Unlock

2021 UPDATE

Unlock needs new places to work and develop local partnerships.

We are looking to develop new Unlock work with Christians of any denomination who have:

- A heart for the most marginalised of local people
- A desire for stronger connections within the local community
- A desire to grow the church family; spiritually at least as much as numerically
- Some community engagement and social action already in place (however small and tentative) that you wish to grow, particularly in missional terms
- Capacity to build a small team of support (not necessarily hands-on helpers) within the church and 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 (£60 per month after an initial £400)
- 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. 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.*









COULD THIS BE YOUR CHURCH?











Does this sound like your Church/Community?
If so, please get in touch!

We need you!
And maybe you need us too?

Fiona and Claire, our new Unlock Field Officers, are looking for places to come and do some Unlock work. Please let us know if you would like them to visit you.

If you want to know more about how this works, ask the Unlock office to send you our 'Power of Stories' leaflet, or go to **unlock-urban.org.uk/our-workers/all/**

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



FIONA PARKER
UNLOCK FIELD OFFICER

Fiona has been involved with Unlock for 20 years. First as a Project Worker in Hull (2007/8) and then as a member of the council from 2016. More recently she's helped at the Unlock London Walk, co-facilitating workshops and producing a short promotional film.

Over the years, Fiona has been involved with a variety of creative projects in both a freelance and voluntary capacity. From mural painting in Morocco to pop-up art spaces in Cambodia; from co-creating a festival on an estate in Hull to leading a mid-pandemic pilgrimage round Hull and the East Riding, and from jointly weaving "Woven" - an online artists' community to directing cabarets and comedy skits in Bridlington - "Doctor Who and the Garlics" being a personal favourite.

What underpins these things is the desire to connect with people and to create, together. To walk with and honour each other's gifts and see what happens, sharing stories along the way. In this context, Unlock's methods have informed her creative practice and affirmed how she naturally flows in her work and life too.

Fiona, originally from Essex, is married to Gav, a son of Hull. Together they share a motorhome called Ruby and a caravan called Wilma and are happiest out and about exploring the highways and byways of England and beyond.

EVER WONDERED WHY UNLOCK ALWAYS NEEDS MORE MONEY?

It's because there's always more we can do to –

UNLOCKING REAL LIFE STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE

REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST

RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

– and the money you give us, enables us to do those things in the places where it is needed most.

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.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE FROM UNLOCK TO COME AND TALK AT YOUR CHURCH, OR SPEAK AT A CHURCH EVENT THEN PLEASE CONTACT US AND WE WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN ARRANGE.

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 the next 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. Maybe God is doing that through you and if that's the case; thank you!

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 resources and new work in new locations. We rely on you to keep Unlock working into the future.

We are always very grateful for the donations of our faithful supporters, every kind of donation, but especially regular giving which allows Unlock 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.

AN UNLOCK REFLECTION ON HAPPINESS

Do the things that make us happy stay the same or have we changed?
A good way to think about this is think about yourself one, three, or five years ago.

Read Psalm 92.

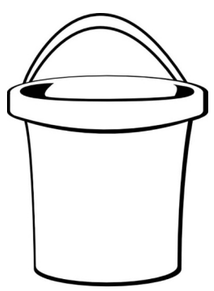
How do you think the psalm writer would respond if asked what made them happy?

Give everyone a bucket template

Mental health experts talk about our need to fill "our bucket" with the things that bring us joy (and spot the holes that drain it out!)

Everyone can spend a few minutes writing or drawing things in their buckets – both things we currently have, and things/habits we'd like to add to our own Bucket of Joy

This is an extract from 'Unlocking Feelings' and this link **www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resstore/0020.pdf**



"YOU LOT ARE A PROPER COMMUNITY..."



There's a lot going on at St Hilda's on Greatfield. Keep fit, bingo, a choir, dance classes, gardening, Shell's second-hand shop, a weekly Ward Councillor's surgery, a Council advice drop-in, a chat and wellbeing group where it's OK not to be OK…

You can feel it when you walk in. It might be an official "Warm Space", where there's hot drinks and lunch available, and heating during the colder months. But there's proper warmth here. A proper welcome. A sit-round-the-table-and-settle-in warmth. Have a biscuit, have a chat, wherever you're at. Whatever's going on. It's OK. And it's OK not to be OK too.

