



## Tips for walk leaders.

Barbara Funnell, who has been coordinating and encouraging groups of walks throughout the history of the Unlock London walk, recommends the following action list:-

1. Cover every stage with prayer!
2. 6 weeks before the walk, begin to prepare a display of materials, e.g. this year's map brochure, and use both sides, cut up if necessary to fit boards etc.
3. Mark the route with a coloured pen (easier to follow)
4. Use the relevant leaflets etc to hand (available on the Unlock website and from the Unlock national office)
5. Display appropriate photos from last year's walk to illustrate participants and good things and a few grotty ones to demonstrate that we need to walk!
6. Possibly a list of walks the church has taken part in i.e. date, title, number of walkers and funds raised.
7. Write letters of invitation (1 master and rest photocopied and personalised) to previous walkers and a route map etc expressing the hope that they will walk this year.
8. Put something encouraging in weekly church notices
9. Make sure everyone has someone to walk with, can access necessary transport, offer lifts etc, in other words ensure that folk get there ok and happily
10. Make a list of prayer topics for congregation who are not walking so that everyone has a way to be involved.
11. Encourage non-walkers to pray, sponsor or make straight donations, (Leader should have an account to put such money into, especially one with interest!)
12. Two weeks before the walk, ask for a slot to talk to the congregation, expressing how important the walk is and why.
13. Be available for queries
14. After the walk, remove old photos and put up new ones ASAP
15. Be prepared to take orders for photos from person who acted as photographer.
16. Collect money and send off when all in (could be 6 weeks!)
17. Write to all participants thanking them for their efforts, give them the total amount collected and the amount they gave in (this is a receipt too). A basic letter which can be personalised is good. Make encouraging comments e.g. 'It was good that you were able to walk so soon after being poorly/ a recent bereavement/ being jet-lagged' etc. Walkers need to be affirmed, encouraged and appreciated. My experience has shown that these letters are key in encouraging walkers to go again!
18. All the way through, encourage prayer and gift- aiding money! (I normally gain £400.00 through G.A)
19. Make sure final amounts and comments etc go in the congregational notices.