

PATIENTLY SHARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

PRAY FOR LONDON

THE MOST DIVERSE CITY IN THE WORLD

THE POOR
THE DECISION-MAKERS
THE LEAST REACHED

POVERTY
HEALING
FRIENDSHIP
FORGOTTEN PLACES
RESTORATION
SALVATION
HOPE

SUFFERING
THE GOSPEL

FAITHFUL PRAYER
TRUST

ON THE MARGINS
ON OUR DOORSTEP
MISSION
THE WORLD IN A CITY
PEACE

THE LOST
HOMELESS

MISSION CITY

LONDON

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

A MISSION FIELD ON OUR DOORSTEP

I BELIEVE THAT WHEN PEOPLE PRAY, GOD MOVES.

So I invite you to join London City Mission (LCM) in our mission field – London – for the next five weeks. Pray with us, stand with our missionaries and lift up the lost, lonely and broken people of this city to Jesus.

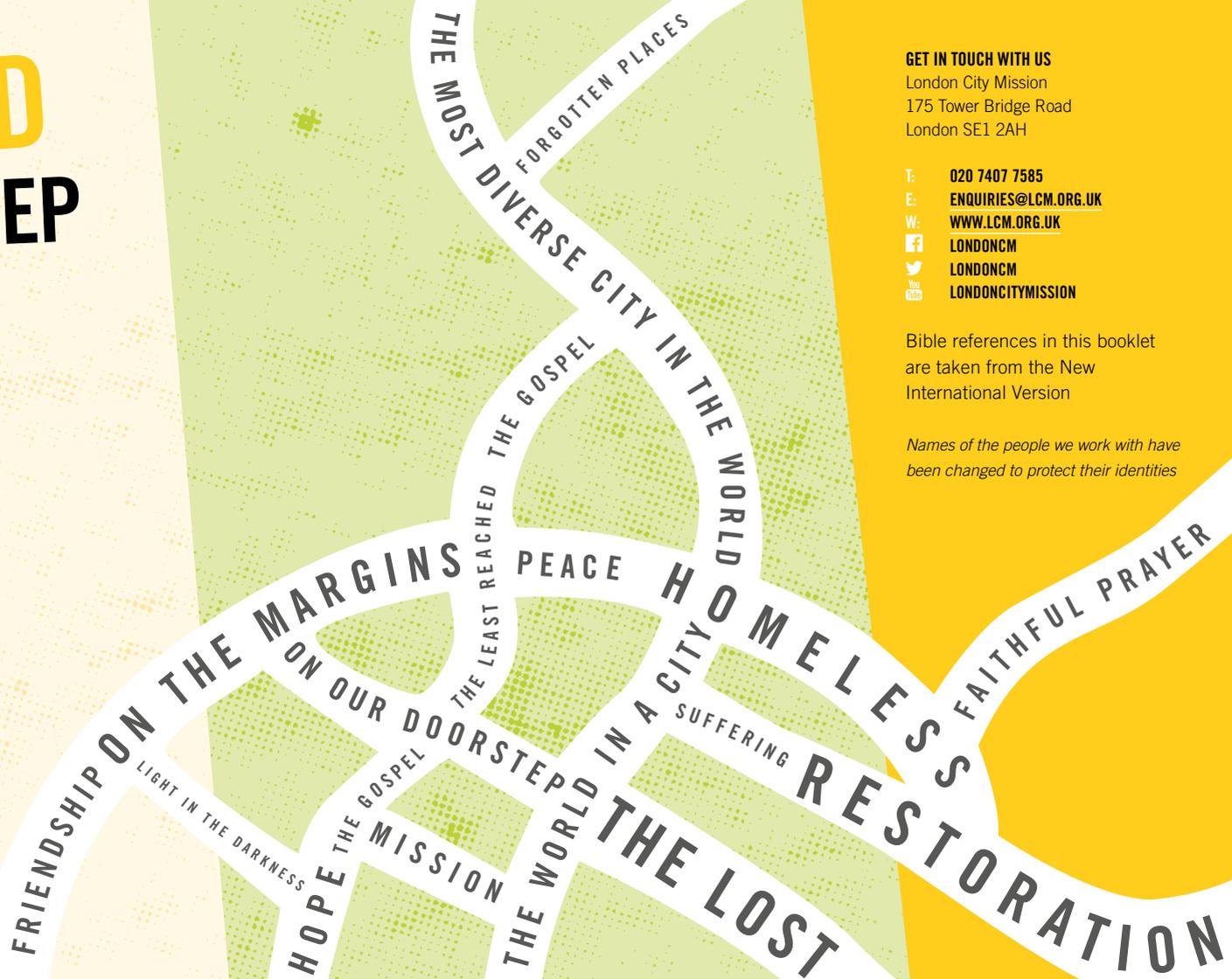
This mission field is vast. It demands our urgent attention. So many people have yet to hear the good news of the gospel. So many are living in darkness. Please, let's stand together and call on God to bring healing, restoration and – most importantly – salvation to all, including those on the very margins of society.

