



**[www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)**

**Resourcing Urban Discipleship by: -**

- **Unlocking real life stories of urban people**
- **Revealing Good News of the down-to-earth Christ**
- **Releasing life changing skills and confidence**



is . . .

**a Christian mission charity that has been working since 1972 to help urban churches of any denomination to respond to the challenges in their areas.**





**We are . .**

**especially concerned with helping oral learners; people in 'text-shy' cultures to explore the Bible.**





does . .

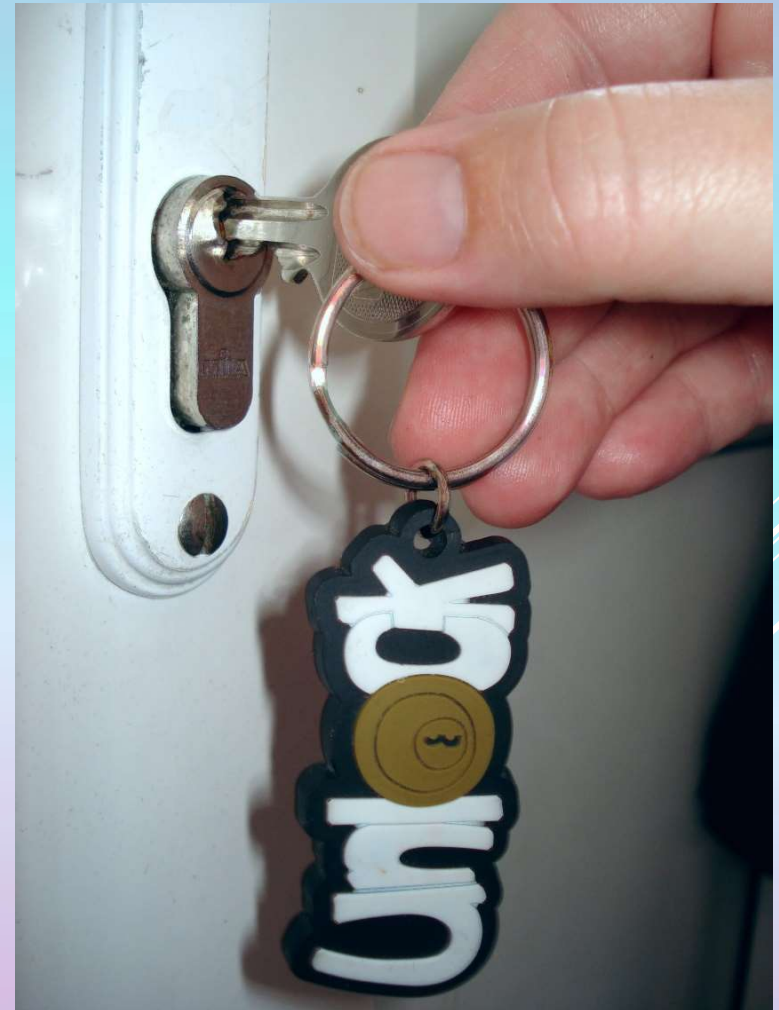
**establish local partnerships in UK cities to help churches develop appropriate ways of working with the Bible within their local community.**





and . . .

**offers training,  
support and  
resources to  
individuals, churches  
and agencies which  
have Christian  
workers in urban  
contexts.**







doesn't . .

have a one size fits all approach,  
or tell you what's best for your  
own situation.

We respond  
to the local  
context.





# Unlock's origins

**Unlock was founded in 1972 by a group of Christian leaders & ministers who shared a concern for the people of Britain's inner cities.**



**Unlock was 50 years old in 2022!**



## HARD FACTS!

**Without a significant increase in  
walk income in 2025 and 2026  
Unlock's work of -**

Unlocking real life stories of urban  
people

Revealing Good News of the down-to-earth Christ

Releasing life changing skills and confidence

**- will not be able to continue!**







# WHAT WE BELIEVE

**Jesus does not exclude anyone from growing in their Christian faith simply because the way that they take in information, think, or learn, is different to the ways in which the Church has always done these things.**





# WHAT WE BELIEVE

**Jesus does not exclude anyone from the Church or the Kingdom because they are 'not the right kind of people'.**





## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**Jesus does not make anyone feel that they are beyond the reach of God's Grace because they are 'not posh enough'.**





# WHAT WE BELIEVE

Jesus does not want anyone to feel excluded from church life because they do not have the *right qualifications*, or the *right kind of job*, or live in the *right kind of house, or street*, or read *the right books*, or have the *right way of speaking*.







## WHAT WE BELIEVE

- The fact that no one ever ***meant*** to make people feel that way does not mean that it has not happened.
- The church needs to be prepared to ***listen attentively to those who have felt marginalized or excluded.***







## WHAT WE BELIEVE

**Those who the church has somehow kept at the edge are often those from whom we have most to learn.**





## WHAT WE NOTICE . .

**Christians can, and do,  
learn about their faith simply by:-**

- sharing stories from their own everyday experience  
*and*
- - relating them to the stories in the bible . .





# AND THEN . .

- deciding what to do about it
- taking action and
- sharing stories of the actions they have taken
  - and so on . . . .







## UNLOCK'S SIMPLE APPROACH

**Is easy to use, once you know how,  
and is accessible to people who are  
alienated by  
traditional, text  
Based methods  
of studying  
Christian faith and  
the Bible.**





## UNLOCK'S SIMPLE APPROACH

- Can be a refreshing approach for those who are quite comfortable with traditional Bible study methods!
- Often includes food and creative activities





# Unlock's Way of Learning about Faith

## Unlocking Life Experience

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!

