

## How can the power of stories help to transform your community?

Explore a partnership with  in your local area...

*This summary paper aims to explain how a partnership with Unlock could help to meet the needs of a church or small group of churches in your local area.*



have been: -

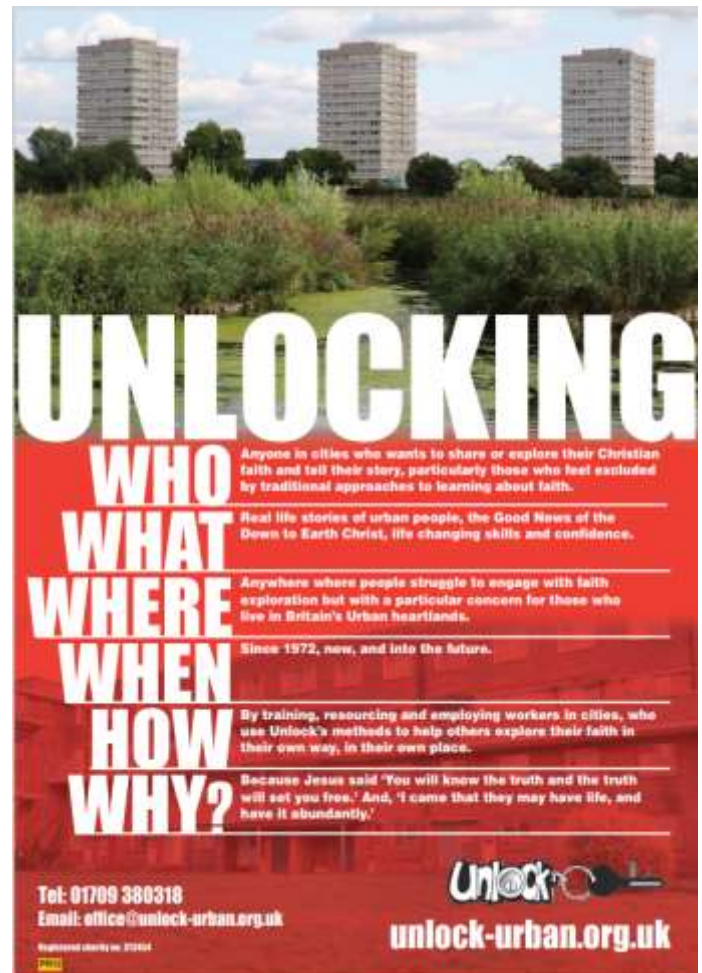
- **Unlocking** real life stories of urban people
- **Revealing** Good News of the Down to Earth Christ and
- **Releasing** life changing skills and confidence

- since 1972

Unlock works through partnerships with local churches; resourcing and enabling them to build stronger connections within their local communities through creative and engaging approaches to the Bible starting with people's own everyday stories.

Unlock's approaches are specifically designed to connect with oral learners who may be deterred by traditional formal and academic approaches to the Bible.

You can read more about the impacts of Unlock's work here [UL14 Real Life Unlock Stories \(unlock-urban.org.uk\)](http://UL14 Real Life Unlock Stories (unlock-urban.org.uk))



**UNLOCKING**

**WHO** Anyone in cities who wants to share or explore their Christian faith and tell their story, particularly those who feel excluded by traditional approaches to learning about faith.

**WHAT** Real life stories of urban people, the Good News of the Down to Earth Christ, life changing skills and confidence.


**WHERE** Anywhere where people struggle to engage with faith exploration but with a particular concern for those who live in Britain's Urban heartlands.

**WHEN** Since 1972, now, and into the future.

**HOW** By training, resourcing and employing workers in cities, who use Unlock's methods to help others explore their faith in their own way, in their own place.

**WHY?** Because Jesus said 'You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.' And, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

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**Unlock is looking to work with a church or group of churches of any denomination who have:-**

- A heart for the most marginalised of local people
- An interest in setting the Gospel free within their local community
- A commitment to overcoming exclusion
- A desire for stronger connections within their local community
- Some community engagement and social action already in place that they wish to grow, particularly in missional terms
- A desire to grow the church family; spiritually at least as much as numerically
- Capacity to build a small team of support (not necessarily hands-on helpers) within the church & community
- \*A capacity and willingness to commit £3k per annum for two years

- Leadership that is expected to remain mostly stable for the next 2-3 years
- An urban area that can easily be identified with locally recognised boundaries.

*\* It is not necessary that this finance be available within church funds, as this is often not an option in the most marginalised locations. The expectation is that churches are able to secure mission funding from local charitable trusts or diocesan funds for their share.*

## Outline Plan

In Partnership with a local church or group of churches, Unlock recruit locally and employ a part time worker for 8 hours per week for two years.

The worker would be employed and managed by Unlock; trained, resourced, mentored and supported by the local church(s), and Unlock.

Their 8 hours per week will allow them to plan and run Unlock small groups sessions regularly and undertake necessary admin and reporting as well as ongoing training.

**Timeframe:** - The recruitment process to begin as soon as finance and partnership details are agreed, finance for the first year is banked, and everyone is ready. The employment period to be for two years from start date.

**Funding sources:** - **Local Partner Church(s)**(\* see note above), **and Unlock**. Unlock will match fund with local partners up to a project limit of £6k over two years.

## What are the projected benefits?

### a) At church and local community level

- Growing the congregation's confidence and skills in faith sharing
- Growing the congregation
- Strengthening connections in both church and community
- Nurturing self-esteem and personal growth
- Nurturing indigenous leadership
- Improved church/community links

### b) At organisational level (Unlock)

- Unlock growing our working presence in your local area.
- More people aware of and able to use Unlock's approach to Bible engagement and growing personal faith.
- Generating success stories in order to promote and resource future work

### c) At regional level

- Learning from the local work to be shared within the region
- Other churches in the wider region encouraged and enabled

## And afterwards?

Once local people have grasped the Unlock approach then local churches can train and enable one another in Unlock approaches at minimal cost. Unlock training is available nationally from time to time.

**To explore options further contact** Unlock: [office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk) Tel: 01709 380 318