

UPDATE

2022

CHAIR'S REPORT 2021

Since you are reading this, you'll probably be reading some of the good news on the following pages; and the other good news is, YOU are still with us. These have been extremely difficult years for many people, and I'm very aware that very many of our supporters are, shall we say, not in the first or even second flush of youth; many of you have been with us since EUTP, so for a few decades now. So may I say, if you have suffered loss, or losses, my condolences; and if those losses, or 'just' the isolation and loneliness our response to the virus has engendered have affected you, we extend our love all-be-it in this very impersonal way. Some of us around Unlock have talked about all this quite a lot and the resource you've read about, 'The Year we Stayed at Home' might help. If any band of people should know something about the prime importance of overcoming fear and worry, it's us followers of the Jesus whose favourite phrase was, do not be afraid. In his spirit, let us pray together for our neighbours, country and world.

So, it would have been good to be able to say that 2021 had been so much better than 2020, but as we all know we have lost much of this year to Covid too; and the longer it went on, the harder it seemed to be to predict when it would end, or more significantly - since actually, it won't - when we all would be willing to re-engage.

We attempted a second 'virtual walk' in 2021. Indeed with thanks to 'the walk team' and especially Ian Smith, it happened; but in

terms of fundraising, very much less was raised. We are now able to hold the long delayed 'Gathering' of all the staff, local workers and trustees which is an

look at our finances and agree to make serious cuts at the following meeting.

The Job Retention Scheme saved some of our bacon, but the

told me, wasn't expecting to be prompted to give to Unlock, but they very firmly were, and so they did. We really thought we would have to make serious cuts, but we did not have to. We are deeply grateful to that person's ability to listen and to God for his life sustaining word.

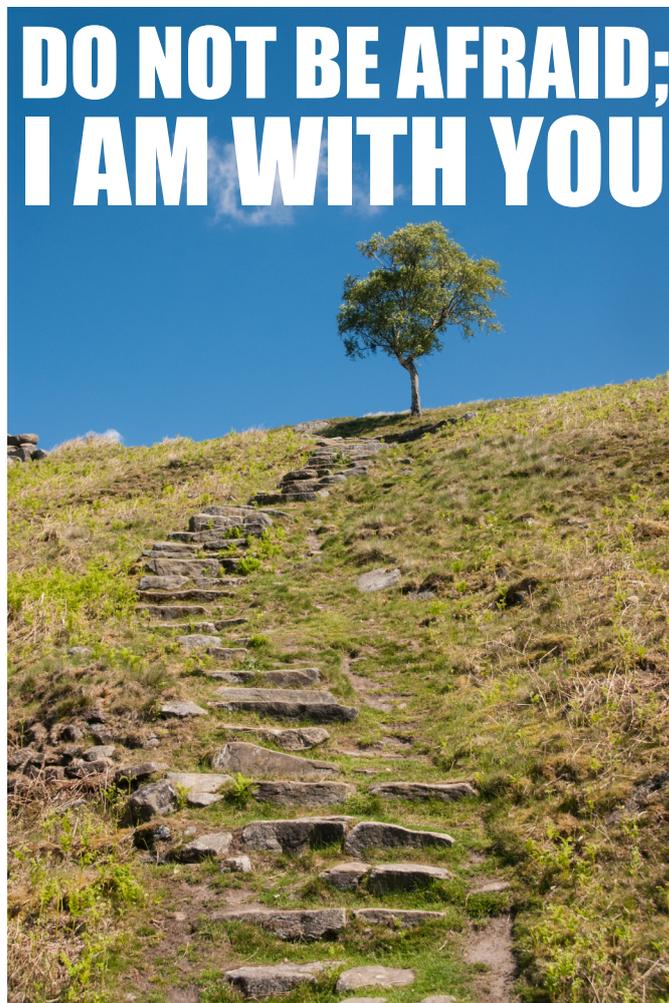
I write this shortly before the very long awaited Unlock National Gathering. We will be thinking about gratitude, lamentation and discernment, using our own experiences and resources.

I wrote about this last year so I won't repeat too much.

I've said we are grateful, but there is much to lament. Some work has lost momentum; some opportunities will have been lost. We will sit with that, not rush through it; and then we must also discern the import of what we've all been through and where that leaves the communities of places and people that we work in ... and then what we do about that. We developed as I've mentioned some great resources and revamped others - something that can be done at home; but how, now, to 'get back out there' (and how to pay for it of course)?