## Revealing the Down to Earth Christ

The real life stories are compared to similar situations in the Bible.

## Releasing Life Changing Skills

Change happens as a result of linking real life experience with the Bible. This change often leads to action among others.





# Unlock Training

**Learn Unlock's way of enabling ordinary people to connect their own stories into the BIG STORY of God and God's people.**

**Where would you like Unlock Training?  
Talk to the staff, or contact the office to arrange.**





# Do you want to Know how?

## Unlock Training

- Anywhere in the UK
- Morning, afternoon, evening or daytime
- Up to 30 people
- Useful, and fun as well
- Contact us to arrange a date





# Training Feedback

**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.**







# Training Feedback

- **"The course was inspiring and has provoked a few ideas!"**
- **'This teaching will help us to engage with adults at our Defenders Feast and Messy Church groups in a different and more effective way'.**
- **'We have been looking for how we can engage with people who are seeking faith and the Unlock method will give us a way to teach people about the Bible and about faith.'**







# Training Feedback

## Seaham Gets Creative with Sea Glass!

Gemma came to an Unlock Training event in Sunderland last Autumn. As part of the day Gemma and her colleagues had fun planning an Unlock session along these lines.

The group started by identifying something that was special to the story of their community. Seaham was home to one of the biggest bottle manufacturers in Europe between 1850 and 1932. At the end of each day the waste glass was simply tipped onto the beach. So, Seaham beach is famous for the quantities of sea glass that can be found there. The group used the idea of the sea glass to create this Unlock workshop outline.

You are chosen by God, you are loved.

Search out pieces of sea glass from a tray of sand. Find ones that you like and say why they appeal to you. Use this activity to encourage people to share something of themselves and their stories.

Seaham sea glass is something that has been thrown away as rubbish but it is still beautiful and can be used to make beautiful things.

Watch a clip from 'The Chosen' – Jesus choosing his Disciples or Zacchaeus.

Song - God has chosen me?

Continue a discussion of being chosen while making or doing something using sea glass – mobiles, mosaic hearts, light catchers, pictures, decorate jam jars with sea glass.





## WHY ARE THERE LONDON WALKS?

**The Unlock London Walks exist to raise money for Unlock's work.**

We want you all to have a great time, and maybe learn some things, but let's not hide from the fact that the reason we are all here is to raise money.





# HARD FACTS!

**Unlock's future work  
depends on DOUBLING  
the income from the  
annual  
London walk!**





**HARD FACTS!**

**We desperately need  
twice as many walkers  
by the time we get to  
the 2027 walk;  
and twice as  
much income!**







# STUFF HAPPENS

## Feeding & Being Fed.

Donna; a struggling young mum attended an Unlock session about food: two days later, she rushed into lunch club, still really excited about what she had learned, shouting out; 'five loaves & fishes & 12 baskets... 12 BASKETS leftover!!!!' Donna tells her daughter that she wants a Bible; there was a child like wonder in her response to the session; it connects to her own experience of feeding & being fed. She likes to have her freezer and cupboards full and feed her children on demand. Her sister is there too; they were giving each-other permission. They are filled with wonder at a super-abundant God.







# Things People have said . . .

**'Unlock are specifically committed to a section of society that the church often neglects, because that section of society is perceived as not having the intellectual capacity to engage adequately with the Bible, which is often regarded in the church as a text for experts.**

Unlock reaches out specifically to a marginalized group and in doing so, Unlock follows the example of Jesus.'

## **MR. CHAV**

*By Roger Hargreaves*





# STUFF HAPPENS

## STOP!

Using the 'say it how it is' 2 Kings session (Mess & Mistakes & Muddling through): Jane's boyfriend bought a van, she's lent him some money; she is uncomfortable, feels trapped. In the session she came across the stop sign. She heard about God saying that he was not happy with the way people were behaving. It was an entirely new concept. It had never occurred to her before that she had both the right and the power to simply say 'No'. On the Friday she came in and said, 'I've done it! Got the money back and never saw him again'. The power to say 'No' became new a feature of her life; she's since made other choices on that basis.





# Unlock has a website . . .

[www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)

**On it you will find:-**

- **Unlock stories**
- **Unlock resources**
- **Updates from the**
  - **places we are working**
- **Our plans for the future**
- **How to support Unlock's work**
- **Information about the next Unlock London walk and Unlock training events**





