ABOUT
For 180 years we have been sharing the love of God with London’s neediest. We exist to serve the church of London in sharing the love of God and the good news of Jesus Christ with the least reached of London.

In pursuit of that purpose, London City Mission staff go to those least reached – those living in poverty, on the margins of society or from other cultures. We show God’s love in practical ways, continuously seeking opportunities to share the life-changing gospel message. We work in partnership with churches, to ensure that individuals who make a commitment to follow Christ are embraced by a loving church family. The gospel is at the heart of all we do, because London needs Jesus.

The London City Mission depends almost entirely on voluntary contributions from individuals and churches to finance these ministries. Please see our website for more details.

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MINDING THE GAP

"The map of London’s churches includes many gaps where mission is much needed."
THANK YOU FOR STANDING ALONGSIDE US IN GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR OUR MISSION TEAM AND MINISTRIES.

Your prayers and financial support for God’s work in London are such a gift to us. The past year has been a time of challenge and change for London City Mission: challenge as we sought God’s wisdom for how we can best serve him in London, and change as we responded to the call of God. I believe that God has been reminding us of our original calling.

MINDING THE GAP

On the platforms of London’s train and underground stations the words ‘Mind the Gap’ are painted in large capital letters, as a warning to travellers that there’s a dangerous gap between the train and the platform. From the beginning, London City Mission has stood in a substantial gap that exists between the church and London’s least reached people. It was in this gap that our first missionaries stood when they went into London’s slums and offered practical help and gospel hope to those dying of cholera. The established church of the day was struggling to reach those who lived close at hand but far beyond its doors. London City Mission’s founder David Nasmith saw the needs of the least reached of our cities, and called Christians to step into that gap.

Today there are many encouragements for gospel people in London: in some places the church is growing, and we are seeing new churches planted across the city. The gap is still there, however, and it is growing. More and more people are living a world away from the church, and the map of London’s churches includes many gaps where mission is much needed.

Over the past year we have prayerfully reviewed all of our ministries, asking of each one, is this ministry a gospel ministry that can best help the church to reach London’s least reached? We have had to take some hard decisions, but I’m thankful for God’s grace, and for a team of missionaries whose chief goal in life is to see people in London won for Christ.

“... AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH. (ACTS 1:8)
NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

In an organisation as old as London City Mission, we well know the truth of the words from Ecclesiastes, that there is ‘nothing new under the sun’.

Over the past year we have spent a lot of time thinking about the words of Jesus in Acts 1:8, in particular the command to go to Samaria. I’m sure you can imagine how encouraged we were when we discovered that in 1935, during our centenary year, the Mission’s magazine carried an article highlighting our Lord’s words in Acts chapter 1, and the mention of Samaria in particular.

Our predecessor in mission reminded London City Mission supporters that ‘As well as far-flung opportunities, Jesus directed the attention of his followers to a sphere of work and witness that lay almost at their feet ... there is always a Samaria, a challenge to our testimony, which because of its proximity we may easily miss.’

In making changes over the past year we occasionally spoke of a ‘new’ mission strategy. Of course, there is nothing new about it! For 180 years men and women have heard the call of God to go to London’s Samaria – those people who are physically close to us, but who often have the greatest distance to travel to come to an understanding of God’s saving grace in Jesus.

MINISTRY ENCOURAGEMENTS AND PRAYER

This summer edition of Changing London includes some hugely encouraging stories and updates. Let me draw your attention in particular to two themes which I think reflect continuity and change in the Mission over the years.

Firstly, on p8–9 Lesley Holland tells something of her own story of salvation. This is encouraging enough in itself, but even more so when you see it as part of the long story of God at work in and through London City Mission, which threads through the Mission’s founding in Hoxton, through the Nasmith Centre where Lesley heard the gospel for the first time, through the work as an LCM missionary of her husband Paul – and through the LCM work of her father-in-law, Gordon, who died in March, and who is remembered in a tribute on p27.
Secondly, on p21–26 some of our new missionaries introduce themselves and their ministries, and some of the missionaries who have been strategically redeployed write about their new ministries: some following in the footsteps of others in a community, others breaking new ground, but all committed to gospel outreach in whichever community of London they serve, carrying the light of the gospel into London’s future.

I hope these stories of gospel hope will bless you in your own walk with the Lord, and encourage you to keep praying for London and our mission team. Thank you for supporting us and enabling our mission team to step out across London with the same gospel hope that our predecessors carried with them 180 years ago.

