

5 Ways to keep in touch and support Unlock's work

1 Partnership

Do you belong to an organisation with similar areas of concern to Unlock?

Unlock are happy to identify, and work with, other groups concerned with encouraging urban discipleship in the UK.

We want to: -

- Know who our partners are in the field of urban Christian development and education
- Share resources and expertise
- Collaborate on research projects
- Identify areas of common ground
- Work together as appropriate

Contact Unlock to register as a 'Partner Organisation'. You will receive our annual newsletter and we may approach you from time to time about specific pieces of work, or you may approach us!

2 Friendship

Do you identify with Unlock's aims and want to support our work?

If you register as a Friend you will receive our annual news letter and information about the Sponsored walk. You can then support Unlock in a number of ways.

You may want to support Unlock's work by: -

- trying out unlock materials or approaches with groups you know
- start a new group to work with Unlock resources
- tell other people about Unlock's work
- use material from the website to make people aware to Unlock's work
- Praying
- Donating money
- Taking part in our annual sponsored walk
- Sponsoring a walker
- Getting a group together to initiate an Unlock 'Corner Shop' for your city.

3 Money!

Unlock's work is funded entirely by voluntary donations and our annual sponsored walk in London.

We welcome: -

- Small regular donation
- Small one off donations
- Small donations in response to specific requests
- Medium sized regular donation
- Medium sized one off donations
- Medium sized donations in response to specific requests

- Large regular donation
- Large one off donations
- Large donations in response to specific requests
- Gift aided donations are especially helpful
- Approaches from Grant awarding trusts whose criteria fit with Unlock's work

To support Unlock's work financially complete the registration form and return to the national office.

4 Prayer

Unlock is supported by a network of Prayer Partners.

They receive a twice yearly prayer letter and prayer regularly for Unlock's Council, staff, and all their work.

Register as an Unlock Prayer Partner to receive prayer letters.

5 Sponsored Walk

The majority of Unlock's Funding is raised by an annual sponsored walk held in London each spring. These started in 1983 and have taken place every year since. Each year they raise thousands of pounds for Unlock's work. Anything from 600 to 1,000 walkers take part. The route usually includes urban churches and religious centres, a range of urban landscapes and housing, heritage locations and places of interest, places of rest and refreshment, and a place where walkers can encounter some of Unlock's work.

Each year we need three types of people to get involved: -

1. Walkers – do the walk and collect sponsorship
2. Sponsors – sponsor walkers
3. Church Walk leaders – recruit and organise a group of walkers from your own church(s) and liaise with the national office on their behalf.

Unlock



Photographs by Andrew West

Barriers and Bridges

Unlock Sponsored Walk No. 22

A Walkers Eye View

David Harvey

Unlock's 22nd walk was one of the best. We saw a cross-section of life in the inner city with a tremendous range of peoples, housing, workspace and inspiring Christian mission. We started at Paddington Green Police Station and met the first of the "barriers" – the Westway. In fact it was so much of a barrier that we failed to see beyond it and walked the wrong way down Edgware Road! After putting that right and going through the contrasting areas of Lisson Grove and St John's Wood we came to Little Venice.

What a gem that is, with its colourful boats and gardens. Coming away from the canal and crossing the railway – two more barriers, we found the Open Door Friendship Centre set in a large estate of flats and offering the bridge of Christian friendship to the Muslim community. On through an area of mixed housing and passing under the Westway again, we came to Notting Hill and Portobello Road – a kaleidoscope of sights, smells and colours. The last section took us along leafy roads and past the three transport "barriers" again as we walked into Paddington Station, under the Westway back to Little Venice, and so back to Paddington Green.



Lasting Impressions:

- The food smells. Round almost every corner we met a tantalising new odour.
- The churches. At least two, St. Francis and St. Paul's were revived from churches that had been forced to close due to lack of numbers and are now growing.
- The vibrancy of life in the city. The food in the markets looked wonderful, the shops were buzzing and the new developments around the canal inspiring.

Pause for thought:

- Of course, there is still much need. There was graffiti, some run down housing and a vast mission field with few resources.
- The posh developments and fancy canal boats do little to generate long-term employment and affordable housing for the vast majority of people.