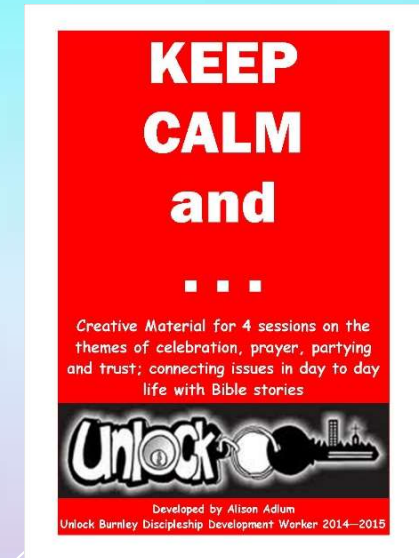
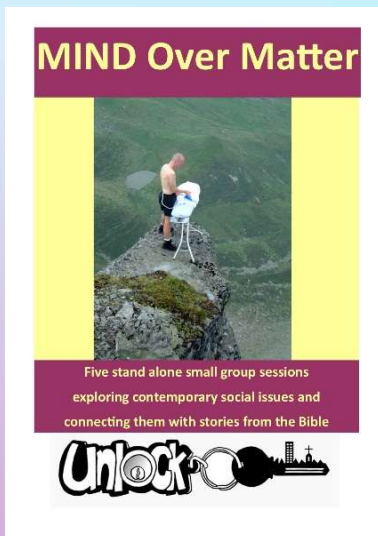
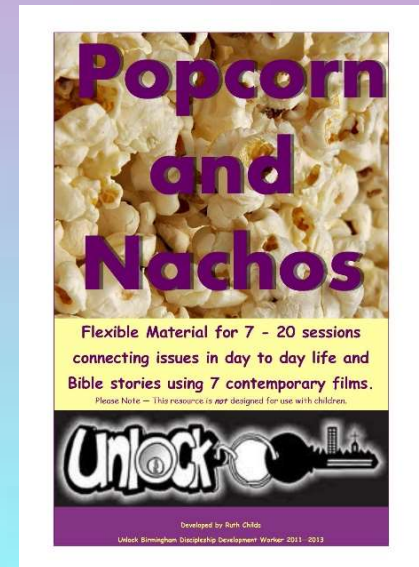
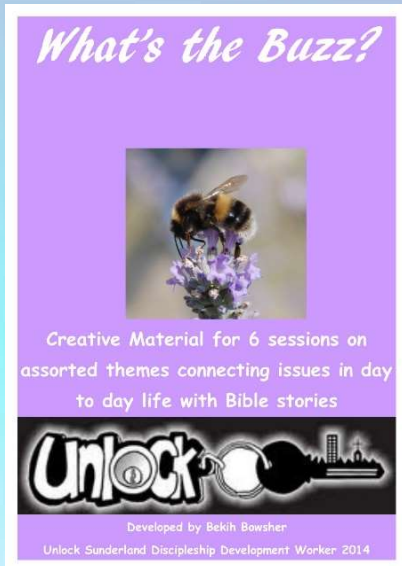


# Free Bible Study Resources



**Unlock resources  
and approaches to  
download from the  
website**

**[www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)**



## The Year We Stayed at Home



A Pick and Mix Resource pack of activities and Bible linked materials for reflecting on our shared experiences of the COVID 19 Pandemic



1



ICE BREAKERS  
WITHOUT  
AWKWARDNESS

1

# Most Recent



[www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)

## Trailing Bible Tales

Connecting with your local community through Seasonal Interactive Trails



Prepared by Siggy Parratt-Halbert

Unlock Woodhouse Worker

With contributions from Lisa M Neal of Heanor

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## Chatting with the Creator

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



FYI: THERE'S A TDOOOOOON OF PEOPLE DOWN THERE THANKING YOU THAT IT IS FRIDAY

Making it Easy for Folk to Chat with God



Designed by Siggy Parratt-Halbert Unlock Woodhouse Worker

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## Slithers of Gold



Creative Activities and reflections on the themes of Guilt, Mending and Grace; connecting issues in day to day life with Bible stories



Developed by Dawn Lonsdale  
Unlock Chief Officer with Claire Cullingworth

## Unlocking Feelings



Creative Activities and reflections on the themes of Emotions; connecting the way we feel in day to day life with Bible stories



Developed by  
Cathy Westby in Hull





## MORE RESOURCE PACKS . .

- The Heart of the Estate
- Unlocking Bible Women
- What's the Buzz?
- Keep Calm and . . .
- Pop Goes the Weasel
- Popcorn and Nachos
- Unlock DIY
- Unlock Stretched Out
- What Now?
- Easter at St Jude's
- Unlocking The Prodigal
- Starter for Ten
- The Veronica Sessions



[www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk)



## THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

**'Unlock have understood the importance of Scripture as narrative, rather than an abstract text that communicates principles. You do not flatten out the extraordinarily rich range of literature in the Bible into a series of principles'**







# THE CHALLENGE!

**What will you do to help the Unlock London Walk raise more funding for Unlock?**

**What will you do to: -**

- Attract more walkers?**
- Raise more funds?**





# STUFF REALLY HAPPENS!

## Family.

A mum & 3 grown up daughters; very local; attended toddlers and messy church. First they all joined in with Unlock - Surviving Xmas, then 'New Year; New You'. One can't read & write; they started doing exercise (walking etc) as a result of the priorities session, one of them acting as a local leader. Now there is a family exercise group. Then the Minister continues the group as a nurture course; all four are now members of the church, full on; plus one of their male partners. Family reinforcement really helps.



## THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

### During Unlock DIY, after a taster Unlock session:-

- 'This is more like "*with-reach*" than out-reach'
- 'I liked that I didn't feel taught at but rather that we were Learning together'





## THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

- 'Unlock have understood the importance of the narrative of people's lives and how our story interacts with God's story.'
- 'Unlock have understood how text can paralyze and intimidate people while images can release people into expressing themselves and thus becoming part of a learning community.'