At London City Mission, we've been involved in urban mission for more than 180 years. Our desire to share the gospel with the least reached people still drives us today. Working in partnership with churches across London, we're passionate about sharing the love and message of Jesus with those in spiritual darkness.

But, essentially, everything we do is fuelled by the prayers of people like you. Every gospel conversation, every life given to Christ, is down to faithful prayer. So please, join us in the mission field by praying through this booklet – and let's see God at work in London in 2016.

GRAHAM MILLER

London City Mission Chief Executive



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Bible references in this booklet are taken from the New International Version

Names of the people we work with have been changed to protect their identities

ON THE MARGINS

Jesus went out of his way to be among the outcasts – and we're doing the same today, reaching people who have slipped off society's agenda. Did you know, in west London and Islington, the proportion of people with severe mental illness is higher than anywhere else in the UK? Did you know 7,500 people slept on London's streets last year? Did you know there's a brothel in every one of our city's boroughs?

'TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.'

MATTHEW 25:40

SUN **Pray against anything** which prevents women involved in prostitution from coming to our weekly Bible study in King's Cross, North London. "We focus on Jesus' stories of people on the margins," said LCM worker Laura Heffernan. "These women, they are so responsive to the gospel. They carry so much shame, but they really understand God's love."

MON **Give thanks for Street Pastors**, who have teams in all but two of London's boroughs. Praise God for night shelters and foodbanks across the city, and the vital support they offer to people facing desperate times. Pray too for churches active in their communities.

TUE **Missionary Martin Street ministers** to those with mental health issues in Battersea, South London. He said, "If someone is vulnerable, they could easily be manipulated. I don't want to do that, but I need to be intentional and persuasive – because this is good news. Pray I'll strike that balance."

