



RISING TO THE

Well 2020 is a year that none of us will easily forget! In its 48 year history Unlock has faced challenging times before and has always survived to continue our frontline work of:

**UNLOCKING REAL LIFE STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE
REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST
RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE**

CHALLENGES OF 2020

So far we are still here, and still going, but 2020 threw a bit more at us than anyone really expected!

UNLOCK TRAINING EVENTS

Back at the start of 2020, the plan was to spend a year focusing on large regional Unlock training events. We'd had a few of these towards the end of 2019, in York, Birmingham, and Sheffield; and we ran another in Great Yarmouth in February 2020. We already had more booked for the rest of the year. The Norfolk event was well attended and well received, and it even gave us an opportunity to be interviewed on BBC Radio Norfolk, talking about Unlock's work. (You can listen here www.unlock-urban.org.uk/about.php.)

Sadly, the rest of those events could not take place in 2020 but, once the dust settles, we hope to rearrange them for 2021 or beyond. If you want to talk to us about delivering Unlock training in your area, please contact the Unlock office. **DL**



COVID-19

Then the novel Coronavirus emerged! Council agreed, at their meeting in March, just a few days ahead of the full lockdown, that small groups meeting to share their own stories, be creative and

discover Bible stories, to grow in faith and self-esteem, was not going to be practical or safe for a while. So we needed to furlough all of our Unlock frontline workers and most of the tiny office team. They planned that Unlock would just tick over with minimal staff until the health crisis eased. **DL**

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT UNLOCK-URBAN.ORG.UK



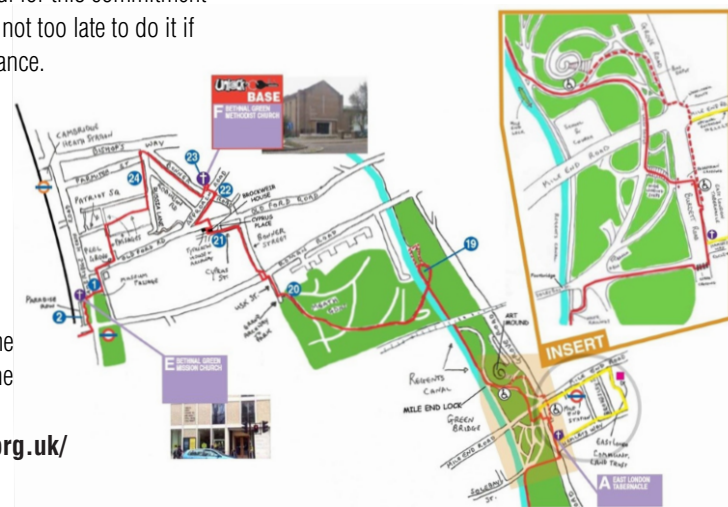
An Unlock London Walk has taken place every spring for the last 36 years; 2020 is the only time we have had to cancel the event. Although it was clear that the real life walk would not be able to take place we still need the income that it would usually generate.

So, thanks to a committed and creative effort from our voluntary walk team, we were able to transform the walk planned for Tower Hamlets in 2020 into an online experience. Many who accessed it found it really interesting and enjoyable. It includes, pictures, activities, prayers, stories, information about the churches on the route and Bible reflections.

Virtual walkers and Unlock supporters have so far donated 73% of the income we would

usually expect to raise from the average London walk. We are very grateful for this commitment and faithfulness, but it's not too late to do it if you have not yet had chance.

You can still find it on the London Walk page on the Unlock website
www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php



OFFICE RELOCATION

In July we were informed that the company that manages the building in Sheffield, where Unlock have rented space for our National Office for the last 13 years, has gone into liquidation and we were given notice to vacate the premises by the Autumn. The Old Rectory at Handsworth has suited us very well and we are disappointed at having to leave, as well as slightly dismayed at having to manage a full scale office relocation

during a pandemic! However, our finance manager Kevin Quinton has local contacts and has managed to negotiate a new office space for us in a building in Rotherham that is primarily used by 'Shiloh', a local Homeless charity

www.shilohrotherham.org.uk. Some of the office staff had to be hurried back from furlough to arrange the relocation. We moved into our new premises during September, and the new contact details are included in this mailing. **DL**



VIRTUAL LONDON WALK 2021



It is now apparent, (at the end of October 2020), that the 2021 Unlock walk will have to be a second online virtual walk, and armed with what we have learned from 2020, the preparation has already begun.