“CARRYING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL INTO LONDON’S FUTURE

GRAHAM MILLER
Chief executive

GET INVOLVED PRAY
Pray for our workers, stepping into the gap to bring the good news of Jesus to the least reached people of London.
HOXTON, NEAR THE CITY OF LONDON, WAS WHERE LONDON CITY MISSION BEGAN BACK IN 1835 – AND WAS WHERE I WAS BORN, JUST AFTER THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

The area had been blitzed during the war, and we lived in one of the houses left standing. I had a very happy childhood, however. While growing up I was never taken to church, but I remember saying prayers that I had learned at school. I always had the feeling there was ‘someone’ listening to me. When I was twelve, a school friend invited me along to the local London City Mission centre – and for the first time I heard the gospel.

A centre named after LCM’s founder David Nasmith had been built in Hoxton after the war on one of the many bomb sites, and that was where I went. Things weren’t geared towards children back then, so I arrived at a staid sort of Bible class on a Sunday afternoon. But I was overwhelmed by the love and warmth shown to me, and I really wanted to be there. The Lord was reeling me in to begin my walk with him.

One evening service, missionary George Woodall asked me if I was a Christian. I said I didn’t really know. He asked me if I would like to be, and suggested I go away and think about it and tell him the answer next week. I was just thirteen but I remember thinking that if I said yes, my life wouldn’t belong to me any longer, it would belong to Jesus. The next week, I went back and gave him my answer: yes.

A new missionary, Mick Harris, and his wife, Jean, came to lead the work and were a great blessing. Mick encouraged us young people to be baptised. My mum wasn’t too pleased at the time, thinking I was too involved with church – but her view was to change one day! I went on to spend ten years at the Mission, helping in the Sunday School and being part of
the youth group. I made friends there that I still have now.

It was at a Baptist church in Wood Green that I met my husband Paul. We were married in 1976, and began praying about our future; three years later, he joined London City Mission as a missionary. We spent over twenty years in Tottenham and, before retiring, spent nine years at a centre in south-east London. My mum started coming to our centre in Tottenham, and eventually became a Christian. She was seventy-five when Paul baptised her in a local church – on the same day as he baptised our son, who was fourteen. That was a wonderful day!

We retired in 2012, and now live in Walton-on-the-Naze in Essex, where we have the perfect excuse to build sandcastles when our daughter, her husband and our three little grandsons come to stay! When I look back at those days in Hoxton, I thank the Lord for guiding me to the mission hall, for all the love I received there, for the message of Jesus that I heard and for all his faithfulness to me down the years.

GET INVOLVED PRAY
Praise God for his faithfulness, and for his work in – and through – the lives of Londoners like Lesley down the years.
A PASSION FOR MISSION
I joined the Urban Mission Pioneers because mission has been my passion.

While on the course I’ve regularly done things like door-to-door ministry, gone into schools, held youth clubs and done open-air preaching.

While doing door-to-door ministry, we met a family from Slovakia, from a Catholic background, who we’ve had opportunity to sit down with. We’ve had the chance to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them, and they’ve been very responsive to it. It’s encouraged me as much as I’m sure it has encouraged them.

ALI GASPAR
Leytonstone, east London
PUTTING LEARNING INTO PRACTICE
I came to faith aged seventeen. Growing up, I got caught up in the world, until I realised that I needed to make a change, and Jesus really met me. Life’s changed, and been totally different since then. Over this last year especially, I really felt stirred up in the area of evangelism, and I’m going to be part of a church plant.

On the Urban Mission Pioneers course I am being mentored, and am also involved in a discipleship programme, where I’m being taken through the whole Bible in a year. I also work at LCM’s centre in Vauxhall, establishing relationships with the local community and doing some door-to-door evangelism.

On this course I’ve learnt a lot from people who are a lot more experienced than me. And it’s been really helpful to get to use that knowledge and insight in a practical way straight away, rather than just learning a lot of theory and not really putting it into practice.

At the church plant, which is run from an adventure playground, I came across one of the parents that visits the playground with his daughter. I told him a little bit about what I’m going to be doing in the local area, and I was able to share with him my testimony and how Jesus had changed me. He’s been really interested ever since, and he’s been coming along to the church. I’m really hopeful that he’ll commit his life to Jesus, along with the rest of his family.

JEVON WALKER
Norbury, south-west London

A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY
I’ve always felt a strong calling into ministry, and when I heard about the Urban Mission Pioneers course I saw it as the perfect opportunity to get some deeper experience in ministry and to learn about reading the Bible properly and studying the word of God.

I particularly enjoy the lectures on a Thursday. They’ve opened my eyes to the Bible, and taught me the difference between just reading the Bible and actually studying the word of God and learning from it. I’m really enjoying shadowing LCM missionary Andrew Gordon in Kilburn. It’s good to see somebody else’s ministry and learn from an experienced person, but it’s also good to be able to bring something to what they’re doing.

I’m finding it a really good experience. Every week brings something unique that I never thought I would learn or would happen.