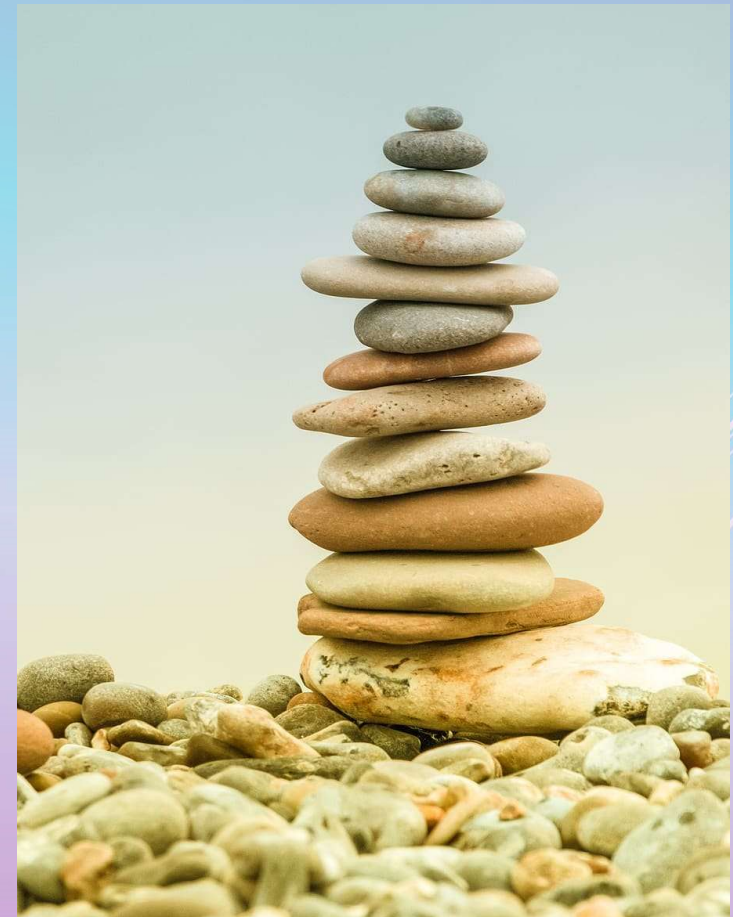






## THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

- “You can trust the Unlock process; you know you won’t go far wrong”
- “Other things can be so cringey, but with this you just feel more confident”
- “People are less bothered about talking about the bible than we think!”.





## FROM AN UNLOCK WORKER . .

**At the end of his time with us Cameron said this –**

*"I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the team at Unlock for allowing me to have an amazing year working with Unlock, I have learned and grown so much as an individual but most importantly in my faith.*

*I heard stories and saw emotions that were Unlocked through the events that that I held, and connected with people better through our stories. I have gained skills and knowledge but mainly memories that will be with me forever."*





## THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

- “People are changing their perspectives and behaviour, to say they have some authority for that”. For example, Toni: “I live this way now because of Jesus”.
- “Our stories first: they open an emotional door”. “The same story (feed5k) had gone right over Kerry’s head before”.







## THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

**'Unlock sets out to set people free to discover God's story for themselves, rather than creating dependence on Bible 'experts'.'**







# THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

**'Unlock goes back to the way in which Christ taught, using stories and situations as the common**

**starting point, which enables a sharing, not from the power invested position of the pulpit but from a common humanity.'**





# For Some it offers a NEW START

**Using the Unlock New beginnings session with a very mixed group, we learn that 'anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person'. Three different people who had gone all through separation & divorce; had never realized before that they could have a new start.**





# THINGS PEOPLE HAVE SAID . . .

- 'Unlock helped me realise that the Bible is relevant to my life now'
- 'Unlock brings our everyday lives into conversation with the Bible'
- 'People's experience is a valid lens for looking at the Bible'

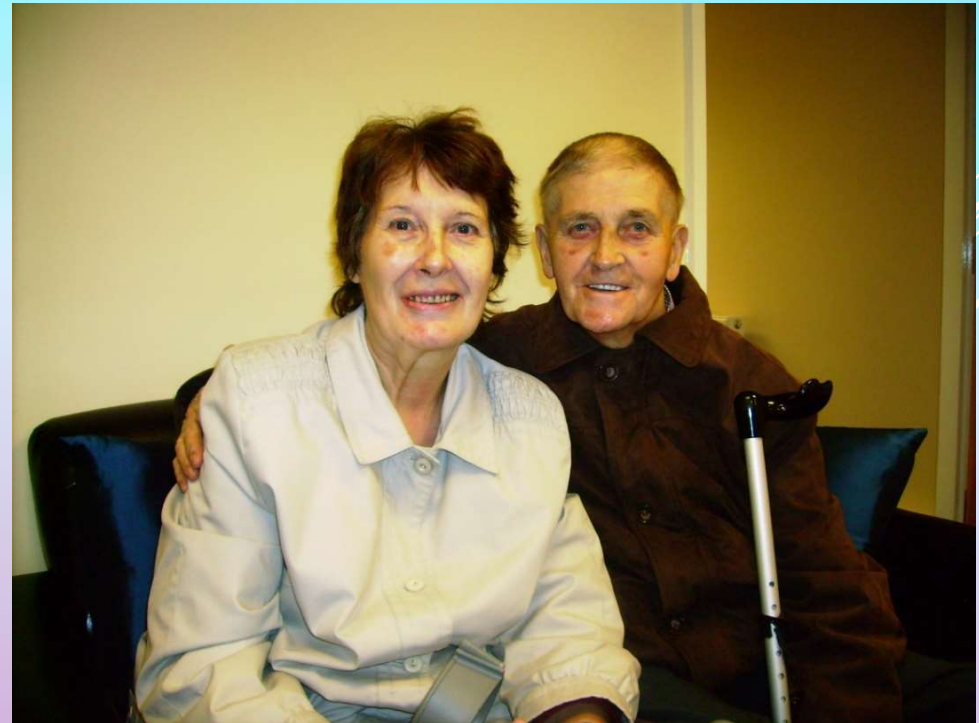






## Things people have said . . .

- **'Alpha just doesn't fit; Unlock is much more relevant to the people in our community'**
- **'Starting with experience is a strength because everyone can talk about their own experience.'**







## WHAT CHURCHES CAN DO:-

1. Take concrete and regular action which clearly communicates that the day to day lives, work, and experiences of *Everyday Christians* is highly valued.





## WHAT CHURCHES CAN DO:-

2. Find someone on the church fringe, or beyond, who isn't a confident reader, and ask them to give you some *honest* feedback on how comfortable they feel in your church's worship and learning, or working groups; then act to improve the situation. (Like asking someone in a wheelchair to do a disabled access survey of your building.)