By the time you read this, we'll have had that time, but the working it all out will happen in 2022 so please continue to pray for the Dawn, Jenny and Kevin, for the 'walk team', for the remaining Unlock local workers and for some new or re-emerging places for us to work, and for us Trustees.

Thank you.
Andrew Dorton



Depending on which translation you are using this phrase occurs in the Bible around 100 times.

important glue for a dispersed organisation. In the Summer, as a Council, we had to take a hard

additional hole in our finances left by the walk was filled by a personal donation; someone who

Well, what a strange and challenging time it has been. Some things have stood still, some have dwindled, and some new things have emerged up through the gaps that Covid times have created. Unlock is still Unlock and we are still –

Unlocking real life stories of urban people
Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
Releasing life changing skills and confidence

We have been nimble and creative, held our nerve, made the best we could of Covid times and have plans for moving forward.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR UNLOCK? MOVING FORWARD

Local Work

On page 7 you will be able to see how relational connections and work have been sustained in our local partnership projects during the pandemic. We paused our development of work in Birmingham and will pick that up again shortly. Work in Sunderland and Treeton is currently being re-shaped and will emerge refreshed. We are beginning to look for some **new locations** for Unlock Local Partnership Projects. If you feel that your neighbourhood would benefit from a part time Unlock worker to enable local people in sharing the gospel in their communities, and to bring Unlock skills, advice, support, training materials and approaches, please do get in touch.

Unlock Training

We began a new campaign of Unlock training events around the country at the end of 2019. The ones we had chance to deliver were really well received.

Our life experience matters, our stories, our joys and sorrows. The Bible has plenty to say – more than we'll ever know – about our lives if we know how to read it and apply it; to 'Unlock' it. For many people, especially those in urban communities, hearing about Unlock's approach to Bible engagement brings a eureka moment as they discover a way forward with a fringe group that doesn't relate to traditional Bible studies or formal church meetings. We will pick up delivery of Unlock training events again as soon as there is demand, so if you

know anyone who would be interested in gaining the knowledge and confidence to apply this approach to their own local community and to share it with others, please encourage them to contact the Unlock office and we will design an event to meet their local needs.

Bible Reflection and Activity Resources

The things that emerged through the gaps created were some new resources. Our resource packs are not usually our primary focus but this last year or so has created an opportunity to give them a bit more attention, so now we have some new materials to offer (see back page for full details). On the whole Unlock's resource packs are designed for specific groups of people in specific times and places. We make them available free on our website unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_projects.php#bible_study_resources to encourage people to try out our approach, see how it works and then develop their own materials for their local context. But for once the whole country was dealing with the same set of significant challenges and although that has affected different people and places in different ways, at the emotional level there is much that we have all had to manage in common during the Pandemic. We have used that common ground on which to create our latest resource packs. These include the Unlock Covid Timeline, a graphic tool enabling people to reflect back on the last year or two and record their significant moments (prints of this are available from the Unlock Office for a donation to cover p&p). We hope all these materials will be useful as communities emerge and begin to recover from the impact of Covid.



SNAPSHOTS OF UNLOCK WORK IN WEARSIDE, ROTHERHAM, HULL AND CARDIFF

Stories of how local workers have maintained work and contact through Covid times.



Francesca



Carolyn



Sharon

It is 2019 in Hull and Cathy is designing and delivering a series of Unlock sessions on feelings. Together with her local group she explores: anger, anxiety, peace, happiness, playfulness and sadness over several weeks. They share their own stories and connect them with stories from the Bible. Cathy's work is later developed into a new Unlock resource 'Unlocking Feelings' (see back page). Cathy received Unlock training at an event in Hull in 2018.

It is December 2020 in Sunderland and, with the assistance of Lydia, a local volunteer, Unlock worker Francesca Walsh is playing

Santa on Town End Farm estate. They are delivering Christmas gift bags to all of the children who would usually have been coming along to Unlock activities at St Bede's centre during the year. This is an opportunity to do something that was simply generous and to show people that they are remembered and appreciated even when it is not possible to meet together.

