

UPDATE

2026

# 'GONE FISHING!'

Like most Christians we're always thinking somehow about fishing (although we actually spend more time worrying about fencing in the sheep).

At Unlock we've been playing with a small sail-boat analogy for some time; well before covid actually.

We felt like what we are pretty small vessel reliant on the wind - of the Spirit and of your support - that had to learn to tack! By which we meant: learning how to catch the wind there was - no matter what direction it was going - and to trust that where we found to fish was the right place even if it wasn't the sort of place we might have expected.

We did a number of local projects that were unusual but where there was good fishing.

During covid we were becalmed like just about every one/thing else.

And for over a year afterwards as churches had to feel their way out of a darkness imposed upon them that had filled many with fear. (Never the way of Christ except with 'the hypocrites'). The analogy with our boat that made sense for then was: we were having to mend the nets on shore; its what you do when you can't go fishing. And indeed it is a necessity at some points.

What we have as a result is a pretty clear analysis of the long-term weather, of who is making it, why and how; a clear plan to develop

the walk - because sometimes we can make some of our own weather.

- Most importantly we now have a better, which is to say, more sea-worthy offer: one that works better with the weather - the conditions - we all face. That offer is the one Dawn is making to you in... **'Time to Take Action!'** on page 3.

Do think about it for your church or one you know that might benefit from Unlock's approach and please pray for its success: our job is to help catch fish.

- Take another look at the website. It's improved and there are great resources people really appreciate.
- The other major part of our plan is to develop our own financial resources: we have a net, we need to strengthen it and extend it. The London Walk is a huge gift to us. After over 40 years, it still has great potential. If you've never been, please think about it for April 2026: I absolutely guarantee it will not disappoint.

And thank you for your ingoing support.

**Andrew Dorton**

What's the point of having a fishing sail-boat?

To get out into the deeper water and catch some fish stupid!

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT [UNLOCK-URBAN.ORG.UK](http://UNLOCK-URBAN.ORG.UK)

# CONTEXTS AND DIVISIONS

Our Unlock work is all about context. We tailor our approach to each location where we work and we encourage everyone else to do the same. Each local context has unique aspects to be both celebrated and accommodated.

But there are wider contexts as well, which affect all of us and every local community. Among those are a national context and an international one. Our local work needs to recognise those wider contexts as well as the local.

In those wider contexts we (and, we think, many) are currently concerned about **Culture Wars**:

- An increasingly strident polarisation of social and political perspectives
- Widespread and growing disdain, if not actual aggression (on all sides of the divides) for anyone whose views are different.

We do not believe that Culture War is part of God's Kingdom. Unlock wants to be part of the solution; do you?

So we've been reflecting on that and will be exploring it all further at our next Unlock Annual National Gathering. We will be sharing stories as a way of connecting people, and trying out an approach called 'Weaving Trust', facilitating intentional conversations across difference, developed by Citizens UK [citizensuk.org/leadership-training/organising-together-across-difference/](http://citizensuk.org/leadership-training/organising-together-across-difference/)

Meanwhile we are considering - What if, the prophetic role of the church in this century is to discover, model and teach the world how to engage creatively and respectfully with those who see things differently and to appreciate that our common humanity is transcendent over our ideological differences? What if the Church could show the world how to disagree well and respect one another even when we differ?



## Perfect Love Casts out Fear; (from 1 John 4:18)

# WE RELY ON YOU!

Unlock runs on a tiny budget of around £60k per annum. Around 50% of that is raised by the Unlock walk. Another 40% comes from donations. It is very rare indeed that we are able to secure funding from Charitable Trusts, as very few of them will support Christian Mission and those that do are oversubscribed.

In other words; our work is almost entirely reliant on your faithful generosity. We very rarely have enough in the bank to run for more than 12 months. We are accustomed to that and it does not phase us; we trust that God will resource the

work for as long as God wants us to go on doing it.

We believe in the Unlock work we are doing; sharing creative approaches to Bible connections, and extending opportunities for oral learners in urban communities to discover and develop their Christian faith in ways that are relevant, accessible and engaging. We spend the money we receive, as well as our time and energy, delivering Unlock work through **Local Partnerships, Unlock training, and Resources.**

We could do more 'Unlocking' in more places if we had more income. Searching for finance uses up time that we could otherwise be spending developing new work in new locations. We rely on you to keep Unlock working into the future

### UNLOCKING REAL LIFE STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE

### REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST

### RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

We are always very grateful for the donations of our faithful supporters, every kind of donation, but especially regular giving which allows to plan work into the future with confidence.