## WHAT CHURCHES CAN DO:-

3. Collectively and individually - put *at least as much* time, commitment and energy into doing community things in the community as you do into doing churchy things in church.

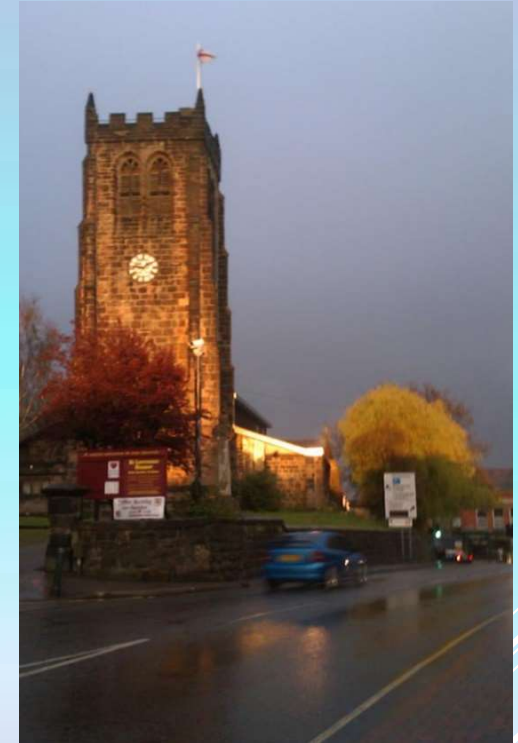




## WHAT CHURCHES CAN DO:-

- **Support Unlock**
- **Promote Unlock**
- **Donate to Unlock**

**The work we do is  
only possible because it is  
funded by the Unlock London Walk  
and by individuals and churches.**



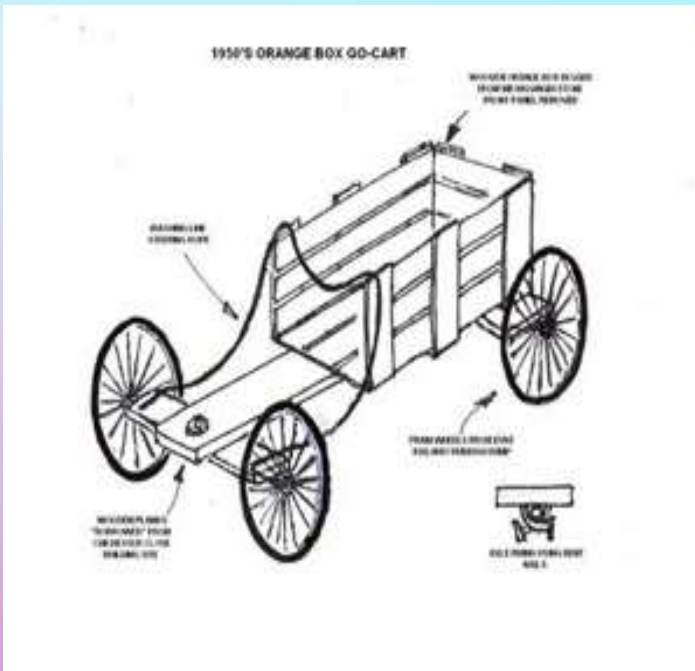




# IN HULL . . .

## Active Experiences

In Hull, Unlock has specialised in the use of creative visual arts and hands on activities. One of the keys in Hull seems to have been their way of thinking in very concrete terms, which fits well into traditional tabloid culture. In Hull they have – made bricks with no straw – literally; they have conducted an 'exodus' from the safety of the church, into the 'new territory' of the estate, on go-carts that they had all worked together to build, and they have 'entered the promised land' by placing a big thick curtain across the sanctuary and then pulling it down to reveal a feast of fish and chips, ready to share on the other side . . . .



### Consider the Go-Cart



# A Humble and Grateful Vicar

**Our Lent course has had a very strong Unlock influence** and it's been such a great experience. We are a church full of very practical, down to earth people who tend to be quite private about what goes on inside them and not have huge amounts of confidence. Unlock has enabled us to share our experiences of prayer and God in a much more open way. That, in turn has led to a new courage and willingness to pray for and with one another, which makes me a very humble, grateful, happy Vicar indeed.'