ADAM BOYCE
Tottenham, north London
A YEAR AGO BECONTREE CHURCH, A PLANT FROM DAGENHAM PARISH CHURCH LED BY MIKE AND DEBBIE REITH, WAS LAUNCHED IN THE DAWSON CHRISTIAN CENTRE, WHERE BILL DEANE LEADS THE LCM TEAM.

Since then both the centre and the church plant have had reasons to be grateful for each other.
The partnership got off to an exciting start when a mum who was a part of the toddler group at the centre joined the plant, understood and responded to the gospel. Sadly she was recalled to Hungary, and from there re-assigned to work in New Delhi! A member of the plant team now serves the centre’s toddler group (pictured).

The partnership has grown closer as we’ve shared the sorrows and joys of gospel work. The sorrows include a lovable alcoholic who stayed with Bill and his wife Chris, was faithfully a part of Becontree Church for months, had a Bible study every morning with Mike... but is now in and out of prison!

The parable of the sower and the soils is still true today – but the sowing goes on. The ‘tag team’ of church and centre now works together in a youth group that used to be run by London City Mission until it became understaffed. The plant was asked to help, and it seemed a good point at which to rethink together the strategy and methods for this group.

The club was given a new name (LEO – that is, Love Each Other!), the age-range of children extended, and a more carefully structured Bible teaching programme was introduced. The children absolutely love it! A long-term volunteer at the centre, now an LCM mission associate, reported how the children were enthusiastically ‘into’ the new way of doing things at a recent review meeting. The new church might now go into schools to strengthen the LCM club (pictured).

The benefits of any real partnership go two ways. When Mike has been away on holiday, for example, Bill and Chris have stepped in and led the meeting and music, preached and kept the church going – even though it isn’t their own church.

But partnership is not just about sharing a load: it is about loving each other in Christ. What everyone has valued is the affectionate relationship between all those involved in the LCM team in Dagenham and the church plant team. Mike and Bill meet regularly to pray together. Chatting through prayer requests (and their subsequent answers) creates the close friendship which should undergird any gospel partnership. And out of those times of prayer have come some exciting ideas now in the pipeline. Watch this space!

**GET INVOLVED PRAY**

Continue to pray for the gospel partnerships between Mission and church in Dagenham and across London.
AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR STRATEGY TO SERVE AND SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN REACHING THE LOST IS THE PROVISION OF TRAINING AND RESOURCES.

We want to use our 180 years of experience to teach others how to make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel clearly, patiently and sensitively, with a particular focus on those communities to which there is little Christian outreach.

It was for this reason that we ran our first annual Summer School on urban mission last year (at which this article’s photos were taken). Around forty people (from across London, the UK and beyond!) came for a week of lectures in the mornings and ministry visits in the afternoons. The London City Mission experts involved in lecturing included Alan Black, Ania Cannon, Luke Carson, Gosia Kolosowska,

“THERE’S SUCH A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE WITHIN LONDON CITY MISSION
Andrew Kwapong, Keri Lim, Terry Puttick and Martin Street, while Tom Carpenter, Luke Carson, David Clover, Alastair Gordon and Nick Labiche showed the participants what urban mission looks like on the ground during the ministry visits. Topics covered included ‘Reaching the whole city’, ‘Gospel contextualisation’ and ‘Ministering to the poor’.

At the end of last year’s Summer School, Stafford Carson, Principal of the Union Theological College in Belfast, said, ‘We’ve had a great week at London City Mission Summer School, where we’ve been inspired about the challenge of ministering the gospel, not just within London but within all the cities of the world. What we’ve learned here this week has been so valuable not only in terms of the biblical and theological basis for urban mission, but we’ve had some wonderful worked examples of how to carry the gospel into various communities across the city. There’s such a wealth of experience and expertise within London City Mission that really helps us to understand the challenge of the task of urban mission and ministry, and the students who’ve come with me from Belfast have benefitted enormously from this experience. So thanks, London City Mission, for all that you have done in helping us and in inspiring us for our work and ministry!’

For the 2015 Summer School (8–12 June), in addition to our own LCM experts, we are honoured to have Dr David Smith with us as guest lecturer. Dr Smith previously ran ICC Glasgow’s Urban Missions Masters course, and will be speaking throughout the week on Romans as a mission letter to an urban church. Other topics for the week include ‘Divided cities and the culture of neglect’, ‘The world in one city’ and ‘Teeming with life: the city that creates’, combined with visits to several LCM ministries, including those in the Isle of Dogs, Webber Street and Mile End. We are hoping for a similar number of participants to last year, and hope that they will find it, in the words of some of last year’s delegates, ‘impactful, radical and practical’, ‘enlightening, challenging and encouraging’ and ‘a superb opportunity to learn about how to do gospel-centred ministry in a wide variety of urban contexts’.

**GET INVOLVED PRAY**

Pray for those putting into practice what they learn at our Summer School.