## TRAINING

Unlock provides training in "Working with the bible in a 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.

# TIME TO TAKE ACTION!

You are already part of the Unlock story by supporting our work. Now you are invited to join in by creating an Unlock partnership in your own community.

We've been out fishing all night (year!) but our nets are empty. We are tired, wet and hungry. Where should we be casting our nets next?

*Luke 5:4-11*

### Unlock is looking to develop new local partnerships with Christians of any denomination who have:

- A heart for the most marginalised of local people
- Some community engagement and social action already in place (however small and tentative) that they wish to grow, particularly in missional terms
- Capacity to build a small team of support (not necessarily hands-on helpers) within the church & community
- An interest in setting the Gospel free within their local community
- A commitment to overcoming exclusion
- \*A capacity and willingness to commit £3k per annum for two years
- Leadership that is expected to remain mostly stable for the next 2-3 years
- An urban area that can easily be identified with locally recognised boundaries.

*\* It is not necessary that this finance be fully available within church funds, as this is often not an option in the most marginalised locations. The expectation is that churches are able to secure mission funding from local Christian charitable trusts, diocesan or denominational funds for at least some of the cost.*

**Does this sound like your Church/Community? If so, please get in touch! We need you! And maybe you need us too?**

Dawn Lonsdale Chief Officer

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Cut this page into separate cards for each emotion word and put them all into an envelope, hat or bag

- 1 Without looking, **one** person in the group picks a card out of the 'Emotions Cards' envelope/hat/bag. Then use the word on the card to insert wherever '\*\*\*\*\*' appears in the instructions below.
- 2 Everyone but alone - **think** of one thing that has made you \*\*\*\*\* recently.
- 3 In your group - **share** your stories from step 2 very briefly and, all together, choose one issue that most people relate to, and want to work with.
- 4 Together - **identify** a bible passage that relates to the issue you have chosen. *In a group that is not used to using the Bible this step can be done by a facilitator*
- 5 Look at the Bible passage together.
- 6 In your group - **consider** the issue you have chosen in relation to the Bible passage.
- 7 **Look for:**
  - any light that the bible passage throws on your chosen issue.
  - any action that any of you are going to take as a result of this.

*Developed from an idea by Martin Johnstone for Unlock Glasgow*

<b>Angry</b>	<b>Disgusted</b>
<b>Ashamed</b>	<b>Humbled</b>
<b>Terrified</b>	<b>Trusted</b>
<b>Betrayed</b>	<b>Proud</b>
<b>Rejected</b>	<b>Overwhelmed</b>
<b>Deceived</b>	<b>Desperate</b>
<b>Hopeful</b>	<b>Confident</b>
<b>Amazed</b>	<b>Loved</b>

# LONDON WALK WALKERS STORIES

## MY UNLOCK WALK EXPERIENCE

This was my first ever Unlock Walk and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. If you were also on the walk, you may have seen me, I was the one who did the whole walk with the Unlock balloons attached. Despite being a person with a complex history with the church



I found all the churches involved in the walk welcoming and inclusive regardless of the person's faith background.

I am an active person and enjoyed pushing myself to walk to all locations, but it was clear that the walk attracted a range of abilities. Pre-walk I found setting up the online donation platform easy and the Unlock team quickly answered queries I had.

On the day I travelled via coach to central London from Derby and the base church was easy to find and accessible using London public transport. Arriving at the base church it was a hive of activity and the walk was very well organised, with large, detailed maps provided and stamps provided at each location which I particularly enjoyed collecting and was proud to get to my last one just in time.

Each church greeted me with warmth, and the Unlock members at every location made it feel as though they were truly interested in each person taking part in the walk. It was clear how much thought went into planning the walk, from the churches, interesting places in the area to see and each of the quiz questions along the route. My map-reading skills were not their strongest but other walkers along the route directed me in the right direction. Would I were to do anything different next time, I would start earlier, as I started around noon due to travelling on the day, to give me more of a chance to complete the quiz in full, I would also consider bringing along a friend.

Overall, I highly recommend getting involved in the Unlock Walk, not only to raise money for a great charity but for a wonderful day out, getting to explore a new area. A suitable day for a range of ages and abilities.

Jane Musson

## LETTER FROM A WALKER

We received a lovely letter from an avowed agnostic, along with a donation in memory of their long term Christian friend and partner, who had recently died at a very advanced age. The two of them had thoroughly enjoyed at least 25 Unlock London Walks together, continuing up until they were well into their 90s; always completing the entire route, often long after everyone else had gone home!