It is February (and March and April and May!) in Rotherham and Carolyn is working away at her desk. Recovering from Covid herself, she is developing materials to help people reflect on the mixed and demanding

experiences of Covid times; materials that will be included in the 2021 Unlock Virtual Walk, an Unlock recovery resource – 'The Year We Stayed at Home' (see back page) and also in local reflection and activity packs to be distributed within the local community. One person responded saying that the pack is "really good and encouraging" and that she feels like "going to the side of the river to read it from there where it's so quiet." Another plans to work through it with her husband who does not engage with church.

It is spring and summer 2020 and Sharon is keeping in touch with the women she has been working with in Cardiff via regular phone calls, posts of encouragements and messages in a private social media group and also by sending lovely cards to them. Each month she is sending out small gifts and tailor made Unlock reflection/activity packs to all the women. When Covid restrictions and the Welsh weather permit she and her volunteers are meeting one to one with them at outdoor cafes and for walks in parks.

It is wintertime in Cardiff and Sharon has arranged a Christmas get together. In order to manage distancing the event is run twice for two smaller groups. It includes food, a quiz and Christmas gifts and treats ensuring that the women continue to feel valued and cared for.

It is summer 2021 in Cardiff and, after bringing the women together for a picnic in May, Sharon is using the lament session from 'The Year We Stayed at Home' with them. This will be followed by a simple 'afternoon tea' as a treat. One of the women has had a massive shift in mental attitude around her illnesses and her mental health. She tells Sharon that she now believes that she isn't her mental health problems, she is more than that and they don't define her.



LONDON WALK

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

39TH UNLOCK LONDON WALK SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2022

It's possible you came on the 3rd Unlock Walk 35 years ago (!) in 1986 or the 27th in 2010, to visit Tower Hamlets. Maybe you came in 2016 to the Olympic Park, or maybe you joined us online for the Armchair (virtual) version during the 2020 Lockdown! But we hope that has all just whetted your appetite and you will want to join us for real (again or for the first time) in 2022 and you will find more fascinating contrasts between the past and the present, between stereotypes and reality. This is London's East End: inner-city rather than suburban.

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets only came into being in 1965, a merger of the former metropolitan boroughs of Bethnal Green, Poplar and Stepney. But the name is much older: the first written mention in 1554 was a catch-all description of the settlements north and east of the Tower of London (individual entry to which now costs £30!)



Remember Whitechapel on the Monopoly board costing £60? There's no cheap property any longer: a flat that cost £50,000 thirty years ago can now sell for seven times that much! Poverty remains. If you only think of Jack the Ripper or the Kray twins in connection with the East End, find out more about the radicals and

reformers like the Booths and Barnardo as well as the rogues. For anyone interested in historic buildings, this walk offers a huge selection including the magnificent Hawksmoor Christ Church, Spitalfields. If the history of housing appeals, you will want to see Arnold Circus on the Boundary Estate. For the nature-lover, the route will be along the Regent's Canal and across the Green Bridge at Mile End.

Having provided refuge for Protestant French Huguenots in the late 1700s and to persecuted Jews in the late 1800s, Tower Hamlets now has a population which is one third Bangladeshi Muslim in origin. You can buy both bagels and curry in Brick Lane! 38% of the borough's residents are Muslim – the highest proportion in the UK. You can visit a place of worship which has been a Huguenot Chapel, a synagogue and is now a mosque. High above the entrance on a stone sundial are the Latin words "Umbr

Sumus", we are shadows. Indeed we are, but the building remains after 250 years.

- It is estimated that there were 300,000 residents in Tower Hamlets in 2017
- It has one of the fastest growing and youngest populations in UK
- Poverty amongst children is the highest in the country

Tower Hamlets still needs the vision of contemporary Christians to be the radicals and reformers of the 21st century. Come and encourage some of the churches committed to London's East End!

Virtual walks still available

The Tower Hamlets walk is still on our website as one of the Virtual Unlock Walks (2020) and so if you'd like to preview the route you can find it here http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php scroll down the page to find it.

Donations still needed

The 2021 Virtual Walk around Lambeth, Southwark and the City of London is also on that webpage. The 2021 walk is just as good as the 2020 one but it has only raised £10,500 so far. That is £15,000 less than we usually raise; income we can hardly afford to lose. If you usually support Unlock through the walk, and have not yet done so this year (or even if you have!) please prayerfully consider making a donation to help us deliver Unlock support and resources to the places that need it most.

