



LIVERPOOL BULLETIN

Dear All,

A belated Happy New Year to you all, with my continuing gratitude for your encouragement and prayers.

If you want a reminder of what has happened with Unlock in Liverpool so far you can look at previous updates at http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/our_workers.php

So far we are up to session 4 of both Cooking the Book and the 'Staying for Lunch' sessions in Anfield. Cooking the Book is supposed to run weekly but so far it is just managing to keep pace with Staying for Lunch which is fortnightly due to the chaotic problems of various court cases etc that participants are involved in.

Cooking the Book is great fun and we are learning lots from each other. The process of cooking during each session is creating a rhythm of doing, talking, reflecting and celebrating as we eat what we've made. Each session the recipe connects with our theme which leads us into our Biblical connection. So, having done mainly healthy cooking we made bread & butter pudding in session 3 to connect with the theme of 'doing what we want' and the story of the flood - one of the women turns out not to like bread and butter pudding so the link with lavish decadence was lost! However bread and butter pudding is her brother's favourite which actually led us into a very interesting conversation about how sometimes we 'do what we want' for apparently good motives - like doing something that will please someone we love.

I have learnt from others that have been involved in urban non-book Bible group learning the importance of listening to the group's stories and adapting sessions to their experiences rather than sticking rigidly to planned outlines, that was true with the bread and butter pudding but even more so with the pre Christmas Staying for Lunch session. The planned session was around the theme 'Celebration' but in response to the opening questions the Mum's told stories about expense, debt and trying to make ends meet. The Bible story I had prepared, the Wedding at Cana, didn't resonate so well so we talked about the widow's lost coins instead.

Earlier in January I went to a week long course on Principles of Adult Learning and Teaching at the Church Army College in Sheffield. It was a fantastic week with the content being delivered and embedded through a wide range of delivery styles and group activities. It was extremely helpful to develop a greater understanding of the theories behind Unlock's approach and to interact with others involved in different types of teaching in different church contexts.

Hopefully what I've learnt will strengthen my work in Liverpool, not least of all the opportunities for training others to run groups.

Over the next month I am looking forward to running a training day for Readers on non-book Bible learning and seeking out people in Liverpool that might be interested in being supported through the process of running Unlock type sessions with a group of people on the fringe of church. If you know anyone that might be interested please let me know - the aim would be to support each person to develop materials tailored to their group and for them to run the sessions in the autumn.

We are also looking for a venue in or near Liverpool for the Unlock Gathering in September - somewhere with overnight accommodation, catering facilities and a meeting room than can cater for between 20 & 30. All suggestions welcome.

Blessings

Sonya

P.S. There was a lovely heart warming moment when we were asked why our organisations had sent us on the course, I explained that Unlock use a method of evaluating staff's competencies in different areas. Circles divided into segments for each area of competency with an inner circle for skill, a middle ring for knowledge and an outer circle for experience. From these sheets it had become clear that we had a gap in adult education theory as knowledge. It turns out that the sheets were designed by one of the course facilitators!