer group had been praying that someone would go out and maybe I should do it.

I thought you must be kidding Im 53yrs old, but I prayed about it and ventured out one night, I was surprised at how much respect I got from the young people. I was given the street name Miss Why as they said they could ask me any questions and talk to me about anything, Ive been going out on Friday nights reaching out to the youth for 20years, Ive never judged them or told them off for what they were doing. I do how much Jesus loved and cared for me and I wanted them to know that He loves and cares for them. They've done alcohol and drugs in front of me, not once did I get angry with them. I was glad they felt they could do these things in front of me as then I was able to talk to them calmly about the consequences. I started going out on my own but then God spoke to Chris Olly and he came with me. Chris at that time was like a body builder and had a shaven head, so they called him Whys muscle, they soon built a relationship with him too. I strived to get the skatepark on the rec and then another 6 years to get the lights on the skatepark. It became the main meeting place for the youth.

Ive had many amazing things happen, one lads parents couldnt believe the change in there Son, he was a 16year old lad, who was the most obnoxious young man Ive ever met, he was loud, he was often drunk and took drugs and he hit his girlfriend. Then the Lord spoke to be and said "Hes mine, I have something special for him" Well it wasnt easy to be brave enough to take him to one side and tell him this, but I did and without hesitation he gave his life to the Lord, he witnessed to the other young people. I baptised him in our Church and he went on to lead worship at Kings Church Norwich. There have many others who gave there lives to the Lord too.

Along with happy times there also has been some very sad times especially those who couldnt cope and decided to take their lives. I live with guilt wishing I could have spoken to them at that time because there have been some I did talk to.

Over the years I tried to work with the youth in other ways by being a part of things like Street Pastors and Town Pastors who do a amazing work in the town, especially late nights at the weekend, but everytime I felt God say to me "Walk the path that I gave you to walk.

I will share one funny incident that happened, I had built up a good friendship with one of the nightclub owners and he was open to the Church using it during the week, I arranged

for me and Chris Densham to go and see him one evening. Wwe were walking thought the High St, I noticed a group of youth were the Christmas tree usually is, as me and Chris walked by, one of the lads shouted out “oye Why is that your bit of stuff ?” I dont know who felt the most embarrassed.

Im grateful for all that the work has given me, Ive been invited to be a Guest Speaker to local groups, not all Church ones to share about the work and thats also meant me sharing my faith with them too.

It was great seeing one of the skatepark lads getting married here and going to the reception I caught up with so many from the past and got introduced to the children of some of them, of course I was introduced as Miss Why, I think that will always stay with me.

Now for the difficult bit, I feel its time for me to stop, its not a decision taken lightly to give up, but someone pointed out thats its not givig up and giving the opportunity for someone else to take it up and Im passing the baton on. So Im putting a baton on the cross at Church to hope someone picks it up.

I also want to say something about the Christmas Wreath Festival, It will be 5 years this year. Its something really appreciated by the community businesses, schools and charities but this will be my last year so Im putting a baton for that on the cross too and hoping someone will want to pick it up and carry that on.