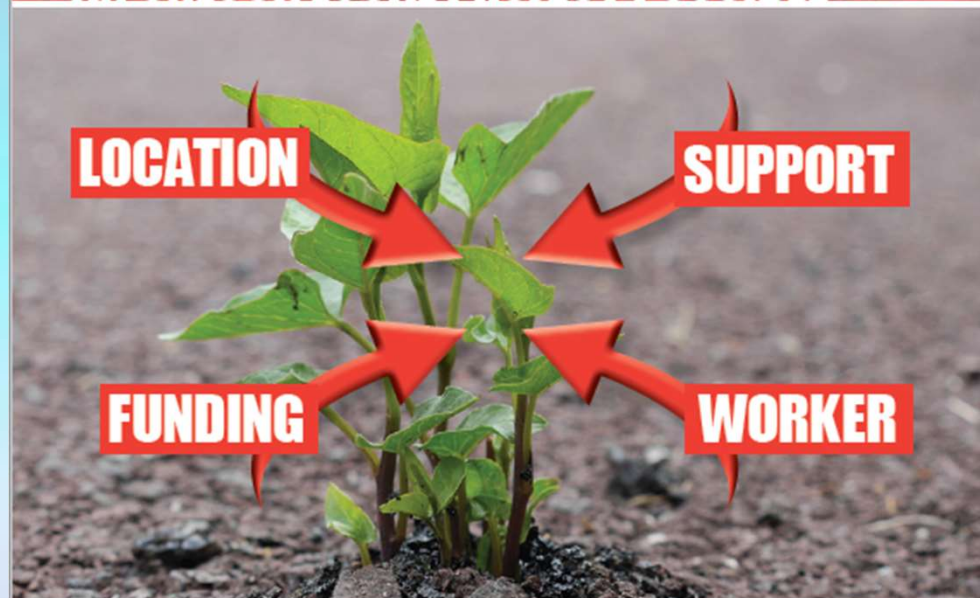


# LOCAL LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

## UNLOCK LOCAL PROJECTS

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

FOUR ELEMENTS COME TOGETHER TO MAKE  
AN UNLOCK LOCAL PROJECT POSSIBLE



THE UNLOCK DEVELOPMENT WORKER DELIVERS  
**MATERIALS COURSES KNOW HOW**  
**ADVICE SUPPORT SKILLS**  
IN THEIR LOCAL AREA







# Unlock Local Launch Partnerships

## The Power of Stories

**Stories are  
Unlock's  
Superpower!**

**How Unlock partnerships with a local church or small group of churches enhance mission and discipleship.**







# Unlock Local Launch Partnerships

## Pilots and Pilot Boats

Have you ever been at a port town or city and watched the local Pilot boat guiding big cargo ships in and out of the port at high tide? The Pilot, in the Pilot Boat, knows the local rocks, sandbanks, channels and tides and is able to guide the bigger vessels through them by a safe route. So the Unlock local workers (local people, not external 'experts') are 'Unlock Local Pilots'; who know the ways of the local community, and whose role (trained and supported by Unlock) is to guide the 'Unlock Local Launch' safely to the point where it can voyage onwards on its own.





# Unlock Local Launch Partnerships

## How Do They Work?

### **Unlock's National Office provides:**

Training, support resources and consultancy for two years; Including: -

- 1 day Unlock training on site (which you can open up to the wider area)
- Unlock staff make 2 further site visits to your Unlock Local Pilot(s) over 24 months
- Free attendance for 2 Unlock Local Pilots at 2 Unlock National Gatherings
- Unlimited remote support, guidance, review, training and consultation
- Unlimited access to Unlock worker resources and training/guidance on the Unlock website
- Funded attendance at The Unlock London walk for 1-2 Unlock local pilot(s) in their first year (as part of their training).



# Unlock Local Launch Partnerships

## Expected Outcomes

- Growing the congregation's confidence and skills in faith sharing
- Strengthening connections in both church and community
- Nurturing self-esteem and personal growth
- Nurturing indigenous leadership
- Recognising ourselves as part of God's big story

**Total cost** is £1800 over two years, (most of which is paid monthly – i.e. around £60 per month).



# Unlock Local Launch Partnerships

## WE NEED SOME NEW LOCATIONS

At Unlock we are working to rebuild our local partnership work after the pandemic years. To do this we are looking for new local partners; churches, or local groups; who would like to grow their ability to: -

- ▶ Unlock real life stories of urban people
- ▶ Reveal Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
- ▶ Release life changing skills and confidence





# Unlock Local Partnership Projects

- ***We really need more Unlock Local Partnerships.***
- **We are looking for churches or groups in UK cities who are willing to work with us to develop further Unlock Local Partnerships**
- **If you want to know more about this please contact the Unlock National Office**





# Bible Women in Woodhouse Sheffield



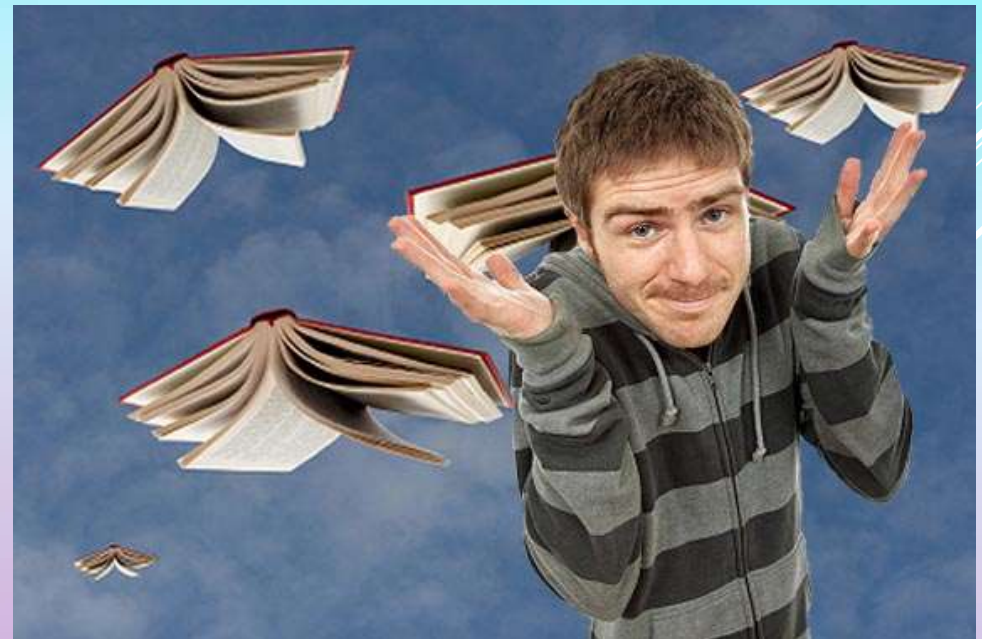
**Local People were asked to suggest the stories of women who had changed the world. The Unlock worker found a Bible Woman who had a comparable story and illustrated them all with cartoons. Everyone joined in with colouring them all in. These cartoon women with their stories are now available to visit your church. Contact the Unlock Office for details.**





## PLEASE *DON'T* ASSUME THAT . .

- Just because people are able to read that they like to, or that it's the best way for them to learn.
- Those who are not confident readers are not smart.
- What works for you works for everyone else.







