



May 2019

Dear friends

This is my second newsletter since taking up the role as lead evangelist at the Hackney Centre of Mission (HCOM). Hopefully the contents of this letter will give you some idea of the different missional opportunities that have arisen over the past four months.

The first initiative to start up was the community choir ‘Hackney Can Sing’ which is led by professional voice coach T Jae Cole. The choir meets in St. Barnabas Church, Homerton. The winter season started in January and regularly attracted almost 40 people weekly from the local community. That season ended with a charity concert which raised money for a local youth project called ‘Safe House’. Season two started last Tuesday.



Community Choir



Cafe Launch

Another initiative to start recently is a **Dementia Café**. Dawn has worked in the care profession and she cared for my mum when diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. There is a growing awareness of the need to support those living with dementia and their carers, and the Café has been set up to help do this. We are working in partnership with Dementia Friendly Hackney. At the end of May, the HCOM is hosting a **half day conference** for local churches to raise awareness and learn how to be more inclusive of those living with dementia.



Welcoming Dawn

The HCOM ‘officially’ welcomed Dawn as a **co-worker member** of the **Church Army Missional Community**. An informal service took place at St. Saviours Eltham, where Dawn made her promises in the presence of Community Dean Andrew Chadwick and other Church Army friends who have journeyed with us over many years.

Throughout the winter I was a volunteer at the Hackney Winter Night Shelter, usually taking on the all-night shift. The shelter offers a bed, food, and support to the homeless community. Dawn and I have a heart to serve those who find themselves homeless, we seek to meet the needs of some locally and we have recently been accepted by Housing Justice to host refugees at our home. Our **first guest**, who is from a war-torn country will be coming to live with us next week.

The Clapton Park Estate where we live is run by a local tenant’s management organisation (TMO) on behalf of Hackney Council. We were invited by the TMO to help with a recent **Easter Event** at the local shopping square. Dawn and I run a craft event making up necklaces and bracelets which using coloured beads and a cross told the Easter story. It was a great opportunity to meet residents and lots of fun was had on a warm sunny day.



Local Community Easter Event (Steve & Dawn – bottom left)

We are thankful to Neville Barnes who has recently launched the CA ‘**Reunion**’ initiative. Dawn and I are members of an online Reunion group and have found that the teaching and personal accountability has increased our desire and ability to share our faith in Jesus. We have both had increased opportunities in the wider community to talk with and pray with others about Jesus.

In my last news letter I asked if you would pray about the appointment of a colleague, a **Pioneer Evangelist** to come and join the HCOM. The post is soon to be advertised, and we are looking for someone who has a heart and call to engage with and disciple unchurched young people.



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Stephen Plumb getting ready to run!



One thing I am really beginning to enjoy is taking part in the Hackney Park Run on a Saturday morning. This has motivated me to sign up to run the **Hackney Half Marathon** on May 19th. I am looking to raise money for Church Army and specifically for the HCOM. If you would like to donate, here is the link.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StephenPlumb1>

Thanks for your interest, support and prayers.

Stephen.

Prayers

As you can see there are lots of opportunities to engage and serve missionally. Could I ask that you particularly pray for the following please?

- Thanks giving for Hackney Can Sing
- The Dementia Café and Conference.
- The 'guest' who is coming to live with us.
- The advertising and appointment of the Pioneer Evangelist.
- Working relationships with community groups and other churches.

Financial Support

Thank you

Thank you, for the support you give in every way. If you would like to financially support the work I am involved in please complete and return the form below or visit churcharmy.org/donate

Or if you prefer, you can set up a Standing Order directly using the details below:

Acc. 80255491 Sort Code. 20-49-81 **Reference No. 1176 / 1990SPL** Please use this reference number so that your contribution is directed to the Hackney Centre of Mission

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us. I want to pray for you so please let ME know how I can, by emailing stephen.plumb@churcharmy.org

Thank you!

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EVANGELISM
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