



October 2019

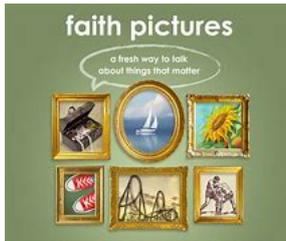
Dear friends

In September, Dawn and I celebrated our **1st ministry anniversary** here in Hackney COM. I'd like to **thank** individuals and churches who have **supported** us, in prayer and financially during this first year, it is really appreciated and very encouraging to us. We had a UK holiday this summer, one week in Eastbourne, the other at home which meant we were able to visit London, go to the theatre and enjoy the social life Hackney offers.

When I took up the post as Lead Evangelist, it was always the intention, once I had settled and discerned areas of focus ministry that I would be joined by a **Pioneer Evangelist** colleague. **Andrena Palmer** is joining the HCOM as Pioneer Evangelist in October. Her ministry will be primarily to work amongst 'unchurched' young people (secondary school and older). Andrena has a wealth of experience working as a youth and community minister, and it will be great to have Andrena with us. Thank you for praying about this strategic appointment.



The **Dementia café** that we started back in April unfortunately has not flourished, in fact there were occasions when the team of volunteers were alone. Lessons have been learnt and a new initiative is starting, in a different location, St. Barnabas Church which enjoys a prime location on the high street. A weekly drop in on Wednesday's 2-3.30pm '**Barneys Café**' starts on 16th October seeking to meet the needs of people with difficult life circumstances, for example those with mental health issues, the homeless community.



At a recent clergy chapter, I spoke about the ministry of Church Army and the HCOM. During the presentation I introduced ‘Faith Pictures’ a resource produced by Church Army encouraging people to share their faith story. I also hosted a ‘taster’ session at a recent church day away. On October 24th, in St. Barnabas Parish we launch ‘Faith Pictures’ with two opportunities for groups to meet. It is hoped that that this will be rolled out across the deanery.

Winter will soon be with us, and the **Hackney Winter Night Shelter** which offers a bed, food and support to rough sleepers opens next month. The COM has offered to accommodate up to 10 people as part of this scheme to contribute to this vital ministry.

Caring for those in need is becoming an important ministry at the COM, we regularly have people knocking at our door seeking food and help. One regular visitor has now been rehoused in supported living. Over the past five months, through Housing Justice, we have hosted a young man seeking asylum. This has enriched our lives and brought some challenges.

In July Dawn and I attended the London Church Planting conference and we were able to visit several plants. We were particularly taken with a church in a context like ourselves which had successfully formed a missional community that engaged in mission, evangelism and social action. This resonated with much that God has spoken/shown us in the past, in fact we sat with tears in our eyes and hearts thumping as we heard their story. A key ministry desire is to form a missional community here to serve and witness to the diverse community.

Stephen finishes



As many of you know I managed to complete the Hackney half marathon back in May in 2 hours 9 minutes and 43 seconds. It was a great occasion with 20,000 runners and lots of spectators lining the route with carnival style live music. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors £936.25 was raised for the COM.

Thanks for your interest, support and prayers.

Stephen.

Prayers

Could I ask that you particularly pray for the following please?

- Thanks for first year of life and ministry in Hackney
- Andrena’s arrival and settling in as she begins her new role.
- Launch of ‘Barneys Café’ and Faith Pictures
- Winter Night Shelter
- Gathering a missional community.

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

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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!

Stephen Plumb

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