OUR SECOND VIRTUAL WALK

Due to the 2021 walk again being changed to a Stay at Home walk, we are not able to produce our usual list of church groups who have sent in their sponsorship. However, we are as ever grateful to everyone who either obtained sponsorship or sent a donation. Whilst we do try to acknowledge all donations, if you did not receive your usual letter of thanks then that would have been due to still being part furloughed but needless to say all donations are always very much appreciated. You will read elsewhere that sadly the response was not as good as last year being around £10,500 which is still a substantial sum, and we hope to return to more normal levels next year when we are back to a real walk which I know everyone is so much looking forward to. Special mention must go to the Benefice of Aldermaston & Woolhampton who raised the tremendous sum of £677.45 through online giving in memory of one of their much loved walkers who died during the year.

If you have not seen the virtual walk materials they are still here [unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php) It comprises 6 sections entitled Patience, Lament, Kindness, Discernment, Gratitude & Hope. Thanks to Ian Smith of the Walk

Planning Team for working so hard to produce the pack including information about the route, church factsheets, reflections, bible texts, Unlock stories, prayers, also the "Thoughts along the River" activities produced by Carolyn Gower (Rotherham worker). We are so looking forward to being able to be back together face to face in 2022.

Online giving is a very easy and efficient way of collecting your sponsorship and with the closure of Virgin Giving we have signed up with Give as you Live. Donate where you will be able to set up your own sponsorship page as Aldermaston & Woolhampton did to enable people you don't see to sponsor you, and also to be able to promote your sponsorship through social media or e-mail. It is very straight-forward to set up and full details are available on our website. Details of all you will need for the 2022 walk including new sponsor forms will be circulated at the end of January, and also published on the website, but if you are using a sponsor form from a previous year please ensure that you send your sponsorship to our new office address – Unlock, 15 Station Road, Rotherham, S60 1HN.

Jenny Blake

DONATIONS

Any donations, however small, towards the work of Unlock are extremely welcome. It costs £2,500 to fund Unlock's contribution to a local project for a year. Please contact the office for our bank details if you would like to give regularly by standing order or online banking.

UNLOCK GOODIES

Unlock T shirts and baseball caps in assorted sizes and colours available from the Unlock office for £6 plus P&P. Also we now have stylus pens in purple or silver & black which will be on sale at the walk or available from the office at £1.50 each plus P&P.

2021 walk income
has reached

£10,572

Thank you everyone!

If you know of any other people who would like to be put on the walk mailing list please encourage them to contact the Unlock office.

THE UNLOCK LEARNING CYCLE

UNLOCKING REAL LIFE
STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE
Start with the group telling stories
from their real life experience.

LEADING TO MORE
EXPERIENCE
What we learn now is learnt for
life and changes us. We also learn
to keep reflecting!

RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS
AND CONFIDENCE
Change happens as a result of linking real
life experience with the Bible. This change
often leads to action among others.

REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF
THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST
The real life stories are connected to
and compared with similar situations
in the Bible.

If you would be willing to receive your newsletter by email in future to save Unlock postage then please send an Email to: office@unlock-urban.org.uk

FINANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT 2021

Asking someone "How are you" in the Zulu Language often elicits the response "We are here". The implication is that they are surviving despite what life has thrown at them. The same could apply to Unlock finances. We've had a difficult time financially but we are hanging in there!

We ended 2020 (our last completed financial period) with a significant deficit of £5,775 which

was concerning but better than we had feared earlier in the year. Income was down on the previous year by 12% (£51,337) but our expenditure was also down by 8% (£57,112).

The London Walk donations have always been a significant part of our funding. The Walk Planning Team has done an amazing job producing a virtual walk over the past two years. Both walks were very well-received but the walk

this year (2021) generated a much lower donation income. The shortfall was partially offset by planning a virtual walk from the outset which avoided the cost of printing and posting the guide-maps. We also received a very generous donation (unrelated to the walk) which helped balance out the reduced walk income.

We look forward to hundreds of feet pounding the streets of London during a real-life Unlock London Walk in 2022. We hope you can join us!