The 2021 Virtual Unlock London Walk will be centred in the Elephant and Castle area of London.

As in 2020, the walk will be released in daily sections, starting on 18 April, so that the full set of walk 'episodes' will be on the Unlock facebook page and website by the day when the real walk should have taken place, 24 April onwards.

Please do contact the Unlock Office if you need a paper version and they will be mailed out from 26 April onwards.

We received very enthusiastic responses to the 2020 Tower Hamlets Virtual Walk, so please 'limber up' ready for 2021 - have a look if you have not tried it yet, and encourage Unlock walk veterans and Unlock walk 'virgins' to explore a virtual



version, either to remind them of past walks or encourage them to have a go for real when we are able to do that again!

Please make a note in your 2021 diary to start looking online for the next virtual walk from 18 April onwards. **DL**

RESOURCES

One thing that we can do during a pandemic is catch up on developing resources. So by the time we circulate this newsletter there will be a number of new Unlock Bible packs (and with more to follow in the spring) on the resources page of the website

(www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_projects.php#bible_study_resources) or available from the Unlock Office.

Titles are not yet finalised but they include a pick and mix assortment of conversation starter resources, introductions and approaches to prayer for church-fringe settings, seasonal trails (ways for your church to use annual church festivals as a way to engage with the local community), and, 'The Rubbish Seed Sower' exploring the well known parable found in Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15. **DL**

HOW TO DO OUR FRONTLINE **UNLOCK** WORK IN THESE STRANGE TIMES

If there's one thing we have learned from 2020 it is that you can never be very sure what's coming next.

As I write at the beginning of October, it appears that the easing of restriction in the summer months was a bit of a 'false dawn' and there's no telling what the winter will bring. We need to stay cautious, compassionate and faithful.

Our local workers are keen to return to their frontline work but they cannot yet do it in the ways that they usually would. They are all developing safe and kind ways of working within the restrictions, even as the rules

change under their feet! They are in need of your prayer support please.

We are considering how we might return to usual patterns of working with local small groups in due course, in ways that would be reasonably safe for all involved, but the timing will depend on how the pandemic numbers shift over the next few months, and that may vary region by region.

We will need to stay alert and be ready to change tack again at any moment. Fortunately trust in God allows us to hold our plans lightly and flexibly! **DL**

LONDON WALK

KEEPING ON WALKING, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

BY JENNY BLAKE



Due to the 2020 walk being changed to a Stay at Home walk, we are not able to produce our usual eagerly-awaited list of church groups who have sent in their sponsorship. However, we are very grateful to each and every one who either managed to obtain sponsorship or sent a donation. I am only sorry that due to being furloughed we were not able to acknowledge every donation individually as we have done in the past but please be assured that they are all very much appreciated. We are absolutely amazed and blessed by the tremendous sum of over £19,000 which was raised in this way and to all our faithful supporters who have kept us afloat for another year. We do so value every single contribution, large or small, as they play such a significant part in maintaining our work.

We have received many encouraging comments about the activity pack produced for the Stay at Home walk. It seems that many of you really enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to being back with us again next year when we will be planning a similar event.

If you have not seen it yet it is still here www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php
Please take a look.

Grateful thanks to Ian Smith of the Walk Planning Team for working so hard in such a short space of time to produce the pack as well as Carolyn Gower (Rotherham worker) and Francesca Walsh (Sunderland worker) for producing the walk workshop.

As well as sponsor forms being available, it is very easy to collect your sponsorship on-line by creating your own Virgin Giving page, enabling you to promote the walk through social media or e-mail and collect sponsorship from people at a distance. It is very straight-forward to set up and full details are available on our website. Details of all you will need for next year's walk will be circulated at the end of January, and also published on the website.

GRATITUDE, LAMENT AND DISCERNMENT

Challenging times drive faithful people to more prayer and reflection. In the midst of all the practicalities we have had to manage, we have thought and we have prayed.

What has emerged for us is the need for gratitude, lament and discernment - all good Biblical concepts!



When the future is uncertain and full of fear we need to be grateful for every little thing in our lives that is a good gift from God, every precious moment of joy.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

When there is pain and loss, we need to allow ourselves to mourn it appropriately

Psalms 13

When the way ahead is clouded we need to wait faithfully and pray for direction.