**PLEASE *DON'T*  
ASSUME THAT . .**

- Everyone who wants to learn will find a way that suits them.
- 'It didn't do *me* any harm, did it?' is actually true!
- If church doesn't do it, it isn't holy.
- If it isn't in a book it doesn't have any authority

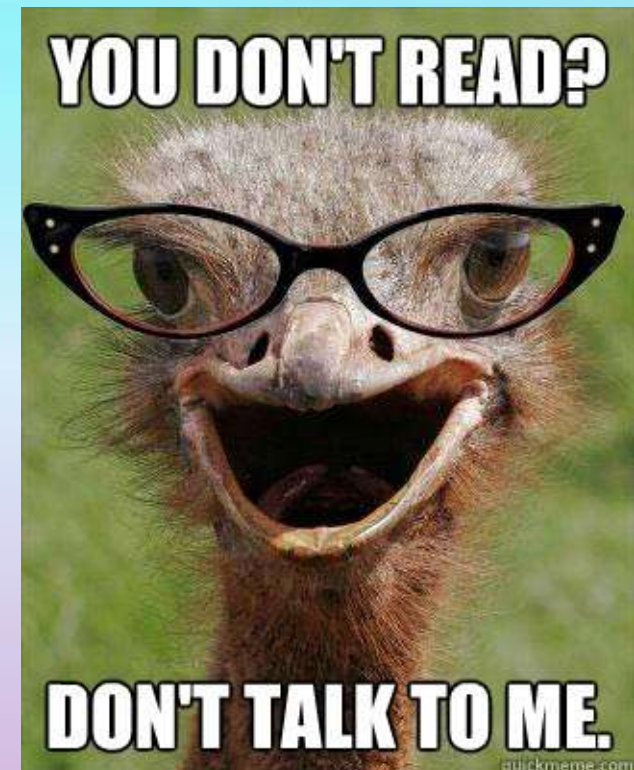






Please *don't*  
assume that . .

- People who are not attracted by formal courses are not interested in learning about their faith.
- Those with no qualifications have nothing to teach.





# STUFF HAPPENS . .

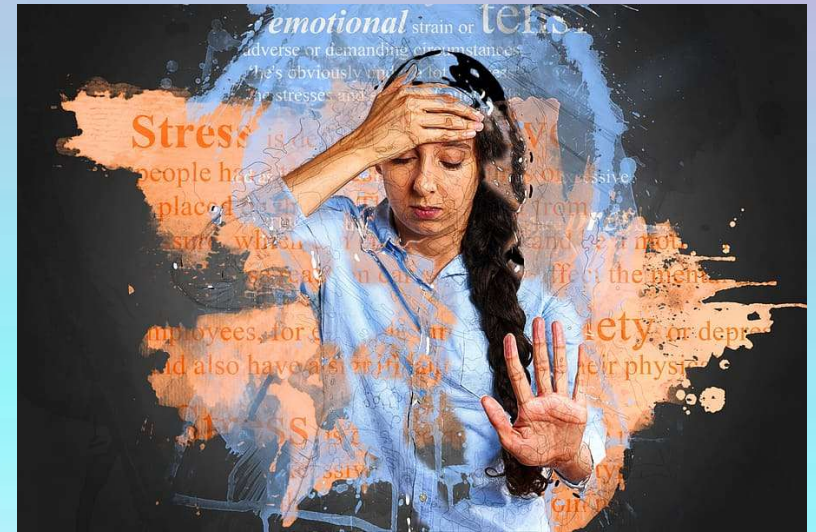
## Managing Anxiety

Through working with Unlock

Sam has learned to use a

distraction technique when she starts to feel angry, or anxious.

First she looks around for something beautiful, then she keeps looking at it while she says the Lord's Prayer. She says it works - most of the time.





# PARTNERSHIPS . . .

**Unlock has a rewarding long-term partnership with The Saltley Trust in Birmingham which funds annual training events at Queen's Foundation**



Unlock also connects with the **Urban Theology Union, Urban Expression, Church Urban Fund, CURBS, the National Estate Churches Network, and the Estates Evangelism Task Group.**



## How is Unlock funded?

**Unlock is entirely funded on a voluntary basis** by people **like you** who believe in our work.

We rely heavily on our **Annual London walk**, which attracts around 500 people each April, and raises about one third of our annual budget through sponsorship and donations.

Other funds are provided by gifts from supporters and Christian charitable trusts.





*Unlock would cease to exist without the money raised by the Unlock London walks*

## Unlock London Walks: -

- Have been going for 42 years now
- Help people from outside inner London meet with the people and churches ministering there
- Sponsorship & donations from the walk provide the funds for Unlock to operate nationwide.





# The COVID Impact on funding

- In 2020 and 2021 we had no choice but to take our Unlock London Walks online and run virtual events.
- Over the two years impacted by COVID our walk income was down by around £15k overall
- We are very thankful that the 2022 walk combined with an appeal has made up what we lost
- We were thrilled and surprised when the 2024 walk raised a staggering £25K
- **Now we need ongoing funding to allow us to generate and sustain new work in new places going forward.**



## The aims of the Unlock London Walk are:-

***Primarily to raise money for Unlock's crucial work in deprived urban communities across the UK***

And also - to raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address,

And to showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas –  
***'Come and see what God is doing in the city'.***







## The aims of the Unlock London Walk are:-

- To encourage churches in more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city.
- To give 100s of people an opportunity for an unusual and inspiring day out in London in return for their donations to Unlock's work.