We've continued to work as efficiently as possible and to keep costs down as much as we can. We've settled into our new office, although we haven't been there very much due to furlough and working from home. We've had to furlough office staff and local workers at various times during the lockdowns. The government Job Retention Scheme has been a useful lifeline making up a significant part of our income during the pandemic.

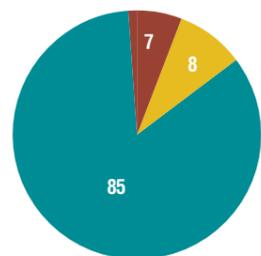
We are likely to finish 2021 with another deficit. The effects of the pandemic make it difficult to predict our financial future but we will survive to face 2022. We hope that you will continue to support our work as we get back onto our feet and continue to walk alongside us as we journey forward into the future.

For now, "We are here!".
Thank you for your support!

David Tyers (Treasurer)

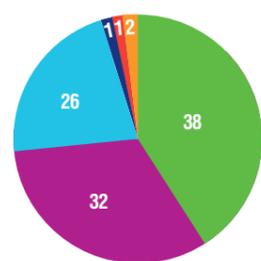
EXPENDITURE 2020

Governance Costs	£3,958	7%
Fundraising	£4,700	8%
Charitable Activities	£48,454	85%
TOTAL	£57,112	



INCOME 2020

London Virtual Walk	£19,613	38%
Donations	£16,526	32%
Investments (interest)	£892	2%
Training Fees	£542	1%
Gain in value of investments	£632	1%
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	£13,132	26%
TOTAL	£51,337	



UNLOCK BIBLE REFLECTION AND ACTIVITY PACKS

Free to download from the Unlock website unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_projects.php#bible_study_resources or on request from the Unlock Office – Please send a donation to cover the costs of printing, postage and packing.

WHAT'S NEW

The Year We Stayed at Home (including Covid Timeline)

A pick and mix resource pack of stories, reflections, Bible readings, activities, images and music for local churches and small groups to begin to process their experiences of the Covid pandemic, including sections on Lament, Gratitude, Patience, Kindness, Hope and Discernment.



Also available, as part of this or separately, is a graphic timeline (with associated worksheet) running from the beginning of 2020 until the end of 2021, including most of the key national milestones and events with space for people to add in their own personal account of 'Covid Times' and how they and their local community were affected. A2 print versions are available from the Unlock Office on request.

Unlocking Feelings

A set of creative activities and reflections on the theme of emotions; connecting the ways we feel in day to day life with stories in the

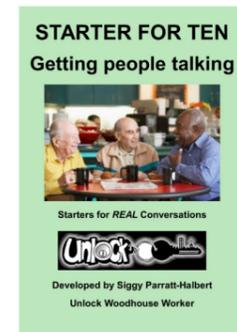


Bible, including material on anger, peace, anxiety, playfulness, sadness and happiness.

Starter for Ten

Pick and Mix Conversation starter activities.

Most Unlock resources are designed for people right on the church fringe and beyond; this one is different. Its aim is to break down barriers between church communities and the communities within which churches are set,



by developing listening and conversation skills in fun ways and in relation to faith and community issues.

If you are working with a disconnect between your church and community, there are ideas here to help you find some ways forward.

Seasonal Trails

Resources and approaches for churches to connect with their local communities through seasonal interactive trails.



Create a seasonal community 'treasure hunt' searching for eggs, sheep, chicks, donkeys, or nativity figures etc., in partnership with local business owners, and share the church's core stories beyond the church walls.

giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock

GIVE AS YOU LIVE

Would you like to support Unlock every time you shop online at no cost to you and no cost to us? With Give as You Live, thousands of major brands including Tesco, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to Unlock. The average shopper will raise £2.10 per month through what they already buy online. Give as You Live is easy to set-up and use. Simply visit **GIVE AS YOU LIVE** at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock for full details. Try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

giftaid it
but what is giftaid?

Simply, for those of you who have not yet heard of 'Gift aid', it is a system that enables charities to claim an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue for every £1 donated to them by a UK taxpayer.

9 in every 10 donations received by Unlock are NOT made under giftaid.

If you pay tax then please consider whether you can tick the gift-aid box on the registration form when you make your donation.

Giftaid will NOT cost you anything!

All it means is that we can apply to the Inland Revenue for an extra 25p for every £1 that you give towards our work.