Some surprising encounters:

- We (strangers to the area) were asked the way to "Alfie's" in Portobello Market, and having just passed it, were able to assist!
- We met a nurse from Sheffield (where we come from) working in the Open Door Friendship Centre.
- It's lovely passing walkers in both directions and we met some old friends (one twice as we went round in opposite directions).

Well done Unlock!

Unlock



Chair's Annual Report 2005

The Annual Report was easy last year; we hadn't had one the year before and a huge amount had been happening and I was new. So it all came flowing out. This last year has, from my point of view, been about really seeing if our renewed, and we believed God-given outline set of directions, were going to really move us along. The theory, the vision, looked wonderful: working things out in practice is usually a bit messier!

Getting the flavour

I haven't got the space to re-tell you all the things we felt we needed to do and then describe progress on each but I hope to give you a flavour.

I'm not really into this, but if you are, visit the **new Unlock web-site**. It's indicative of how we are trying to move things on. You'll find several revised study packs which you can now download and print free. All this represents a lot of effort, but also something of a new way of working. Rather than do everything in house, we've paid people to do the 'techy' bits so the staff can concentrate on what they are best at. Rather than make people pay for paper, we are offering them many more resources they can inspect and select themselves, direct and free.

An enhanced team took on organising and running **the Walk**. Of course it was our Chief Officer's (Dawn) first. We agreed that since responsibility had passed to Peter & Jill Hall (in the absence of a chief officer) with support from Carol and Lois in the office, as always, that this should remain the pattern. Two more Council members, Tim and Sarah Watkins-Idle in London wanted to get pretty heavily

involved, and together with Sheffield workers, Maureen and Brenda, who ran a workshop on the day, all these delivered another excellent event. Many many thanks to all of you (and apologies for the over-simplifications).

Other examples of 'out-sourcing' and improvements in various systems are designed to ensure maximum time for developing work 'out there'. I tried to describe **the corner shop idea** last time; elsewhere in this report you'll read about what Anne in Glasgow has been doing and how other possibilities are shaping up. In Hull, by the time you read this, we will have had our first meeting or two of our rejuvenated local development group, applied for our half of the necessary money and probably have got a couple of local people interested in the job. We've done some exciting stuff in Hull a few years back; the corner-shop model suits our rather independent minded attitude whilst offering the support and resources that we know we need from others; Dawn, the office team and Unlock generally.

So we're back and we are ready for action

This is a subtitle I used last year. And I think we can say that it is out of date! We're not ready for it, we are getting on with it. Its early days, but the bits of jigsaw are largely in place; the question is, how quickly will new corner shops emerge and deliver. EUTP was a major – maybe the major-player in getting evangelical Christians to realise that Jesus was as interested in our inner cities and outer (then Council) housing estates as he is in the suburbs; that if Jesus spoke the language of 'ordinary people', then there is no reason for churches not to; that if stories were his preferred mode

of communication, they might work for us; that talking and sharing our experiences together and then making the connections with the bible is often a better way than being told what to believe or how to apply biblical principles in theory.

Unlock is as relevant now as it ever was to a church struggling to find 'fresh expression'. Thank you so much for your interest...and anything else you send us. Please continue to pray for this work and I hope enjoy, and fell inspired by, the rest of the report.



The 2006 Annual Unlock London Walk will take place on Saturday April 29th in North Greenwich and Lewisham

'Come and see what God is doing in the inner city' ..'

Unlock Supporters Registration Form

Please register me as an Unlock:

Partner Friend Prayer Partner

I'd like to make a donation towards Unlock's work and enclose

£

(Cheques made payable to 'Unlock' please.)

I would like my donation to be gift aided

Please send me information on the next Unlock Sponsored Walk I am interested in: -

Doing the walk Being a Church Walk Leader

Sponsoring a walker Promoting Unlock's work



Please cut out and return to us at: Unlock, 336A City Road, Sheffield, S2 1GA

Contact the National Office for details of the next Unlock Sponsored Walk

Unlock

Registered charity no. 313454
 336A City Road, Sheffield S2 1GA
 Tel/fax: 0114 276 3035
 e-mail: office@unlock-urban.org.uk
 www.unlock-urban.org.uk

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 six paid staff including a network of workers placed in inner city locations across the UK. The charity is overseen by its National Council that meets three times each year. The legal document of the charity is its trust deed, dated 25th March 1972.