**INFO**

Visit www.lcm.org.uk/training for more information on training opportunities like this.
A KEY PART OF OUR WORK WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE IS OUR SUPPORTED TENANCY PROJECT, HOPE COMMUNITY HOMES, WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR THREE YEARS. IT CONTINUES TO GROW, MEETING NEW CHALLENGES EACH MONTH.

The vision is clear: to create an environment where life can begin again after (sometimes lengthy) periods of despair living on the streets of London, and to provide tenants with safe and secure accommodation along with structured support for integrating back into day-to-day living and working in the city. As the name suggests, Hope offers just that: hope for change, optimism for the future and reassurance from trained staff that, vitally, tenants are not alone in this journey.

Team leader Nick Labiche says, ‘There are many great organisations and projects that support people who were homeless and trying to get back into employment and training. But Hope Community Homes is able to offer something different – we want our tenants to get to know Jesus. We can help our tenants practically, and by befriending them, but only Jesus can provide the hope that they need and freedom from life-controlling problems.’

Recently the team have set up a community group on Tuesday evenings to help tenants build community and learn about Jesus. Nick sees this as central to the work they do: ‘We start with a meal, to get to know each other better, and then we study the Bible.’ Reading Mark’s Gospel together has led to some very interesting and lively discussion! It’s not all been easy, though, and the team have experienced some setbacks. Nick and the team would really value your prayers for those coming to the group, that
they would not be prevented from coming and that they would get to know Jesus personally through these sessions.

Also part of the team are two support workers, Christine Venn-Brown and Daniel Coghill, whose primary role is to work with the tenants to find suitable training schemes, work placements, voluntary work and full-time employment. (Once a tenant is in full-time employment they are obligated to pay some of the rent and bills.) While the process isn’t quick, the results thus far have shown great success. Nick says, ‘We offer friendship, a listening ear and encouragement, which our tenants really benefit from.’

Current tenants going through this immense transition are all making progress, and feel the benefits almost immediately.

‘I have a new life here, and feel better for it,’ says Harvey*: ‘There are people on hand to help me, and I have real new friends.’ Steve* says, ‘I have a better life than before, gaining lots of help that I simply couldn’t get before moving into Hope Community Homes. Now I can focus on getting on with life.’ Steve is now attending college two days a week to improve his English and maths skills.

Hope Community Homes is now an integral part of the Webber Street initiative, and without it our residents could still be sleeping on the streets, in hostels or in night shelters.

Three new flats have been acquired this year, and for each new tenant there is support and guidance from the team.

**GET INVOLVED PRAY**

Pray that hope of every kind is brought into people’s lives through this work.

**INFO**

For more information, or to offer support, visit www.webberstreet.org/hope-community-homes

*Names have been changed.*
AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 180TH ANNIVERSARY IT’S NATURAL TO ASK HOW IT ALL BEGAN. WHAT SPARKS FIRED THE ORIGINS OF LONDON CITY MISSION, AND WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOUNDATION OF THIS WORK?

When we look at our history, we learn that the answer is simple. London City Mission wasn’t started by a committee or a report: it has its particular origins in a prayer meeting.

Of our three founders, Baptist Wriothesley Noel is the least ‘famous’: David Nasmith was the founder of a number of other organisations and City Missions, while in 1835 Thomas Buxton was one of the most famous men in England. Yet it is Noel who became known as the ‘Father of the Mission’.

In the 1830s, the problem of London’s impoverished masses was well known, and there was much discussion about what could be done. Noel, a man of action, started a regular gathering of ministers for prayer and sharing about the best ways to reach the poor with the Christian gospel. This prayer meeting led to a growing gospel call for evangelism and action in London’s slums. That call resulted in the foundation of the London City Mission in 1835.

"LONDON CITY MISSION WASN’T STARTED BY A COMMITTEE OR A REPORT: IT HAS ITS PARTICULAR ORIGINS IN A PRAYER MEETING."
We take great encouragement, 180 years on, from our founders’ commitment to the gospel, to London’s least reached, to faith in action – and to prayer. It must not be overlooked that the work was started and sustained by prayer.

As we started, so we have continued. You can dip into the history of LCM at any point and see that we have remained committed to these things. The call to action in God’s service can never be without a call to prayer for God to act in and through his servants.

TO HELP YOU PRAY FOR US
We long for more people to join us in praying for this city with its great spiritual need, and we want to help those who do pray to pray more.

Please allow us to go over the prayer materials at your disposal (and to which you can direct your friends).

Together is our quarterly prayer diary, which provides daily prayer items on London and the work of London City Mission. Together is better able than Changing London to cover all of our workers regularly (though briefly), so it’s a great way of keeping in touch with, and praying for, the day-to-day work of London City Mission.

