

2009

Pavements and Plimsolls

Last September, on the 19th and again a week later on the 26th, two members of St Andrews were to be seen pacing the streets in Islington and Hackney. An observer might have been puzzled at the way we were carefully examining pavements and kerbs, and sometimes backtracking to look again at a shop, or read some notice-board. And then pausing briefly to look at a map or scribble in a notebook. What was going on?

Actually, we weren't on the streets all the time, for our venture took us into Hackney City Farm, and also along the towpath of the Regent's Canal, where we were nearly mown down many times by fast-peddalling cyclists. Our business was to do some of the preparatory work for the annual Unlock London Walk, which this year will be taking place on the 25th April. Almost as soon as one year's walk is over, while walkers are busy in their home churches gathering in sponsorship money which is such an important part of the funding of Unlock's work, the Unlock team is beginning the preliminary work for the following year.

With a rough idea of the area where the walk might be, churches need to be approached with a view to being one of the seven or eight hosts/checkpoints on the day. As arrangements begin to be firmed up, a suggested route for walkers is mapped out. The main responsibility for this work lies with Bishop Peter Hall and his wife Jill. Since Peter retired from Lewisham they have been living back in Birmingham, which has necessitated flying visits to London to do the practical work. By September, Jill has drawn the first version of the map showing the proposed route and church checkpoints. At this point, the "checkers" swing into action.

My main role in recent years has been to check the route map for "clarity". The map shows only selected detail, so the question is whether the chosen landmarks are sufficient and right to enable walkers (in either direction) to follow the route easily and accurately. At the same time we do a preliminary check for accessibility, hence the close look at pavements. Wheelchair users may have to follow an alternative route in places, and the final map will show which side of the road is "best" and where are safe crossing points. There will be a later check by John and Margaret Brown who live in Tunbridge Wells; John has lost both legs, so Margaret provides the motive power.

There is always a quiz to keep walkers amused, so another aspect of the checking process is to identify suitable quiz questions. Before the map goes into final production, Tim Watkins-Idle writes notes, takes photographs, and checks the quiz questions. This year we had a last minute panic. My favourite question was going to be "What is hanging from a lamp-post in Emma Street?" The answer was "A pair of trainers", which had been dangling there for two or three years, thrown up, I guess, by some male teenager with considerable skill. As the map and quiz were going to press in December I went to check that the trainers were still there. Disaster! There was roofing work going on, on the building adjoining the lamp-post, and the trainers had vanished. So a substitute quiz question had quickly to be found.

As indicated previously, the London sponsored walk is an important factor in financing Unlock's work in supporting and unlocking potential in church groups around the country. St Andrew's has been involved in this ministry since its inception 25 years ago. It is now a

pleasure and privilege to be involved each year in the planning of these events. Two of the Anglican churches on this year's walk are quite amazing buildings. One, St Mark's, Islington, although a parish church, could easily be mistaken for a cathedral! You are invited to join a thousand other walkers on **Saturday, 25th April** for a fantastic experience.

Geoff Coggins.

Unlock

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

2008

Pavements and Plimsolls

Last September, on the 19th and again a week later on the 26th, two members of St Andrews were to be seen pacing the streets in Islington and Hackney. An observer might have been puzzled at the way we were carefully examining pavements and kerbs, and sometimes backtracking to look again at a shop, or read some notice-board. And then pausing briefly to look at a map or scribble in a notebook. What was going on?

Actually, we weren't on the streets all the time, for our venture took us into Hackney City Farm, and also along the towpath of the Regent's Canal, where we were nearly mown down many times by fast-peddalling cyclists. Our business was to do some of the preparatory work for the annual Unlock London Walk, which this year will be taking place on the 25th April. Almost as soon as one year's walk is over, while walkers are busy in their home churches gathering in sponsorship money which is such an important part of the funding of Unlock's work, the Unlock team is beginning the preliminary work for the following year.