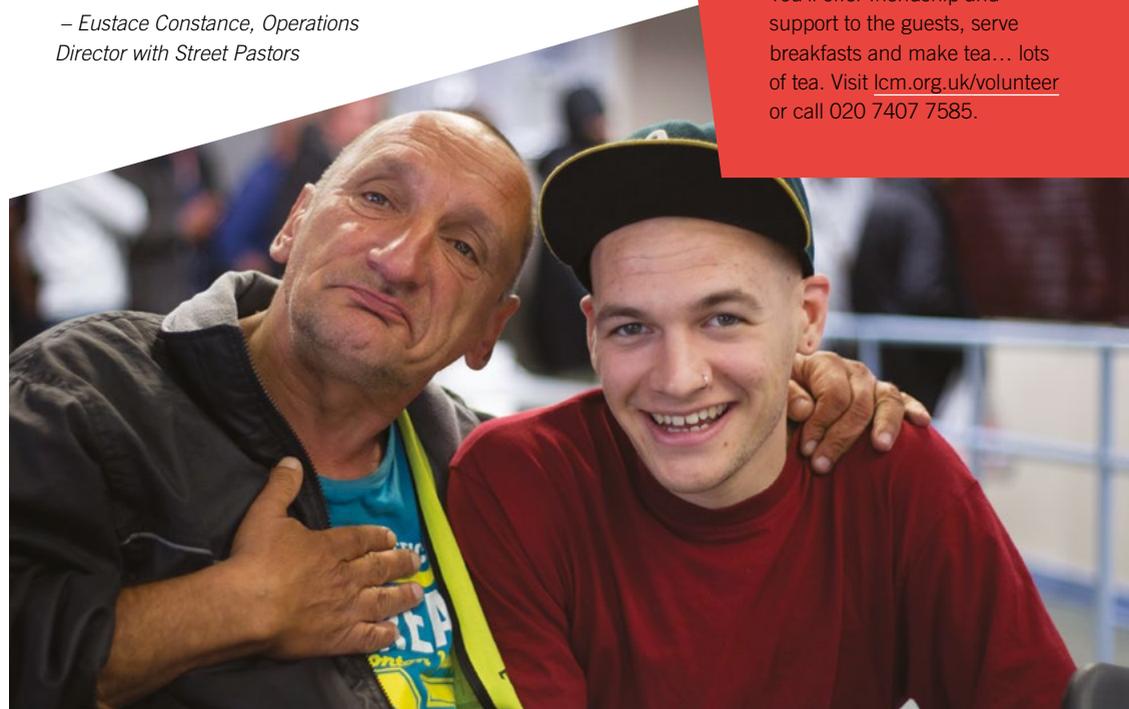
WED **John turned up at the The Bridge church in Battersea** asking for help to understand the Bible. But he's schizophrenic, and his mind wanders. There are things he doesn't want to reveal about himself. We've thoughtfully shared the gospel with him, many times. Pray now that God will break into his heart.

THU **On Thursdays, the LCM team runs a Bible study** at our day centre for homeless people, Webber Street in Waterloo, South London. Pray for open hearts among our guests; that they'll hear God's Word, grapple with it, and consider what it really means for them.

FRI **Be open to God's prompting** about how you can show love to someone on the margins of society. Who are the forgotten people in your community? Is there a homeless person you could reach out to? Ask God to help you step out in faith to share his love.

SAT **"We're in touch with people who aim to get lost** on the streets on a Friday night. Only recently, we had a call about a rough sleeper, a man in his 30s, who died from the cold. My prayer is that the Church – us – would recognise the importance of acts of love and kindness in communicating the gospel. Next time you see someone in need, before they ask you, help them."

– *Eustace Constance, Operations Director with Street Pastors*



GET INVOLVED ACT

Could you volunteer at LCM'S day centre for homeless people, Webber Street, in Waterloo? You'll offer friendship and support to the guests, serve breakfasts and make tea... lots of tea. Visit lcm.org.uk/volunteer or call 020 7407 7585.

ALL AGES

If someone is middle class, white and university-educated in London, they're very likely to have heard the gospel message in some way. But if they're under 18, or over 80, the opposite is true... they're among the least reached people in this city. But they're part of LCM's mission field.

'COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.'

MATTHEW 11:28

SUN **Loneliness.** This crushing sadness and sense of isolation affects people right across London. Almost one in five older people have contact with others less than once a week. Pray our missionaries would reach the most vulnerable elderly people as they go door to door, and pray for strong, inclusive communities.

MON **Jack is a proper Eastender,** an ex-Ford factory worker in his 70s. He has four kids but rarely sees them. Recently Jack was in hospital. His brother, who he'd not spoken to for 15 years, was in the next ward, dying of cancer. Even then, Jack refused to see him. Damage from broken families runs deep in Dagenham, says LCM Missionary Brandon Thesee, and many elderly people are isolated. Pray for healing and forgiveness for Jack.

TUE **Fifteen teenage boys were knifed to death on London's streets in 2015,** and a street in Haringey, North London has been named the city's stabbing hot spot. Pray against violence, hatred and fear in the lives of young people, and urge God to break into their darkness.

WED **"The first time two foster kids came to our art workshop,** they hid under the tables and screwed up their work," recalls Missionary Andrew Kwapong, based in Hale Village, Tottenham, North London. "But in a year, we saw their transformation before our eyes. The constant love, care and belonging meant God worked amazingly. Please keep praying for them!"