We do produce a large-print version of Together (and Changing London, incidentally). Please contact us at headquarters if you would like to receive this version. Together (and, again, Changing London) is also available on the website, at www.LCM.ORG.UK/PRAY.

For the latest prayer information, a weekly prayer update is posted on our website, at www.LCM.ORG.UK/PRAY; you can also sign up to receive it. Although not primarily prayer resources, many prompts for prayer are provided by the news and information contained in other online and email resources, which include our monthly email, our blog (www.LCM.ORG.UK/BLOG), our Facebook page (www.FACEBOOK.COM/LONDONCM) and our Twitter feed (@LONDONCM).

There are prayer groups across the country where people pray together for the work of London City Mission. If you would like to join one, get in touch and we will let you know if there is one in your area. (If you are in one that we might not
know about, thank you, and do let us know!) If you already have a group, or wish to start one, why not invite other local Christians to join you?

**Finally, all of our missionary staff produce prayer letters.** If you would like to pray for a specific missionary or ministry, please contact us.

We would be delighted to hear from you if we can help you and others to pray for London. Ring **020 7234 3589**, email **PRAYER@LCM.ORG.UK**, visit **WWW.LCM.ORG.UK/PRAY** or write to Supporter Relations at Nasmith House.

**A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT**

Your prayer support for the work of LCM is necessary; it is also a great encouragement to our workers when they hear of it or encounter it.

Henk van der Meer, who is church-attached with ELT Baptist Church in Bow, east London, recently wrote, ‘Part of my work is visiting the churches and individuals in the UK who support London City Mission – as well as writing to those who support my work in particular – to inform them of how the work is going on and to thank them for their financial and prayer support. I have seen some beautiful parts of the country!

‘Preparing for talks for different audiences can be emotionally and physically draining, but I am always amazed by the outcome of these visits. The apostle Paul regularly visited churches and wrote letters, thanking the Christians for their faith in Christ. I too am encouraged similarly when I visit churches and people who love Jesus. I am also grateful to you for reading this, and for praying for the Lord’s kingdom to be established. I thank the Lord that he sustains everything, and I thank him that I can see his sovereignty as I visit different parts of the country.’

Thank you for your involvement in the work.
JIMMY AITKENHEAD

I joined London City Mission last September. Before that I was already engaged in street evangelism and follow-up among Muslims in London, but this was limited because I was also teaching English as a foreign language in order to survive financially. Still, during this time I had the joy of seeing one Somali Muslim who I first met in a cafe come to faith in Christ; a Moroccan Muslim who I met on that same day is still in touch with me too, and seems to be seriously considering following Christ.

Since I joined London City Mission, with a brief to focus on Arabic-speaking Muslims in west London, I have been able to do far more than was previously possible. This currently includes engaging in street evangelism with my LCM colleague Yosry in north Kensington (a predominantly Moroccan area) and Kilburn (which has a real mixture of Arabic-speaking and other Muslims). I am also helping a church launch an evangelism initiative among Muslims in Edgware Road, and assisting another church that has recently started a book table reaching Muslims in Fulham.

One of the challenges is managing to follow up Muslims who are showing a higher-than-average level of receptivity to the gospel, because there are too many showing such interest for me to follow them all up! I am currently meeting an Algerian Muslim for Bible studies in a coffee shop most weeks. When I meet a Muslim woman who is responsive to the gospel I try to arrange for my wife, Gina, to meet up with her. Gina is Egyptian, so Arabic is her first language, and she too is committed to taking the gospel to Muslims.

We also have twin daughters, Louise and Nicole, aged seven. We would value prayer for them, in particular that they will pursue their own relationships with Christ.

"I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO FAR MORE THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY POSSIBLE"
KEVIN CROFT

I am a south Londoner through and through! I was fortunate to have been brought up in a Christian home. My dad was a pastor, so going to church with my family was just something that I had to do.

After leaving school I worked for a funeral directors in Peckham. Arranging funerals for young people just like myself forced me to focus on my own mortality and life after death. I knew what the Bible said about that, and that I would either spend eternity away from the loving God or I could be with him forever. In May 1999 I put my trust in the Lord Jesus. I now know that whatever happens in this life, heaven awaits me.

I have been married to Rebecca for nearly ten years, and we have two young children, Joanna and Tom. It is a privilege to be able to teach them truths about Christ and what it looks like to follow him.

I started work for the Mission last September. I am serving at The Bridge in Battersea, a collaboration between LCM and Co-Mission, who planted a church in the LCM centre. I am working alongside Martin Street, of LCM, and Jason Roach, the pastor of the church. The centre has two estates on its doorstep, and this is the community we are seeking to reach.

I am trying to build up relationships with members of the community, so I do quite a lot of door-to-door work. God has blessed me with a number of people who I now see regularly. We also started a lunch club for some of the older members of the community: we meet once a month, have some food and a short talk from the Bible. It is great to have the opportunity to then follow up with individuals about what we have learnt, and see what a difference it can make to them personally.