With a rough idea of the area where the walk might be, churches need to be approached with a view to being one of the seven or eight hosts/checkpoints on the day. As arrangements begin to be firmed up, a suggested route for walkers is mapped out. The main responsibility for this work lies with Bishop Peter Hall and his wife Jill. Since Peter retired from Lewisham they have been living back in Birmingham, which has necessitated flying visits to London to do the practical work. By September, Jill has drawn the first version of the map showing the proposed route and church checkpoints. At this point, the "checkers" swing into action.

My main role in recent years has been to check the route map for "clarity". The map shows only selected detail, so the question is whether the chosen landmarks are sufficient and right to enable walkers (in either direction) to follow the route easily and accurately. At the same time we do a preliminary check for accessibility, hence the close look at pavements. Wheelchair users may have to follow an alternative route in places, and the final map will show which side of the road is "best" and where are safe crossing points. There will be a later check by John and Margaret Brown who live in Tunbridge Wells; John has lost both legs, so Margaret provides the motive power.

There is always a quiz to keep walkers amused, so another aspect of the checking process is to identify suitable quiz questions. Before the map goes into final production, Tim Watkins-Idle writes notes, takes photographs, and checks the quiz questions. This year we had a last minute panic. My favourite question was going to be "What is hanging from a lamp-post in Emma Street?" The answer was "A pair of trainers", which had been dangling there for two or three years, thrown up, I guess, by some male teenager with considerable skill. As the map and quiz were going to press in December I went to check that the trainers were still there. Disaster! There was roofing work going on, on the building adjoining the lamp-post, and the trainers had vanished. So a substitute quiz question had quickly to be found.

As indicated previously, the London sponsored walk is an important factor in financing Unlock's work in supporting and unlocking potential in church groups around the country. St

Andrew's has been involved in this ministry since its inception 25 years ago. It is now a pleasure and privilege to be involved each year in the planning of these events. Two of the Anglican churches on this year's walk are quite amazing buildings. One, St Mark's, Islington, although a parish church, could easily be mistaken for a cathedral! You are invited to join a thousand other walkers on **Saturday, 25th April** for a fantastic experience.

Geoff Coggins.

Unlock

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

2007

A Moving Memorial and a Floating Church

The Unlock London Walk is a great day out, so good that some walkers have never missed a walk in the last 23 years. This year's walk celebrates Basil Cracknell's inspired invention of the Unlock/EUTP inner city sponsored walk. A quarter of a century ago he had to persuade people that the idea was feasible, imaginative but not crackpot. For many years he took responsibility for devising the route, liaising with churches, spotting suitable and interesting quiz questions.

Basil died early last year, and this year in his memory the walk revisits the original 1984 route in Docklands. A large part of Walk no. 1 was on the Isle of Dogs, through the wreckage of the once great docklands. Although the area has been revisited on a number of walks since, no previous walk has offered the shock effect of the transformation from 24 years ago. The landscape has changed so much that the route cannot follow exactly that of 1984, Dockyards have been replaced with gleaming offices; a whole new community has evolved, with new and different churches serving them including St Peter's Boat Church, floating in West India Dock.

The 'moving memorial' to Basil's vision and commitment is a walk of two halves, for in contrast to the dramatic changes north of the river, the half of the route through Bermondsey to the south shows little that has changed. The exception will be the check-point stop at the Salmon Youth Centre, where the multi-million pound redevelopment is nearing completion. Readers may know that for many years St Andrew's has also been involved in the work of the Salmon Centre.

The regular contingent of walkers from St Andrew's now numbers only about one tenth of those early enthusiasts pictured with Simon Hughes launching the first walk, but the St Andrew's group is supplemented by a few relatives and close friends from other churches. It would be great to see a 'new generation' of walkers from St Andrew's accepting the challenge of joining the fun and participating in the walk.

Reflecting on the first ten years of walks, in 1993 Basil Cracknell wrote: "When we organised the first one in 1984 we had no idea how many walkers would turn up – if any! We were delighted when 335 walkers appeared, from 35 churches all over the south of England, and £3860 was raised in sponsorship.....The following year the number of walkers had almost doubled.....And so it went on; each year the numbers grew and the sums raised increased proportionately."