Isaiah 58:11

Unlock will continue to do those things and we are developing a resource pack using these themes to help people reflect creatively on their COVID experience; please contact the office if you want to know when it is ready. Hopefully that spiritual reflection will resource our future work and allow God to carry us forward in 2021 and beyond. **DL**

OUR NEW OFFICE ADDRESS

15 Station Road
Rotherham S60 1HN
Tel: 01709 380 318

UNLOCK GOODIES

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.

2020 walk income has reached £19,473

Great effort!

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.

You can now collect your walk sponsorship or make a donation online via Virgin Giving.

uk.virginmoneygiving.com

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 2020

After almost 9 years as Treasurer for Unlock, I'm used to breathing a sigh of relief if we survive another year with just enough funds to begin the next! Our last completed financial year (2019) was no different. We ended the year with a deficit of £3,333 which, although not ideal, was considerably better than we had feared. Income (£58,644) was down on the previous year but so was our expenditure (£61,977).

Our budget at the start of 2020 again predicted a significant deficit unless we found new sources of funding to support our planned activities. By our Spring council meeting, it was clear that the London Walk was unlikely to go ahead due to coronavirus. The walk provides about 40% of our income and this loss would cause a huge problem for Unlock. Our fantastic Walk Planning Team responded quickly and

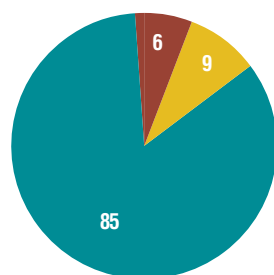
transformed the walk into a virtual one which we offered online. It was high quality, well received and, so far, has produced significant donations from our supporters, replacing about 75% of our usual walk income. The lockdown has temporarily halted most of our local partnership projects but we have been able to make use of the Job Retention Scheme for our furloughed workers. We were told that the lease on the Unlock office was to be terminated due to changes in circumstances of our landlord. We have now found a new office location which may generate new unplanned expenses.

The pandemic is likely to have a sustained economic impact on our fundraising income for quite some time. In common with other small charities, we cannot predict what the future holds for us but may need to be willing to do things differently. Unlock is small enough to be flexible, has always been able to adapt according to resources available... and change isn't always a bad thing! As Stamford economist, Paul Romer, said "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste". We are up for the challenge! We hope that you will continue to journey with us, continue to support us and keep Unlock sustainable for many years to come. Thank you for your support!

David Tyers (Treasurer)

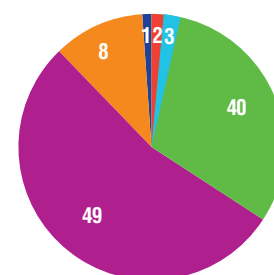
EXPENDITURE 2019

Governance Costs	£3,854	5%
Fundraising	£5,386	9%
Charitable Activities	£52,737	85%
TOTAL	£61,977	



INCOME 2019

London Walk	£23,628	40%
Donations	£28,775	49%
Grants	£3,500	8%
Training Fees	£350	1%
Investments (interest)	£917	2%
Gain in value of investments	£1,474	3%
TOTAL	£58,644	



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!

ACHIEVEMENTS

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

WOODHOUSE, SHEFFIELD

Siggy Parratt-Halbert completes her work after 4 years.

CARDIFF

Sharon Jenkins continues her work.

TREETON, ROTHERHAM

Carolyn Gower continues her work.

TOWN END FARM, SUNDERLAND

Interviews take place and Francesca Walsh is appointed.

TRAINING PROVIDED

CO runs workshops:

- Queen's College, Birmingham
- Hull Community Church
- Christians Against Poverty in York
- Imagine Norfolk Together in Gorleston

BIBLE WOMEN VISIT ST CUTHBERT'S, SUNDERLAND

PARTNERSHIP WORK

CO attends:

- NECN Leading Your Church Into Growth conference, Swanwick
- Estates Evangelism conference, Launde Abbey

CO meets regularly with:

- Representatives of The Bible Society
- Church Army staff
- Saltley Trust

PUBLICATIONS

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED AND 2020 LONDON WALK BROCHURE MAILED

EVENTS

The 37th Unlock London Walk entitled In the Shadows of the Tower takes place as a Stay at Home walk. The activity pack includes pictures, activities, prayers,

stories, information about the churches on the route and Bible reflections. Also included in the pack is a workshop on the theme of hospitality prepared by Carolyn Gower (Rotherham worker) and Francesca Walsh (Sunderland worker).