THU **At 3.30pm, the street outside London City Mission's Forest Gate centre in East London is awash with teenagers** from three local secondary schools. So when Missionary Sammy Gunnell started a weekly youth group here, it was a big hit. Pray for Sammy, who says, "We're trying to think of activities where we can also talk at a deeper level."

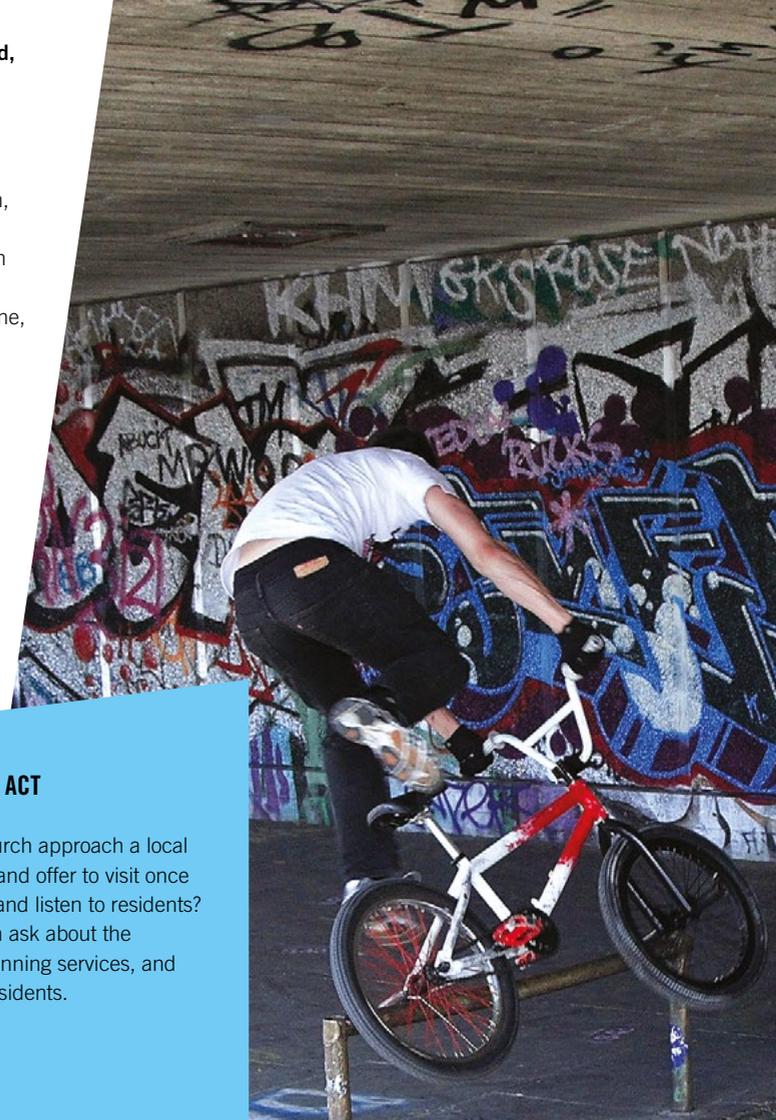
FRI **Twelve-year-old Milek is Polish,** which is uncommon at his school, and he often seems like the odd one out. But he feels accepted at our Forest Gate youth group. He's shown an interest in coming to Bible study, but hasn't been along yet. Ask God to prepare Milek's heart to receive the good news.

SAT **"Unloved and unwanted, Shane knocked on the youth worker's flat door.** 'Can I come in? My stepdad has kicked me out.' Shane, 17, has never known unconditional love. To him, love was a dirty word... until he was told about Jesus by the youth worker and shown love in actions and words. Pray for lads like Shane, lonely and searching, that they would find wholeness in Christ."

— Richard Shaw, Scripture Union Regional Team Leader

GET INVOLVED ACT

Could your church approach a local nursing home and offer to visit once a week to talk and listen to residents? You could even ask about the possibility of running services, and praying with residents.