To qualify for Gift aid, you must pay enough tax to cover the amount that will be claimed back by the charity/charities that you give to – so if you give £10 you must have paid £2.50 in tax!

TRAINING

Unlock provides training in "Working with the Bible in Non-book Culture", for those preparing for, or engaged in, urban mission. If you would like to know more about this, please request our training brochure from the National Office.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHURCH TO SUPPORT UNLOCK, EITHER THROUGH THE LONDON WALK, OR AS PART OF THEIR MISSIONARY GIVING, YOU CAN FIND UNLOCK PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES ON THE UNLOCK WEBSITE, NEXT TO THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEXT UNLOCK WALK.

ACHIEVEMENTS

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

CARDIFF

Sharon Jenkins continues her work.

TREETON, ROTHERHAM

Carolyn Gower completes her work after 2 years.

TOWN END FARM, SUNDERLAND

Francesca Walsh completes her work after 16 months.

Workers unable to continue frontline work are part furloughed to conserve resources.

PARTNERSHIP WORK

CO attends:

- National Estate Churches Network 'Your Time' conference on Zoom
- Estates Evangelism conference, Swanwick

PUBLICATIONS

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED AND 2021 LONDON VIRTUAL WALK LETTER MAILED

Resources published on the Unlock website include:

- The Year We Stayed at Home
- Stepping Into Hope
- Starter for Ten
- Seasonal Community Trails
- Unlocking Feelings
- Chatting with the Creator

EVENTS

The 38th Unlock London Walk in Lambeth, Southwark & the City of London takes place as a Stay at Home walk. The 6 part activity pack on the themes of Patience, Lament, Kindness, Discernment, Gratitude & Hope includes pictures, prayers, stories, information about the churches on the route and Bible reflections prepared by Ian Smith (Walk Planning Team). Also included in the pack are activities prepared by Carolyn Gower (Rotherham worker).

THE WALK RAISES £10,572 TOWARDS THE WORK OF UNLOCK

THE POSTPONED LONDON WALK WILL BE ON 23 APRIL 2022

UNLOCK NATIONAL COUNCIL MEET 3 TIMES ON ZOOM



**UNLOCK, 15 Station Road
Rotherham S60 1HN**

Tel: 01709 380 318

**Email: office@unlock-urban.org.uk
unlock-urban.org.uk**

CHAIR

Andrew Dorton

CHIEF OFFICER

Dawn Lonsdale

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Jenny Blake

I.T. AND FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin Quinton

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Andrew Dorton (Chair), David Tyers (Treasurer), Nicholas Carter (Secretary), Barbara Funnell, Canon Sue Sheriff, Sarah Watkins-Idle, Tim Watkins-Idle, Rev Claire Cullingworth, Rev Catherine Pickford (to Sept 2021), Rev Phil Medley, Fiona Parker, Rev Kath Rogers (from Oct 2021), Ruth Weston (from Oct 2021)

TRUSTEES

Nicholas Carter (Chair), Barbara Funnell, Andrew Dorton

BANKERS

Co-operative Bank, Salford M5 2QP

Unlock, is a charity established to equip Christians in inner city and outer housing estates to be more effective as they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own areas. Unlock employs between four and eight paid staff including a network of workers placed in inner city locations across the UK. The charity is overseen by its National Council which meets three times each year. The legal document of the charity is its trust deed, dated 25th May 1972.

Registered charity no. 313454



Please cut out and return to us at: Unlock, 15 Station Road, Rotherham S60 1HN

UNLOCK SUPPORTERS REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

Tel No.

Email

Please add me to the Unlock mailing list:

I would prefer to be contacted by:

Email (this saves Unlock money)

Post (we are happy to do this if it is your preferred form of communication)

I enclose a donation to Unlock's work in deprived urban communities in the UK.

£ (Cheques made payable to 'Unlock' please.)

Signature

I would like my donation to be gift aided

Please access information on the Unlock website if you are able to. If you need printed information please tick the relevant boxes below:

Unlock training

The Unlock London Walk

Praying for Unlock

Unlock resources

Legacy giving

Unlock Data Protection Statement

This information is kept on our Unlock database which is only used by Unlock. It will not be disclosed to any other person or organisation. By inserting your details above you signify that you have understood this and agree to it. Please see our website www.unlock-urban.org.uk to read our full Privacy Notice.