We are very grateful for all those who support Unlock through the London Walks and are such a great encouragement to us.

## THE UNLOCK 42ND LONDON WALK, 27 APRIL 2025

The 42nd walk was pleasant and powerful. The sun lighted up the day, making it warm and a great day for walkers to visit churches and see the impact London churches are making in their various communities. This is their Superpower! It is always a pleasure to hear how the London Walk is a real insight into various parts of London.

No doubt, Battersea Power station which is one of the largest brick buildings in the world was the biggest landmark with a breath-taking view. Walking the 42nd walk were people from different backgrounds and ages from young to

old. Ashurst Drive Baptist Church made it to the walk with a large group of 40 or more walkers. This is brilliant! Keep it up. It is key to state that some walkers have been doing the Unlock Walk since the 80's and they have passed the baton to their children. This is a remarkable legacy, hopefully the baton will carry on to the next generations.

Thank you for standing by Unlock for all these years. God bless.

Nguemo Takon  
Senior Administrator

## UNLOCK LONDON WALK QUIZ WINNER

Congratulations to Mandy Eaton of Newcross, London who won the adult quiz prize. A second congratulations goes to Joseph Mansfield who won the children prize. Answers are on our website, alternatively, they can also be obtained from the office.

THE MONEY YOU RAISE BY WALKING PAYS FOR THE WORK THAT UNLOCK DOES

## UP AND DOWN THE 2026 WALK



The 2026 Unlock walk will be a hilly one in North London, as we visit Hampstead and Kilburn, with the opportunity for those who wish to explore the open spaces and views from Hampstead Heath, one of the highest points in London. Kilburn lies on ancient (pre-Roman) Watling Street

which is now the modern A5, and has a very inner-city feel to it, with large Irish, Afro-Caribbean and Middle Eastern communities. Hampstead is a famously leafy suburb, with West Hampstead and Froggnal somewhere in between.

The area is well served by train and bus services, including the London

Overground's Mildmay Line. As I write, we are still finalising the route and the Churches we will be visiting, but as ever there is a fascinating mixture, each with its own story of God's work to tell.



Walk Planning Team  
(WPT)

## Do you have what we are looking for?



A small team of volunteers plans the Unlock London Walk each year; they recruit the local churches, create the map and photos and collate all of the travel and tourist information that goes with it.

They need some new people to join them to help to make the next Unlock London Walks some of the best yet.

If you live within easy reach of London, care about supporting Unlock's work and have an interest in urban walking - better still if you are already an Unlock Walker and want to help to create the magic that is the Unlock London walk for the future, please contact the Unlock National Office.

Tel: 01709 380318  
Email: [office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk)  
[unlock-urban.org.uk](http://unlock-urban.org.uk)