THE DECISION-MAKERS

Why should we pray for our leaders? Because their decisions – about healthcare, education, justice, social care – affect us all. Because we need wise, visionary, servant-hearted people in these toughest of jobs. Because we're commanded, in the Bible, to play our part in society by remembering our leaders before God.

'I URGE, THEN, FIRST OF ALL, THAT PETITIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR ALL PEOPLE, FOR KINGS AND ALL IN AUTHORITY.'

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

SUN Give thanks for the **31,000 police officers** and 2,600 community support officers who help keep London's streets safe. Pray they'll carry out their duties with wisdom, care and compassion. Pray for God's protection over them in their work.

MON In 2013, London **City Missionary Matt Lofthouse** teamed up with Lewisham councillor Janet Daby to establish the Food+ Project, which aims to alleviate poverty and build community. Matt said, "It doesn't matter who's in leadership over us, we need to support them." Pray for stronger partnerships between churches and local government.

TUE Pray for the leaders **elected during the London mayoral election** and London Assembly elections this year. Lift them up before God, and ask that they would act justly, love kindness and walk humbly before the Lord. Pray they would use their influence and power wisely and for the good of many.

WED Her Majesty Queen **Elizabeth II**, the country's longest reigning monarch, celebrated her 90th birthday earlier this year. Pray for her, and give thanks for her service to London and its people.

THU "There's a growing sense **of unity** among London's church leaders," says LCM Church Development Director Roy Hutchinson. "Pray now for unity in mission to reach the least reached; that through our actions, people will see Jesus."

FRI Ask God to raise up **more Christian leaders** in London. Pray that young Christians will see engagement in politics as both missional and possible. Pray for leaders of faith and integrity in our communities and estates.

SAT "Where good people **do good things in leadership, society flourishes** and the least do well. When people in leadership act corruptly, everybody suffers. We love this city of London, and want it to flourish. The more we can pray for our leaders, the better off everyone is. Many people care for orphans and widows, but only people of faith pray. It's the unique gift we, the Church, can give to our city."

– David Stroud, Senior Pastor at Christ Church London, one church in four locations.

GET INVOLVED ACT

Join other Christians getting involved in politics; sign up with a party; get in touch with your MP or do something with your church. There's loads of advice, Bible studies and information about events at www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk.



THE WORLD IN A CITY

London: the most diverse city in the world. Where more than 100 languages are spoken in nearly every borough. Where there's freedom to share the gospel with other faiths. Where you can travel a few miles and arrive in a totally different culture. As mission fields go, ours is pretty exciting.

'YOU WHO ANSWER PRAYER, TO YOU ALL PEOPLE WILL COME.'

PSALM 65:2



SUN Give thanks that diversity is accepted and celebrated in London, that 8.5 million people from all over the world can call this single city home. Ask God to give London City Missionaries creativity, energy and boldness as they engage in the vast mission field on our doorstep.

MON Pray urgently against the spread of extremism fuelled by ill-informed ideologies, and urge God to protect those struggling to find a sense of identity. Pray people would desire to seek truth, that bridges of trust would be built, and that people would be united in their desire to build cohesive and respectful communities.

TUE Sharing the gospel is not easy among the Turkish community of north London. Many can't shake off Islamic teaching, and struggle to accept God's grace. LCM Missionary Tim Spring says, "It requires a great deal of patient listening and relationship building – all in Turkish!" Pray for perseverance.

WED Thank God for opportunities to share the gospel with visitors, who might never hear the good news in their home countries. There are strict blasphemy laws in the Islamic state of Pakistan, for example, but more than 150,000 Pakistanis live in London – and our missionaries are reaching them.

THU "Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us in good, gospel conversations," says LCM Missionary Harish Patel, who sets up a bookstall in Southall and ministers to Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims. "We want to see the message of Jesus spread, and to see people respond to his love and call."