"You lot are a proper community, aren't you?" says Jo from Be Great Fitness, over leftover cake from a baptism and a team effort lunch.

Stories of spouses with Alzheimer's and the support and solace received here.

Hopes of being a youth worker, once dashed, now resurfacing: *"I've found my voice now. I used to give up too easily. These days I push through for the things I want to do."*

Wondering about things to come: *"I started community work in 1979. I'm getting on a bit now. Keep thinking what's next?"*

Around the table after lunch, there's chat about a course that's been happening these past few weeks: "Unlocking Feelings." Looking at emotions and relating personal experiences to stories in the Bible:

"We all go through it. Whatever happened many moons ago. What we've been studying, what everyone's been through at one point or the other in life."

"Relating our own experiences makes more sense of the Bible. "I get it! That's how I've been feeling!" It's simple really."

"No matter what your journey's been like, everyone participated off their own back. No pressure."

"I've enjoyed it. Listening to other people's views. Makes you think and question yourself about what you believe."

For some, it's a new way of looking at things; stories they've known since childhood. For others, it's all new. And for others, a surprise, having held churchy things and/or God at arm's length for years.

"You might not be here in a religious sense but you're here!" comes a shout from across the room.

And suddenly attention shifts to a butterfly loop-the-looping by a window.

"That speaks to me, that," says the once-eclipsed youth worker.

And we all look on. Watching it shimmy and shine then fly straight out into the open sky.

"Well, that's me done then," she says, slapping the table and bringing us back into the room. *"Kids need picking up. Best be off…"*

And off she goes. Whilst the table gets cleared and the washing up gets done and an overflow of cauliflowers are laid out for anyone who wants one.

"See you again. You're welcome any time…" Comes the shout, as people swap one warmth for another, and head out into the sun.

Big thanks to:
Barbara, Vicky, Norman, Tanya, Shell, Emma, Tommy, Ken, Chris and Victoria

MEANWHILE ON AN OUTER ESTATE IN HULL...

Now the green blade rises

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

I've witnessed the blossoming the blooming the growing the wilting the shaking like thistledown hither and thither.

I've witnessed love come again. Gathering, noshing, crying, talking, laughing, being, playing, singing, praying.

J.P. the self-identified atheist has been moved to tears and we were glad. He brought in a newspaper from the time the Chilean miners were stuck underground. The quote he showed me was from a miner; *"I felt like I was stuck between the devil and God and I reached out for God."* I asked J.P. if that's what he was doing and he said "Yes"



We had a spontaneous sing-a-long the other week *"we plough the fields and scatter"*. Apt!

The Unlock resources are very helpful; a good beginning. I'm very grateful for Chris for organising, printing and general preparation and for just being Chris. Of course, we began with Cathy Westby's rather brilliant 'Unlocking Feelings' stuff. That was the beginning of the Unlocking of hearts and minds and so we go on. Growing, togethering, and turning to one another.

Our gathering group name is Childers. The foundation is very strong. The bricks have had a good kicking and its standing firm. Deep sighs.

Victoria

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.



The Unlock Learning Cycle:

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

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

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.

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



St Francis Church

UNLOCK TRAINING IN CHANTRY, IPSWICH

In July some of us travelled to Chantry in Suffolk. Chantry, with a population of over 30,000, is a large suburban housing estate located on the south-western edge of Ipswich. Built in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it was originally an area of council housing to replace demolished housing stock near the waterfront of Ipswich. According to Government figures, Chantry falls into the 10% most deprived areas in England.

We were there to deliver some Unlock training to folks from St Francis Church in the heart of the estate. We're delighted that they wanted to know about how Unlock's approach can work in communities like theirs, and that at least a dozen of them were willing to come and spend a very hot sunny day with us in the church. Thank you, St Francis folks, for your welcome and hospitality, and thanks to Ipswich Diocese for helping them fund our visit.



We spent some time exploring Unlock resources to start with, then we explained the kinds of context where we work, our Unlock learning cycle (see above) and the approach we use. After that, everyone had a chance to design an Unlock session that local groups could use. We look forward to hearing how things go there in the future and we hope to see them all again, before long, to see how they are getting on with Unlocking Chantry.