- CHAIR**
Andrew Dorton
- CHIEF OFFICER**
Dawn Lonsdale
- SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR**
Carol Wroe
- I.T. AND FINANCE ASSISTANT**
Lois Fenton-Smith

- National Council**
Andrew Dorton (Chair)
Jenny Blake (Treasurer)
Nick Carter (Secretary)
Barbara Funnell (Prayer Secretary)
Canon John Hunter
Tim Watkins-Idle
Sarah Watkins-Idle
Martin Johnson
Maggie Keane
Dorothy McQuaker
Canon John Roberts
Canon John Stanley
Andrew West

- Trustees**
Canon John Roberts (Chair)
Canon John Hunter
Canon John Stanley
Nick Carter
Barbara Funnell

- Bankers**
Co-operative Bank, Salford
M5 2QP



Anne's First Year September 2005 – 2006



Anne Craig is an Unlock Development Worker in Glasgow and was featured in the 2004 Annual report as the first of our new 'Corner Shop' style workers to be appointed. It is hoped that Unlock will be able employ 3 more of these workers in other parts of the UK in the course of 2006. Here is a taste of what Anne has achieved in her first year for Unlock.

September 2004 – began work by contacting 5 groups/churches who had expressed an interest in Unlock's methods. Visited several of these and met leaders.

October/November – began leading weekly group meetings (14 – 20 people) at Taransay Court and preparing material for them to use. Continued to develop contacts.

January – met with a representative of the Bible society who works with contextual bible study and agreed to attend their one day conference in March. Continued work at Taransay Court. Made contact with 'Alternativity' and arranged to work with them to produce new material.

February – began leading a weekly group at Ruchill tearoom (6-7, mostly men) using the Unlock pack 'Experience the Bible'. Visited a group in Drumchapel, who are already using Unlock resources, and spoke with another group leader who regularly uses Unlock material. Glasgow Unlock Support Group began to meet regularly to support Unlock in Glasgow.

March – produced bible study material for Scotland's Priority Areas conference and promoted Unlock's work there. A member of the growing Ruchill group died in an accident. Ruchill group began choosing their own topics for studies. Taransay are confident and keen enough group meet without Anne for two weeks while she is on holiday.

April – Easter and 2 weeks holiday!

May – Continued working with two groups and began planning promotion events for the autumn with the Glasgow Unlock Support Group. Prepared for Oasis Trust teaching session. Windy in Glasgow.

June – led workshop on Unlock methods for Oasis Trust Frontline Project. Both weekly groups ended for the summer break, one with a communion/picnic based around the feeding of the 5000. Began using Unlock material with a group of about six 15-22 year olds.

July – Holiday, plus catching up on reading and working with Support Group to prepare for autumn promotion events. Support Group members affirmed the value of Unlock's work and resources for all the groups that are currently using them.

August – attended a meeting organised by the Church of Scotland's Transformation Team for those involved in working with small groups and the community. Letters sent out to all Urban Priority Area churches inviting them to an Unlock taster day in November. Preparation for Unlock promotional display at the Church Without Walls 'Big Saturday' event in Glasgow in September.

September 2005 – Taransay group resumes. Promoting Unlock at the 'Big Saturday' event.

Unlock Diary 2004/2005

October 2004
 Workers festival and Council meeting held.
 CO represents Unlock at National Estate Churches Network Conference.

Oct/Nov
 Chief Officer (CO) visits workers in London, Hull and Glasgow. Our first Unlock 'Corner Shop' is based in Glasgow with development worker, Anne Craig (more on page 2).

January 2005
 National Council meet. CO also meets with Sheffield workers and a representative of Tear Fund about a possible partnership project.

February
 Unlock submit material to the Commission on Urban Life and Faith, a follow up to the Faith in the Coty report, due to be published in 2006.
 CO attends a meeting of the Jesus in the City Development Group, to work on evaluating the 2004 Jesus in the City Conference in Glasgow and begin planning for a future event proposed for Bristol in 2007.