FRI "Connecting with Muslim men has been hard," said LCM's Tom Carpenter, who works on the Isle of Dogs. "But we've made inroads through a football ministry. Pray for Karim who has opened up about his faith and recently offered us a Qur'an. Pray this might lead to deeper conversations about Christianity and Islam."

SAT A prayer from Rev Delroy Powell, National Presiding Bishop of the New Testament Assembly: "Lord, we sense your stirring and renewed call to share the life, love and message of Christ to the diverse people of London. Equip us with courage, care and sensitivity as we seek to deepen our level of engagement. Enable us though the power of the Holy Spirit to negotiate the prevailing climate of religious tension, uncertainty and fear and lead many from darkness to light in Jesus' name."

GET INVOLVED ACT

Send a group from your church to our Muslim Engagement Training, a course to equip Christians to engage with Muslims effectively, intelligently and biblically. Call 07511 273298 to find out more, or email info@metcourse.co.uk.

ESTATE LIFE

Poverty (especially child poverty), unemployment, absent fathers, broken relationships, conflict... These challenges are engrained deep in London estates. But there are also great communities; people who are loyal, open and creative. Yes, we want to see God break into the darkness of estates. But we also want to help the light that's there shine brighter.

'BECAUSE WE LOVED YOU SO MUCH, WE WERE DELIGHTED TO SHARE WITH YOU NOT ONLY THE GOSPEL OF GOD BUT OUR LIVES AS WELL.'

1 THESSALONIANS 2:8

SUN Lift up to God the many individuals and organisations involved in urban and estate ministry; as well as our missionaries, think of the Eden Network, Evangelical Alliance and the Church of England. Ask God to bless and deepen our partnerships with churches on estates.

MON More than 20 people, aged 19 to 90, come to a Bible study before the weekly community lunch at London City Mission's Centre in Becontree, North East London. The team are currently reading through John's gospel and can see people are starting to take it seriously. Please pray they would make Christ known through everything they do.

TUE Call on the Lord to break cycles of violence and abuse within families, particularly where children are affected. Pray for restoration of relationships, and for children living on estates to know love, protection and care. Ask God to give wisdom to our missionaries caring for broken families.

WED Estate residents live cheek by jowl, but so many feel isolated and lonely, hemmed in by their own fears and distrust of those around them. Pray that Christians would be lynchpins in communities, linking neighbours together and sharing God's love openly.

THU London City Mission has teams on estates from the Isle of Dogs to Battersea, Becontree to Tottenham. We knock on doors, run kids' clubs, organise Bible studies and love people in the name of Jesus. Pray we can create strong, inclusive, intergenerational communities with Christ at the centre.

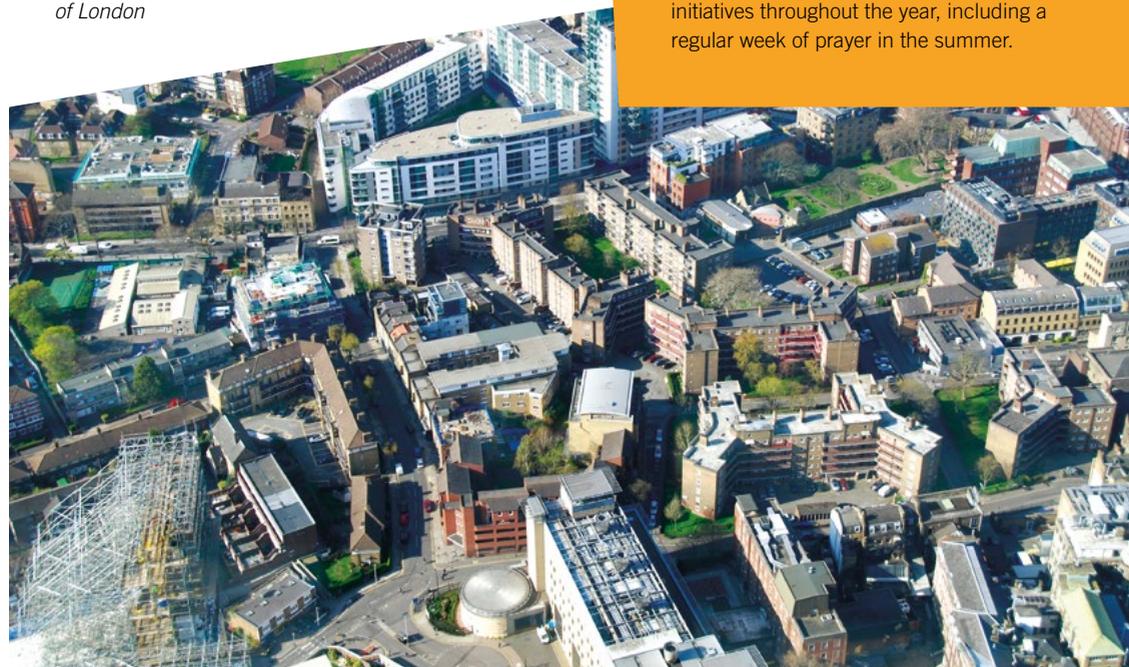
FRI Open your heart to God, and invite him to stir up a passion for mission in your own community. What small kindnesses would make a difference to people around you? Pray too that Christians on London's estates would be inspired to demonstrate the love of Jesus.