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.

LONDON WALK

2026 walk income has reached £21,776. Brilliant effort! Thank you everyone!

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 for full details.

Try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

UNLOCK LONDON WALK QUIZ WINNER

Congratulations to John Donovan from Kent who won the adult quiz prize. A second congratulations goes to Anna Masters from Derby who won the children prize. Answers are on our website, alternatively, they can also be obtained from the office.

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
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 **507**.
How many more can you bring along in 2027?

You can collect your walk sponsorship or make a donation online via **giveasyoulive**.

donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/unlock

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

CRYSTAL PALACE THE 2027 WALK

The 2027 Unlock Walk will be in the Crystal Palace area of South London, also visiting Penge, Anerley and Gipsy Hill. It will include remarkably green views both looking North to Central London and South to Surrey and Kent. The area takes its relatively recent name from the huge iron and glass building originally erected in Hyde Park for the great exhibition of 1851 and afterwards moved to a large park in what was then called "Penge Peak". It burned down in the 1930's, but the concrete dinosaurs, another of the park's attractions from that period, have recently been refurbished and are on the walk route, and we will also pass the 700 feet high London TV transmitter tower. We also expect that the walk will include a record number of London Boroughs. It won't be any longer than usual - it's just that there are several converge on this area.



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.

SIMPLE MATHS

A rising inflation rate means that our costs escalate. Unless our income also increases we will be able to do less of our charitable work.

FINANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT 2026

It's now time for the finance bit. Yippee do I hear you say!! Okay perhaps not. I am Chris Mileham the honorary treasurer of Unlock and this is my report. I have been a regular participant in the London Walk over more years than I care to admit to. I also got a walk-on role in the excellent video about the Walk on the website – **www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SwvOvl6duY)**

This is now my third annual report and it would be nice, for once, to be able to use that lovely little word surplus! But after what had been a significant improvement in 2024 over the previous year, the 2025 accounts (our last completed financial period) are once again showing a deficit. At £2,210 it was not as bad as we had feared, but a backward step from 2024 which showed a total deficit of £1,065.

EXPENDITURE 2025

Governance Costs	£3,640	7%
Fundraising	£6,263	13%
Charitable Activities	£40,474	80%
	£50,377	TOTAL



INCOME 2025

London Walk	£24,962	52%
Donations	£20,076	42%
Investments (interest)	£664	1%
Gain in value of investment	£2,465	5%
	£48,167	TOTAL



Total income (£48,167) was up by 5% on the previous year, but only due to a £2,000 grant, which can only be used towards the cost of The Gathering. That is happening in 2026. Otherwise, donations and income from the London Walk are slightly down against 2024. Total expenditure (£50,377), is up 7%, on the previous year. This was largely down to extra promotional costs for the London Walk, including producing the video. The increase in expenditure on Charitable Activities of 4% was roughly in line with inflation.

2026 is again shaping up to be a difficult year financially. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the work that has been going on to develop relationships and promote the work of Unlock but it is taking time for any of this to bear much fruit. So, with the majority of the year having passed, it is inevitable that in 12 months' time I will be reporting on another deficit.

With over 50% of Unlock's income coming from The London Walk, it continues to be a vital source of income as well as being a great day out. So do join us, if you can, on 17 April 2027 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

2026 CHURCH GIVING RANKING

Below is a list of churches who have sent in their sponsorship for the 2026 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.

One off donations are always very welcome but regular donations allow us to plan our work on the basis of income and are worth their weight in gold!