March
 CO and Anne Craig represent and promote Unlock at the Scotland Priority Areas Conference.
 Corner Shop Development pack produced and launched.

April
 New Unlock website goes live: - www.unlock-urban.org.uk. Unlock packs available to download free, more to follow. The website also has a resource section for workers and sections telling people what Unlock does and how they can support our work.
 The 22nd Unlock Walk takes place around Paddington. Entitled Barriers and Bridges it once again challenges participants to find out what God is doing in the inner city.
 CO meets with Erica Dunmow, recently appointed as Urban Development Worker for Evangelical Coalition for Urban Ministry (ECUM) in partnership with the Methodist Church.

May
 Senior Administrator, Carol Wroe, begins computer training with Square Mile Training Centre in Sheffield.
 National Council meets to review the London Walk and other new initiatives.
 Hull submit the first stage of their Corner Shop application which is agreed.

June
 CO attends (ECUM) Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission meeting. Unlock is a partner in this coalition.
 Maureen Hudson sadly had to say goodbye as a Sheffield Worker after nearly ten years with Unlock. We give thanks for her contribution over the years and think of her as she looks for new opportunities in sympathy with her health situation.

July
 CO visits Holmewood estate in Bradford and meets parish workers and locals.
 CO represents Unlock at the annual Anglican Adult Education Network Conference at High Leigh.
 efforts begin to recruit a group to support a Sheffield Corner Shop.

September
 Supporters in Hull meet to look at opportunities for a 'Corner Shop' Worker.

See our website for more information at
www.unlock-urban.org.uk

Unlock Finance Page

Constant change is here to stay

2004 saw Unlock spending slightly more than it received as activities got off the ground following the appointment of the new

Chief Officer half way through the year. This resulted in the establishing and consequent funding in September of the first of what is hoped to be several "corner shop" workers. The 25% swing in expenditure from Direct Charitable Work to Management & Administration reflected not only this development but the purchase of a laptop to enable Dawn to be a Chief Officer "on the move" and the upgrading of the office computer system to include broadband access, in preparation for the subsequent website enhancements. Why not visit www.unlock-urban.org.uk to see the improvements for yourself.

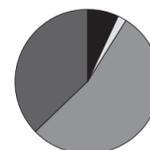
EXPENDITURE 2004 Total = £42,906

Management & Admin	£15,056	35%
Fundraising	£5,282	12%
Direct Charitable Work	£22,568	53%



INCOME 2004 Total = £40,151

Investments	£2,823	7%
Sundry	£796	2%
Sponsored Walk	£21,851	54%
Donations	£14,681	37%



The share of expenditure on Fund Raising rose by 3% on the previous year due to the walk map preparation being contracted out following already reduced office staffing levels. Unfortunately walk income was down by 12.5% and that together with donations down by almost a quarter resulted in an overall reduction in income of 15%. It is hoped in 2005 with the increased activity that donations will increase, as more people are able to appreciate the value of the organization particularly via the website.

Maybe you would like to consider making a donation to help further our work in return for now being able to download bible studies free. Alternatively why not make April 29th a date and seek sponsorship for 23rd London walk. Your help and support is very much appreciated in whatever way you can.

UNLOCK METHOD

...LEADING TO MORE EXPERIENCES TO BE UNLOCKED

Unlocking real life stories of urban people

Unlock's methods begin with a group of people sharing their real life experiences. Unlock's materials suggest different things that will help this to happen - for example, a few questions, a game or a video clip

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

These real life stories are compared with similar situations in the Bible. Unlock materials provide Bible passages on individual pages, that can be photocopied for use with a group

Releasing life changing skills and confidence

Change happens as a result of linking real life experiences with the Bible - 'We learn it now and we learn it for life.' The individuals and groups involved change, and there is often action among those around 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 28p 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 gift-aid.

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

Gift aid will not cost YOU anything!

All it means is that we can apply to the Inland Revenue for an extra 28p 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 claimed back by the charity/charities that you give to - so if you give £10 you must have paid £2.80 in tax!