SAT "We want to invite God to heal, bring wholeness to families, and reverse the poverty trends. People live so close together, we need to pray into neighbour conflict. Pray against crime, open drug dealing, domestic violence. But also pray we'll bring out the 'God-colours' on estates, the good things that are already happening."

– Rev Mark Bishop, Pioneer of Missional Communities, Diocese of London

GET INVOLVED ACT

Take part in a week of 24-7 prayer for London estates. Prayer rooms will be springing up across the city; you can visit one, or pray where you are. Join others seeking to bring the love of Jesus to often forgotten places. Find out more at londonestates247.org and check out prayer initiatives throughout the year, including a regular week of prayer in the summer.



ABOUT LONDON CITY MISSION

When a deadly outbreak of cholera swept London in the 1840s, more than 200 London City Missionaries entered London's slums to bring God's good news to the sick. They prayed with suffering families, shared the gospel with them, held their hands as they died. They risked everything to care for those on the very margins of society.

And we've been doing it ever since.

We set up 'ragged schools' for poor children in the 1850s, we helped families bombed in the Blitz, we came alongside traumatised soldiers returning from war.

Today, we can be found on the toughest estates, talking to gang members about Jesus. We're going into prisons to run Bible groups. We're showing love and hospitality to immigrants. We're welcoming homeless people to our drop-in centre.

But we want to see more Londoners meet Jesus. Working with churches, we long to share Jesus with the least reached people in our city. There's a mission field on our doorstep, right now, which urgently demands our attention.

THE MARGINS THE WORLD IN A CITY

RESTORATION

PEACE

HEALING

FORGOTTEN PLACES

FRIENDSHIP

THE LEAST REACHED

FAITHFUL PRAYER

SALVATION TRUST

THANK YOU so much for joining with us to pray for London over the past few weeks; we truly appreciate your support.

We'd love you to be part of our ministry in the future too. You can continue to pray for London using our free quarterly prayer guide, *Together*, and you'll read great news about the impact of your support in our magazine, *Changing London*.

Simply return this form, and we'll add you to the mailing list.

LONDON CITY MISSION

YES, I'D LIKE TO BE ADDED TO LONDON CITY MISSION'S MAILING LIST AND RECEIVE:

- Together*
 Changing London
 Monthly e-newsletter

PLEASE COMPLETE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Title

First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Email address



MISSION CITY

LONDON

RESTORATION

POVERTY

HEALING

FRIENDSHIP

FORGOTTEN PLACES

HOPE

SALVATION

FAITHFUL PRAYER

THE LEAST REACHED

DECISION-MAKERS

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PRAYING FOR LONDON.

This guide covers five weeks of prayers for the varied needs of London.

Stay involved in this mission field by signing up for London City Mission's free quarterly prayer guide, *Together*. Simply fill in your details and return the form overleaf – or sign up at lcm.org.uk/pray.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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