UNLOCK  
15 Station Road  
Rotherham  
S60 1HN

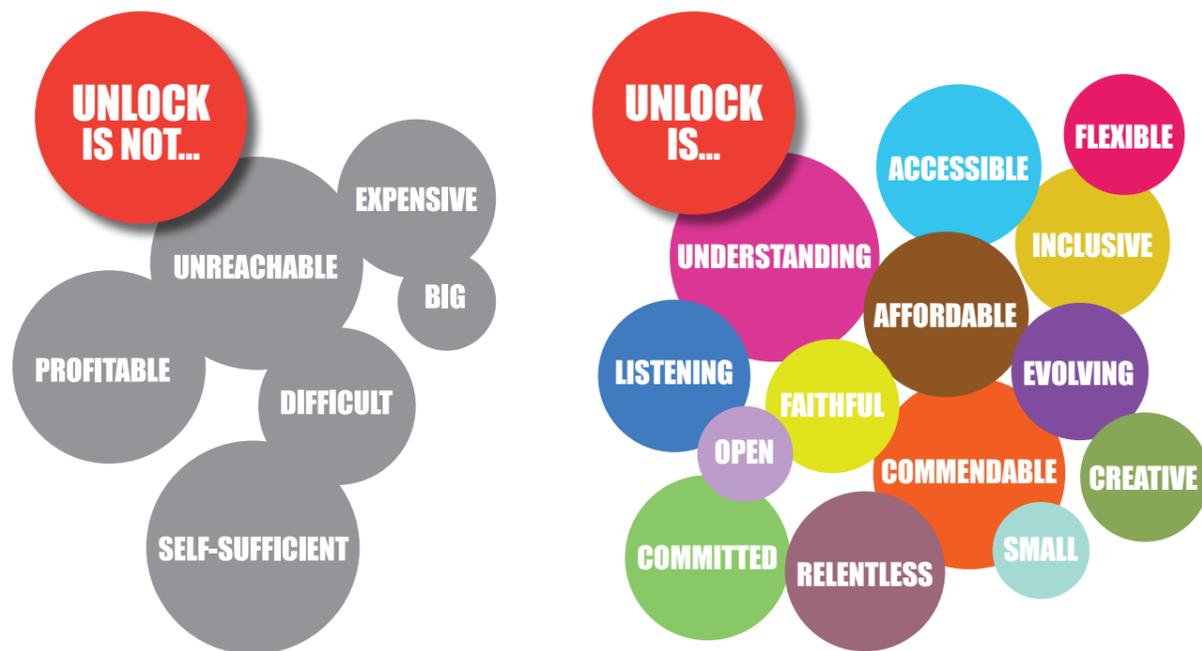
## X2 BY 2027

Unlock's target is to double the number of walkers in the next 3 years. This year there were 419. How many more can you bring along in 2026?

You can collect your walk sponsorship or make a donation online via [giveasyoulive.com](https://giveasyoulive.com).

[donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/unlock](https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/unlock)

2025 walk income has reached £24,602. Brilliant effort! Thank you everyone!



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.

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

Hello! I am Chris Mileham and this is now my second annual report as treasurer of Unlock. You may have come across me as I have been a fairly regular participant in the London Walk. So I do recommend watching the excellent video on the website about the Walk, despite the dodgy bloke admitting to doing his 31st London Walk and saying that it is fun. Which is actually what it is.

Now for the boring bit (well I actually find them exciting!) the numbers. 2024 (our last

completed financial period) showed a total deficit of £1,065, which when compared to a 2023 deficit of £12,995 shows real positive progress. Total income (£46,087) was up by 8% on the previous year, with a significant (25%) increase in London Walk income at £25,148. Although somewhat flattered by money received which was actually for previous annual walks. This was offset by a

### EXPENDITURE 2024

Governance Costs	£3,605	8%
Fundraising	£4,542	9%
Charitable Activities	£39,005	83%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£47,152</b>	

### INCOME 2024

London Walk	£25,148	55%
Donations	£18,226	39%
Investments (interest)	£876	2%
Gain in value of investment	£1,837	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£46,087</b>	



fall of nearly 10% in other Donations. Total expenditure (£47,152), is actually substantially down, just over 15%, on the previous year although the large majority of that coming from reduced Workers' Expenses. This is a reflection of the lack of new local partnerships.

Yes, as reported last year it is hard work seeking to establish new local partnerships with churches and exploring new ways to work with them and with other organisations. The effects of Covid and the 'Cost of Living Crisis' continues to hit many very hard, particularly in the churches and organisations that we seek to work with. There are the free on-line resources which are being used by several churches. We do though need to be able to develop relationships which both help those we work with grow their Christian ministry, but at the same time produce sufficient income to ensure the work of Unlock can be sustained into the future. Unfortunately this continues to be a struggle and we are likely to again record a financial deficit in 2025.

The London Walk continues to be a vital source of income as well as being a great day out. So do join us, if you can, on 18 April 2026 and bring your friends.

Finally a big thank you to all of you who have made and raised donations over the past year and to all who have made a contribution either as volunteers or staff.

**Chris Mileham**  
Treasurer

### NEW LOCAL LAUNCH PARTNERSHIPS PROJECTS

We have redesigned the way we provide local partnerships. For details see [unlock-urban.org.uk/our-workers/all/](http://unlock-urban.org.uk/our-workers/all/)

### TRAINING PROVIDED

CO runs Unlock training:

- Queens Birmingham
- Sheffield Diocese

### PARTNERSHIP WORK

CO attends:

- NECN conference
- Faith In the City 40th anniversary
- In The Thick Of It
- Urban Mission Toolkit
- Urban Expression

### PUBLICATIONS

- Newsletter published and distributed, and 2025 London Walk brochure mailed.
- Power of stories published and put on the website

### 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.
- Unlock Learning Cycle: **Illustrated below**

### EVENTS

The 42nd Unlock London Walk entitled Power and Pleasance took place in Kennington, Camberwell, North Brixton, Stockwell and Battersea. A sunny, pleasant and warm day for around 419 walkers. Fiona Parker & Claire Cullingworth, Unlock Council members supported with the walk. Fiona did a video of walkers for Unlock promotion while Anne Musson handled the Superpower workshop alongside Claire Cullingworth.

## THE WALK RAISES £24,602

TOWARDS THE WORK OF UNLOCK

THE NEXT LONDON WALK IS ON **18 APRIL 2026**

Unlock Office staff retreat takes place at Chesterfield with treasure trails activity.