“ARRANGING FUNERALS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE JUST LIKE MYSELF FORCED ME TO FOCUS ON MY OWN MORTALITY.”
YORDAN SOTIROV

I was born and brought up in Bulgaria in the time of communism. I was taught that there is no God, but my mother believed in Jesus and told me the gospel. When I was eighteen, by God’s endless mercy, I believed in Jesus. Soon after that I began evangelistic and preaching ministry.

After time in college, the army, and work, I went to theological college. After graduating, I did church planting and pastoral ministry in Bulgaria for ten years. I am married to Kalina, and we have two teenage children, Stoyan and Pavlina.

I came to London in 2011. The International Presbyterian Church in Ealing, which I attended, encouraged me to apply to LCM. I joined LCM last year and was assigned to Ridley Christian Centre in Forest Gate, working with David Bauer (now retired) and Sammy Gunnell. Forest Gate is a mixed, multicultural area in east London, with many Muslims, Sikhs and Eastern Europeans.

At the centre we have meetings on Sunday and through the week for Bible teaching and study, and other activities include youth, schools, open air and door-to-door work. I have also started a new ministry among Bulgarians.

I thank God for the good contacts I have made through door to-door work. To share three examples: M, a young Muslim, who is open and interested to know more about Jesus and the gospel; S, a Sikh lady, who visits our worship at the centre on Sunday from time to time and who we visit – and her family – to talk about our faith and pray; and an Eastern European family of Catholic background who have been converted to Christ and come regularly to our worship, and who I visit regularly for Bible study.
CHANGING MINISTRIES

SIX OF OUR MISSIONARIES WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN STRATEGICALLY REDEPLOYED BRIEFLY INTRODUCE THEIR NEW WORK.

ANGEL TIEBAS

After six years as a hospital chaplain I have now begun a new ministry, seconded to work alongside Rev David Foster in Manor Park Christian Centre, a multi-ethnic church in multi-ethnic east London. There is a large Muslim population in the area around the church in particular.

My responsibilities include district visitation, supporting and encouraging those involved in the youth work, encouraging house groups into further evangelism, and following up new people who attend the church (typically seventy to a hundred in any given year). By the time you read this we will have been involved in a mini-mission with several other evangelical fellowships, and we plan to open a food bank in June.

DAVID MCADAM

I started my new church-based ministry at East Hill Baptist Church (in Wandsworth, south-west London) in January. The pastor invited me to launch Springboard Café as part of the church’s community outreach. I teach English to individuals from the Brazilian church, and also biblical Hebrew at the church’s college, which is housed presently in the Spread Eagle pub nearby, and which, encouragingly, over twenty people attend. Where else in the world do patrons learn biblical Hebrew in a pub? Other activities include visitation and street evangelism, both with East Hill and one of its partner churches.

WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD DO PATRONS LEARN BIBLICAL HEBREW IN A PUB?
BYRON LEWIS

I am loving my new role, working in partnership with Ecclesia, the church plant in LCM’s Lewisham centre. I am being stretched and sharpened in terms of discipleship, evangelism and time management, and have been encouraged to learn that others are pleased and encouraged to have me around for outreach in Lewisham! I am getting opportunities to share the gospel during our Saturday outreaches in Lewisham High Street in particular. I am also involved in preparing a condensed evangelistic training programme for the church, and providing ministry support to others. The church is looking to initiate a food project which would provide substantial community engagement and opportunity for the gospel to be made known.

JUAN VAZQUEZ

If I had to describe my new role in a sentence it will be something like this: ‘To enable the Spanish Baptist Church in West Norwood to reach the whole community where its members live and work, regardless of their nationality.’

I am involved in the local food bank. I go visiting in the area of Elephant and Castle, where there are a number of Spanish-speaking businesses, contacting shoppers and shop staff (I am praying about joining Street Pastors in that area). I also help in the discipleship of new Christians, I am giving hands-on training in evangelism to five church members who come out with me, and another eight people are attending a course I am running entitled ‘Sharing Jesus’.
STUART CURRIE

My revised role as a London City Missionary attached to Bow Baptist Church allows me to focus on evangelism and discipleship for, through and around BBC, where my wife and I have been worshipping since 2012.

During our time there the church (which in many ways resembles a church plant) has grown to some 50–60 adult regulars, plus around two dozen children (the photo below shows some of us on a day out). The congregation paints a pretty inclusive picture of a typically multicultural, multi-racial, east London community (minus, of course, proportional representation from the area’s substantial Muslim population).

Over time my involvement at BBC has developed to include leading services, contributing sermons and Bible-in-Art events, and playing a part in the majority of church activities. I have also recently been drawn into relationships with a number of needy and differently challenged adult males.