1. East Plumstead Baptist
2. Ashurst Drive Baptist Church, Ilford
3. St Mary's Church, Hadlow, Kent
4. St Matthew's Church, High Brooms, Tunbridge Wells
5. Crofton Park Baptist Church
6. Merrow Methodist Church, Guildford
7. St Paul's, Hook
8. St Peter and Vincula, Wisborough Green
9. High Cross Church, Camberley
10. St John's, Moulsham, Chelmsford
11. St Barbara Deepcut
12. St Luke's, Bricket Wood
13. Park Street Baptist
14. St Mary Magdalen, Sheet
15. Hutton & Shenfield Union Church
16. Dagnall Street Baptist
17. Christ Church URC, Clacton-on-Sea
18. The Avenue Methodist Church, High Wycombe
19. St John the Baptist, Barnet
20. St George's, Stamford
21. Brandon Baptist Church
22. St Mary's Ealing
23. St Lawrence Church, Heanor
24. St Paul's Church, Marylebone
25. Hainault Baptist Church
26. St Paul's URC, Croydon

ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW LOCAL LAUNCH PARTNERSHIPS PROJECTS

We have redesigned the way we provide local partnerships. For details see **unlock-urban.org.uk/our-workers/all/**

TRAINING PROVIDED

CO runs Unlock training:

- St Francis, Chantry, Ipswich

PARTNERSHIP WORK

Fiona Parker one of our new Unlock Field Officers attends

- NECN conference in Sheffield

PUBLICATIONS

- Newsletter published and distributed, and 2026 London Walk brochure mailed.
- Power of stories published and put on the website

EVENTS

- The 43rd Unlock London Walk took place on a pleasant, sunny day. Around 507 walkers explored the Hampstead and Kilburn areas of Northwest London - Well done! This is a welcome increase from 419 walkers who joined last year's London walk, and we look forward to seeing the numbers grow year on year.
- Unlock Council members Claire Cullingworth & Fiona Parker, provided support through a workshop, whose activities were designed around the four themes of the 43rd Unlock London walk: Homes, History, Hills and Heath.
- Unlock Office Staff retreat takes place at Selby with pilgrimage around the Abbey.

THE WALK RAISES £21,776 TOWARDS THE WORK OF UNLOCK

THE NEXT LONDON WALK IS ON 17 APRIL 2027

Unlock National Council meet 3 times.



Unlock Office Staff at Selby Abbey

Please contact us:
01709 380318 or **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.

LEGACY GIVING

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_legacies.php** or if you would like to talk with someone about leaving Unlock a donation in your will please contact the Unlock National Office.

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.

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!

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

It is a great pleasure to be writing this knowing that Hull is going to feature in what you read. The people here, in Hull, using Unlock resources - initially written here for people here - addressing what life is really like for people here - are great people. And those 'group leaders' have been working in the church I got married in nearly 40 years ago - you can see a bit of it St Hilda's in the photo.



I'm back there on Sunday speaking about Matthew chapter 21. Chris here in Hull is going to be working with another very edge (or city and survival) church. We don't pay Chris - another tiny local para church organisation in Hull does.
If you have not looked at the 'Unlock Feelings' course on the website, then do! It'll change your church, whatever your circumstances.

Last year I talked about going fishing in a small sailing-boat. Unlock has been a small boat on a big sea for ever, and the sea seems to be getting more and more difficult... totally be-calming and other times, extremely rough. The sail is about catching the wind of the spirit, since we lack 'power' to drive things: little money, little prestige, limited access. The fishing bit may be obvious: nobody is promising you a net on the other-side miracle, but - and its a big but - if you want to fish the Jesus way, there's no place better to learn how than through Unlock.

Hull has a long long history of using Unlock materials. I can't tell you its the answer to 'church growth'. But I can tell you stories over the years of life changing experiences and well founded faith journeys. You'll get a flavour here-in. Consider the *Could this be your church?* on the front page of this Newsletter.

We'd also love to see you at the Unlock Walk 2027. Its another really great story. And a great way to raise some money whilst having a really good time seeing what other parts of the body of Christ are doing. And if you can do nothing else, just do the thing that matters most: pray for us; intercede for us that doors might open - new harbours are found - new places where we can work to land some fish if you like that analogy.
For growth in the number of Walkers and income generated. And pray also concerning the staff team: there have been major health challenges and staffing changes with thanks for recoveries and new opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support of Unlock, for being part of the story of this faithful expression of the body of Christ at work around the edges. And tell us your Unlock story if you will.



Andrew Dorton
Chair of the Nation Unlock Council

UNLOCK
15 Station Road, Rotherham S60 1HN
01709 380318
office@unlock-urban.org.uk
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

find us on Facebook

design by **able design**

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
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 **unlock-urban.org.uk** to read our full Privacy Notice.