THE WALK RAISES £19,473 TOWARDS THE WORK OF UNLOCK

THE NEXT VIRTUAL LONDON WALK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON LINE AND BY POST FROM 18 APRIL 2021 ONWARDS

www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php

UNLOCK NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETS TWICE

Unlock National Gathering 2019 held at Cliff College with Rev Lisa Shemilt as our guest speaker to help us in our thinking around the themes of Fragility and Vulnerability. Over a period of 24 hours staff, workers and Council together with Unlock local teams, friends and partners get together for a time of sharing food, taking time to reflect, pray and listen to God and each other.

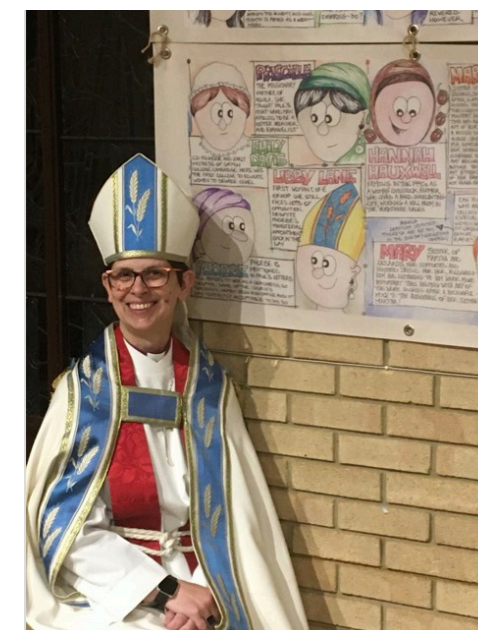
TRAINING

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.

BISHOP MEETS HER CARTOON SELF

In January 2020 Bishop Libby Lane came to do a confirmation at The Unlock Chief Officer's church. We managed to grab the Bible Women from the Unlock office and get them up at St Lawrence's in time for her visit and we introduced her to her cartoon self.

She has given us permission to use these photos. She's even wearing the same hat!



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.

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT



Since this appears on the back of this newsletter, you'll have read by now how Unlock has, largely thanks to Dawn and Jenny and Kevin and

the 'walk team', risen to very significant challenges of this past year. On behalf of the Council and Trustees, thank you so much to all of you. I don't know that we will emerge from this year stronger, but that we are emerging intact and ready to go whenever we can is, actually, something to be very grateful for.

Our national gathering, so important to a small and very far flung network, had to be cancelled in October because of re-introduced restrictions; a loss to lament. We will be using the same content when we do get to meet, hopefully in May 2021. We will be thinking about gratitude, lamentation and discernment.

I've mentioned being grateful for, I suppose, surviving. Many people have not; many businesses have not, and I guess, a fair few voluntary organisations, church things among them, won't have survived - so we are grateful to God. The most obvious example is how successful the virtual London walk was; thank you for your generosity. Before we do anything else, in our prayers, in our worship, in our doing of whatever we do in the service of the kingdom of heaven coming on earth, it's good to start with being grateful; by remembering by what grace we have got to where we are, no matter what the future might hold.

There have been losses; there is much to lament. We have not been able to fulfil our purpose for most of this year. Some work will

have lost momentum; some opportunities will have been lost; some people have been lost. Together we were, and we will I hope, sit with that reality; not rush through it - but sit with it; face it; cry out to God about it; be angry and sad and say whatever we need to say to a faithful God who can take it - and hopefully relieve ourselves of burdens we can't.

We must also discern the import of the times we've been through and where that leaves the communities of place and people that we work in; then to discern what is required of us by the Holy Spirit who is still active in our world - where are you blowing? Where (to use our previous metaphor) do we need to tack to - what new or revised directions do we take - to be able to do what you require of us?

Please pray for the effectiveness of the work which will be restarting in 2021 particularly in Cardiff, Rotherham, Sunderland and Hull, and we trust through the use of 'Bible Women' and all our other free-on-line materials in loads of groups all over the country as people start to meet again; but also pray with us, intercede for us and the work of Unlock, perhaps on the basis of these three words and thoughts above - and do share with us anything that you learn or hear.

Andrew Dorton



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CHAIR

Andrew Dorton

CHIEF OFFICER

Dawn Lonsdale

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Jenny Blake

I.T. AND FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin Quinton

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Nicholas Carter (Secretary), Barbara Funnell

Canon Sue Sheriff, Sarah Watkins-Idle

Tim Watkins-Idle, Rev Claire Cullingworth

Rev Catherine Pickford, Rev Phil Medley,

Fiona Parker

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



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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

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