Please pray that as God begins to clarify the specifics of my various activities in my new role, he will give me great grace, wisdom and effectiveness in carrying them out.

JEFF POTTER

Is there life after chaplaincy!? If you had asked me that question even six months ago I would have felt like answering, ‘I’m not sure, but I’m willing to give it a go!’ There have been some periods of disquiet in my heart over the past year, but overarching all has been a sense of God’s peace, reinforced by the Lord sending the right word along at the right time (as usual). The principal passage he has used to comfort me has been 1 Peter 5:6–7. I feel at the moment like a young child who has woken up unescorted in a sweet shop! To stand on the day before Good Friday and freely tell a group of new Dagenham-ite friends how I came to faith, and to see their faces intently looking on, was a privilege beyond comparison!

Jeff is team leader at our Bethel Christian Centre in Becontree.

“ I FEEL AT THE MOMENT LIKE A YOUNG CHILD WHO HAS WOKEN UP UNESCORTED IN A SWEET SHOP! 

WHAT WE DO
TRIBUTES

DOUGLAS HALE
It is with a measure of sadness that we report the death of Douglas Hale on 9 December. Yet we do not mourn as those without hope, because Douglas had a sure and certain hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he served and has gone to be with. Douglas enjoyed many years of retirement after having served for thirty-three years as a faithful and much-loved London City Missionary.

Douglas served twice on the challenging Downham estate in south London. Successive missionaries continued to sow the seed of the gospel on the estate and build on the foundation of the faithful efforts of predecessors such as Douglas. God in time gave the increase as people did come to faith. We rejoice that no work for the Lord is ever in vain.

Please continue to pray for Betty, Douglas’s widow, and the family in their loss.

GORDON HOLLAND
We remember Sylvia and the family especially in our prayers as we give thanks to the Lord for Gordon Holland, a much-loved servant and man of God, who died on 2 March.

On Gordon’s retirement he was described as ‘a true friend and counsellor of missionaries and their wives’. He retired from the role of District Secretary, with responsibility for other missionaries, to which he brought wisdom which had come through serving the Lord as a London City Missionary for many years previously.

Gordon’s love for the Lord, the Bible and the gospel shaped who he was profoundly, not only in his service with London City Mission but also in retirement. Gordon’s sense of fun and winsomeness opened countless opportunities for him to talk to people about the Lord.

It was wonderful to see so many people at the Thanksgiving Service whose lives had been touched and blessed by Gordon.

TERRY PUTTICK
Ministries Director
AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR NEW MINISTRY STRATEGY – ENGAGING IN MINISTRIES WITH A GOSPEL FOCUS TO THE LEAST REACHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL CHURCHES – IT WAS DECIDED TO END OUR CAFÉ ETERNO MINISTRY AT NEAL STREET, COVENT GARDEN, AND IT CLOSED AT THE END OF MARCH.

We explored the possibilities of undertaking a new ministry based in the building in Neal Street that would be a closer fit to the new strategy, but ultimately decided that the building was not best suited as a base for us to pursue a ministry to reach one of our defined groups of least reached people.

We are currently exploring possible alternative uses for the building. While we do this, other groups which have used the building will continue to be able to do so; and even though the doors onto Neal Street are closed for now, they are reminding passers-by that London Needs Jesus (see photo).

We are mindful that God has done great things through the Café Eterno staff team over the years, for which we give him glory and praise. They have lovingly served God through LCM, as well as graciously serving many, many customers; we hold them in high regard for their service to Christ and faithful gospel witness in Covent Garden.
Pray for the team as they move on to new roles within LCM (Daniel Coghill is at Hope Community Homes; Naomi Dibdin is at New Addington Baptist Church; Margaret Flanagan is at Ecclesia in Lewisham with Byron Lewis; Zhaleh Gharehbaghlou is with Tim Spring in ethnic ministry; Sandra Kyle is at our Vauxhall centre; Tessa Reed is interim custodian for the Neal Street building) and outwith LCM (Dorina Stewart has gone with husband Donald to ministry in Scotland; Javane Lawrie is at a Café Nero; Khara Lawrie is at a disability day centre; and Shirley Phillips is managing a new cafe project being set up by Rainham churches). Pray that God will continue to bless and use them greatly in his service.

We would ask you to pray with us as we seek to reach the least reached in London, using all our resources with God’s help to have the greatest impact for the gospel amongst some of its most vulnerable and needy residents. Your love and support for us as we go through these changes is much appreciated.

DUNCAN CUTHILL
Director of Ministries
STAFF NEWS

NASMITH HOUSE
We welcome to the Nasmith House team, in part-time roles, Helen Thorne (training & mentoring) and Lucy Mold (supporter relations).