## ***REALLY EASY WALK SPONSORSHIP***

**Now you can seek and collect and manage your Unlock sponsorship and donations on line via Give as You Live Donate.**

This means you can:-

- **Be sponsored by people who live far away, or who you do not regularly meet up with**
- **Not have to chase sponsors for payment**
- **Not have to collect cash**
- **Not have to write a cheque and mail it to Unlock**

**Give as You Live Donate** will collect your sponsorship direct from your sponsors, claim gift aid where appropriate, and pass the Funds raised direct to Unlock.

***This saves Unlock time and money, as well as you!***

**<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com>**





## ***WALK INCOME HAS YET TO RETURN TO IT'S 2014 PEAK***

**We need the income from the walk more than ever before**

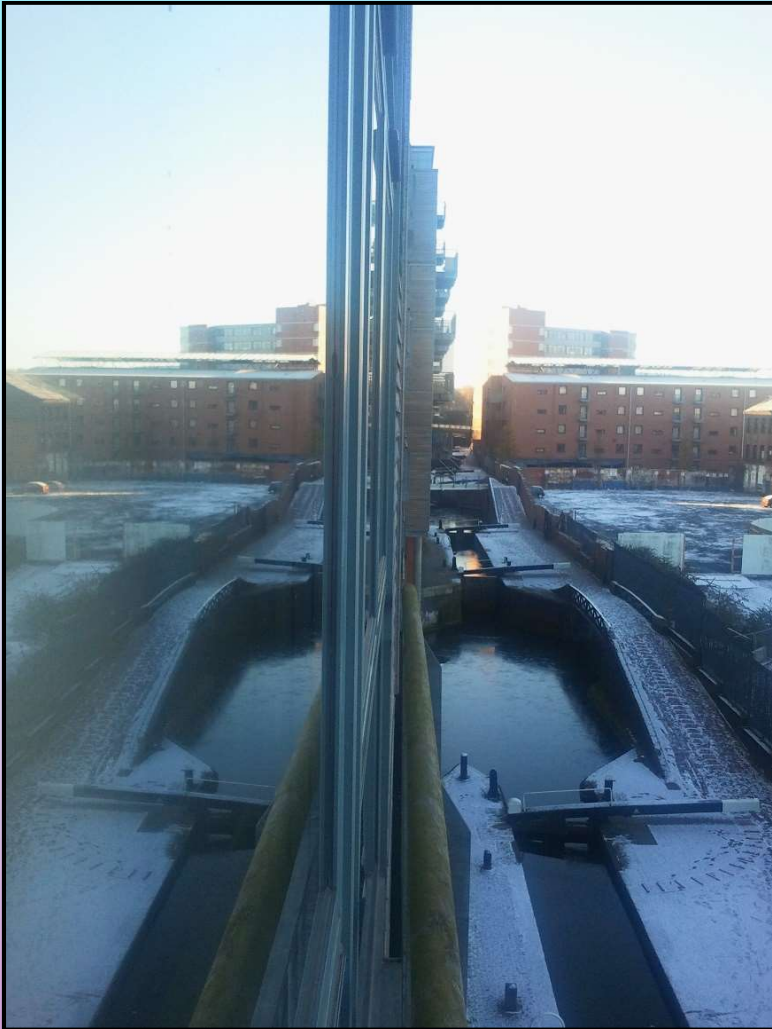
- We are aware of how fortunate we are to have so many deeply committed and faithful supporters but we really need you to keep it up!.
- The 2024 walk raised **£25k**. That was an amazing improvement; Thank you!
- The 2023 walk raised **£20k**, in 2022 it was **£21k**, in 2018 it was **£26,214** and it was **£26,596** in 2015.
- These are all very generous amounts, but lower than 2014 (£29,772).
- We need to keep London Walk income between £25k and £30k to secure Unlock's future.
- Falling income levels would force us to cut back on the frontline work we can deliver.
- Unlock are extremely grateful for the finance that Unlock walkers continue to generate for our frontline work.

**Thank You!**





# Unlock's work is about Christian Mission



It is urgently focussed on bringing ***God's Good News*** to those who have often been ignored as unimportant, here, on our own doorsteps, in our own UK cities.



# Unlock Some Money -

**Will you donate to secure the future of Unlock's work?**

- Unlock local projects achieve great things, bringing the gospel to people that the churches are not able to reach; and we really want to do more of that!
- Unlock relies heavily on income from the Unlock London walk to fund our frontline work.
- We try hard but, because we are **directly engaged in Christian Mission**, it is very difficult to secure any other types of funding.
- We always need your financial support in order to go on doing our work.

**Thank you.**





If you are interested in supporting Unlock's work -

Please work with us to ensure that in 2025 & 2026 we have sufficient income to fund Unlock's work.

You can do this by:-

- **Donations** – you can make a personal donation to Unlock's work, either on a one off basis, or better yet, at regular intervals,
- **Through your Church** – persuade your church to give funds to support Unlock as part of its regular missionary giving.
- **Bringing along more people to support our annual London Walks, and get sponsorship**
- **The 2026 London walk will be on April 18th.**  
Details will be on the Unlock website from January 2026.



# Stay in Touch

**If you want to know more about our work you can: -**



- **Contact the Unlock National Office**
- **Visit the Unlock website –**
- **Follow Unlock News on Facebook**
- **Add your name to our mailing list by completing the contact form on the Unlock website**

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# How to Contact Unlock

**Telephone: - 01709380318**

**Postal Address:-**

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