Unlock National Council meet 3 times.

## CHURCH GIVING RANKING

Below is a list of churches who have sent in their sponsorship for the 2025 walk, they have been listed in the order of the amount raised. A massive thank you goes to everyone, whether you were listed here or not, and to the walk leaders who relentlessly work towards recruiting walkers to raise sponsorship. Unlock values every single contribution however small, all combining to maintain and develop our work in deprived urban areas.

- Same position as last year
- NE New Entry
- ▲ Up
- ▼ Down

- |            |   |            |                                       |
|------------|---|------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b> | St Matthew's Church, High Brooms, Tunbridge Wells | <b>▼11</b> | St Luke's, Bricket Wood               |
| <b>2nd</b> | Ashurst Drive Baptist Church, Ilford              | <b>NE</b>  | Brandon Baptist Church                |
| <b>3rd</b> | St Peter ad Vincula, Wisborough Green             | <b>NE</b>  | High Cross Church, Camberley          |
| —          | Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford                | <b>NE</b>  | Crofton Park Baptist Church           |
| —          | St John's, Moulsham, Chelmsford                   | <b>NE</b>  | Walton Methodist Church               |
| <b>▲1</b>  | St Paul's Church, Marylebone                      | <b>NE</b>  | St Mary Magdalen, Sheet               |
| <b>▼2</b>  | Hutton & Shenfield Union Church                   | <b>NE</b>  | St Paul's, Hook                       |
| <b>▼3</b>  | St Mary's Church, Hadlow, Kent                    | <b>NE</b>  | St Mary's Ealing                      |
| <b>▼3</b>  | Dagnall Street Baptist                            | <b>NE</b>  | St Lawrence Church, Heanor            |
| <b>▼5</b>  | St Barbara Deepcut                                | <b>NE</b>  | URC Church Petersfield                |
| <b>▼8</b>  | East Plumstead Baptist                            | <b>NE</b>  | Oakridge Baptist Church, High Wycombe |
| <b>▼9</b>  | Park Street Baptist                               | <b>NE</b>  | St Paul's URC, Croydon                |
| <b>▼10</b> | Christ Church URC, Clacton-on-Sea                 | <b>NE</b>  | St Andrew's, Sidcup                   |



Please contact us: **01709 380318** or [office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk) if you'd like to be added to our mailing list.

**DONATIONS** towards the work of Unlock are both needed and extremely welcome. Please contact the office for our bank details if you would like to give regularly by standing order or online banking.

*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!

# ★★★★★ REVIEW

I wanted to say thank you so much for all the resources you've produced. They have been invaluable in my context and have really helped some of our local people to start to engage with conversations around faith and begin to open up with one another. Thank you so much for making these available. I attended an Unlock training day which was great to hear more about the Unlock learning cycle and how it was developed.

Over the past year we have started a Wellbeing group at my church. I had the idea of starting a small group based around Wellbeing and offering faith as something which could aid people in their wellbeing. We began by using some of the Unlock resources, and they worked really well. We adapted them to suit our context and then have started writing our own resources.

## WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you use Unlock resources or approaches in your local ministry please let us know about it, and what it is that you like about them.

## YOU CAN HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

If you use Facebook please follow and like Unlock's Facebook page and our posts, that way more people will see them.

[giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock](http://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 [giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock](http://giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock) for full details. Try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

Would you consider leaving a gift to Unlock in your will. This doesn't have to be complicated and it's possible to make many types of different gifts. Full details are available on our website at [unlock-urban.org.uk/support\\_legacyes.php](http://unlock-urban.org.uk/support_legacyes.php) or if you would like to talk with someone about leaving Unlock a donation in your will please contact the Unlock National Office.

# LEGACY GIVING

## UNLOCK

15 Station Road, Rotherham S60 1HN  
**01709 380318**  
[office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk)  
[unlock-urban.org.uk](http://unlock-urban.org.uk)

### CHAIR

Andrew Dorton

### CHIEF OFFICER

Dawn Lonsdale

### SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Nguemo Takon

### I.T. AND FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin Quinton

### NATIONAL COUNCIL

Andrew Dorton

Nicholas Carter

Canon Sue Sheriff

Sarah Watkins-Idle

Tim Watkins-Idle

Rev Claire Cullingworth

Fiona Parker

Lisa Shemilt

Chris Mileham

### TRUSTEES

Nicholas Carter

Andrew Dorton

Canon Sue Sheriff

### BANK

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.

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

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