HUSK
Robert den Engelsman, Maggie McDaris and Alannah Shafiq have joined the team at Husk in Limehouse, while Fitzy Archdale, Lizzie Curtis and Marta Kowalczuk have left it.

CHANGING ROLES
Five of our missionaries, each of them most recently in a workplace chaplaincy role, were commissioned into new ministry placements in April: Nicholas Manyumbu is based at our Paget Christian Centre in King’s Cross; Neil Kinghorn is working with St Elisabeth’s, Dagenham; Steve Dunn is working with St Paul’s, Harold Hill; Steve Nichols is working with New Life Christian Centre, Croydon; and Steve Taylor is working with Grove Chapel, Camberwell. Praise God for these areas in which we can help spread the great news of the gospel, and pray that our missionaries will be used for God’s glory and the growth of his church.

Rob Hooks has moved from chaplaincy ministry in Brixton prison to join our team in the King’s Cross and Camden area, to set up and manage a resettlement project for vulnerable people.

See p29 for Café Eterno staff news.

DEPARTURES
Jamie Stewart, latterly serving as a chaplain to underground and BTP staff, has left the Mission, having accepted a call to become pastor of Days Lane Baptist Church in Sidcup. We pray for God’s blessing on Jamie, Monika and the children in their life and ministry.

Donald Stewart, latterly attached at King’s Cross Baptist Church, left us to work with Greyfriars Free Church in Inverness. Our prayers go with Donald and Dorina in this new ministry.

We bid farewell to David Bauer, who has retired after years of faithful service at our Ridley Centre in Forest Gate (both while with the Mission and before). We wish him and Jan well in his retirement, and give thanks to God for their great service.

FAMILY NEWS
We give our congratulations to three couples who have recently got married: Charlotte Allen and Ed Mayhew, Jo Dickson and Mike Sutton, and Rebekah Pascall and Dan Collins.

Congratulations to Jarryd and Rosie Lowe on the birth of Jasper Lightning.
GET INVOLVED

HARVEST
We will once again be producing harvest resources for churches relating to the work of London City Mission. Look out for further details, but do plan us in to your calendar, and get in touch with our church relations team (churches@lcm.org.uk, 020 7234 3590) to pre-order the resources.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
The Mission’s annual Thanksgiving Service will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 September 2015 at All Souls, Langham Place. More details will be available in due course.

CITY VISION
We are now recruiting for the January intake into City Vision, our gap year programme offering a year of training and service in urban mission (closing date 16 October).

www.lcm.org.uk/gapyear for more on City Vision.

HEAR ABOUT OUR MINISTRY
There is always lots going on at London City Mission, and we have many great stories to share with you about how God is moving in our capital.

We aim to inspire churches and individuals to partner with us in sharing the gospel with London’s least reached – whether through prayer, donations or volunteering.

One of the ways we do this is by visiting churches in London and other areas across the country. Get in touch to find out if we are visiting your area or region soon, or to find out about booking a speaker who will inspire you. Email us at churches@lcm.org.uk or call 020 7234 3590.

FAVS
Please note that the Schools Team experience ‘Faith in Action – Victorian Style’ has been postponed until 2016.

THANK YOU
We would like to thank you for your partnership with us. We greatly appreciate your joining together with us in mission in whatever way you are able to, whether you give of your time, your talents, your prayers, your material gifts or your voluntary service.

GIVE A CAR
London City Mission is signed up with Giveacar, a not-for-profit social enterprise that raises money for charity by accepting donations of old cars. For more information, visit www.giveacar.co.uk or ring them on 020 0011 1664.

www.lcm.org.uk/joinus for the full range of opportunities – short-term, long-term, support and volunteer – with LCM.
THE POWER OF LOVE

I was in the dark and could not see
I was lost and could not be found
Out of my desperation I cried loud to you
Jesus my only hope my only strength
Kings come and kings go
Roses and lust come and go
But the love you have for us is eternal
I was woken up as a brand new man
And I prayed and I cried
Loudly and shameless invoking your name
You answered my prayers and for this
I will worship you for the rest of my life
Your name will be on my lips
For the rest of my days
And you will dwell in me now
And forever.

SALVATORE WROTE THIS POEM
WHEN HE CAME TO FAITH

God used London City Mission workers over more than three decades in Salvatore’s journey to faith.

— Pray that Salvatore would grow in his faith, and see God at work in his life.

— Give thanks for God’s grace and faithfulness, and for the courage, care and commitment shown to Salvatore by our workers.

— Pray that through our workers more people will hear the good news and discover the joy and purpose of life with God.

Salvatore’s story is told as part of our 180th Anniversary Appeal.

To read more, visit www.lcm.org.uk/180Appeal.

To support the appeal, and get more missionaries on the ground, please use the above weblink, or use the Changing London response form, or call us on 020 7234 3585.