The Unlock walk seems to be many things to different people – a chance to see a little known part of London, an opportunity to share with struggling inner-city churches, a fun day out together for parishioners, a chance to practice orienteering! For Unlock the over-riding aim is to raise money; walkers collect sponsorship or donate directly to Unlock. Nowadays Unlock's yearly operational costs are of the order of £40,000 and the annual walk with around a thousand participants raises about half of this. Sponsorship of the small St Andrew's group of walkers last year contributed some £500, that is 2½% of the funds raised. Well done, St Andrew's, and thank you!

One important aspect of the walk is gaining an insight into the work of the check-point churches visited. Some are struggling, and welcome the encouragement and prayer of the visitors. Some are flourishing, and it is a privilege to see, share and support their success. In 1999 the route around Clapham and Battersea included a visit to Holy Trinity, Clapham, one-time home of the 'Clapham Sect'. Over 200 years ago members of that congregation, among them William Wilberforce, fought against slavery, applying Biblical principles to serious issues in private and public life. As this month we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, we can reflect on the importance still of churches confronting the issues of concern in the communities they serve.

Unlock's work is about Christian Mission, urgently focussed on bringing God's Good News to those who have often been ignored as unimportant, here, on our own doorsteps, in our own UK cities. This year, as always, walkers will pray for the communities they pass through and for the Christians and churches among them. And this year, especially, they will ponder and give thanks for the life and dedication of Basil Cracknell, the source and inspiration of a quarter of a century of EUTP/Unlock Walks.

Geoff Coggins.

*The 24th Annual Unlock London
Walk is on Saturday, 21st April,
2007.*

2006

The Walkers, the Walk and the Work

As I write this, I've just returned from six weeks in Bangladesh. In my struggle with the Bengali language I have gained some insights into the difficulties mother-tongue Bengali speakers have coping with English. We have a different range of vowel and consonant sounds, and we use our mouths, our tongues, our teeth and our lips differently. One particular example is the problem my Bangladeshi friends had in distinguishing between "walking" and "working", both in listening and speaking. Imagine the confusion when Anwar, with just a few words of English, tried to explain that he couldn't join me on my walk the next day because he had to work at his shop. Or was he saying that he didn't have to work tomorrow, so he would be walking?

I trust my readers will not have similar difficulties with the title, as I bring you the annual update on **Unlock**. With aging, the number of participants from St Andrews in the annual Unlock sponsored walk has gradually dwindled from the large crowd who pioneered the inaugural walk 22 years ago. Now there are just three regulars, themselves bordering on the elderly, accompanied by a few friends and relatives from elsewhere, who join the thousand or so other walkers from in and around London. Members of St Andrews continue to be generous in their sponsorship, so that each year we are able to raise upward of £500 for the work of Unlock.

Last year's walk was interesting and informative as we explored the Paddington Basin and Notting Hill. Besides the usual visits to seven different churches to share their variety of visions of how to bring the Christian gospel to their local communities, the walk included the opportunity for a guided tour of a Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre. The 2006 walk, on **29th April**, is going to be right on our doorstep. Called "From the old things to the new" it will stretch between Lewisham and the Dome at North Greenwich. The walk was planned by Peter and Jill Hall. They now live in Birmingham, but Peter, the former Chairman of Unlock, was Bishop of Lewisham for twelve years and they know the area well. This year there is a break from tradition; in the past the route has always been circular, with the opportunity to start anywhere and walk either way. The 2006 route is linear, though walkers can choose to do it in either direction, and could start anywhere by using the 108 bus between the end points.

The annual walk serves two main purposes. Walkers have the opportunity to learn about the work of the seven or eight checkpoint churches on the route, and this is always an uplifting experience. And through sponsorship, walkers earn a substantial proportion of the funds needed to finance the work of Unlock. Unlock exists to provide support for churches and Christians working "anywhere where people struggle to engage with faith exploration but with a particular concern for those who live in Britain's Urban heartlands". They do this 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. There is an emphasis on reaching those who feel excluded by traditional approaches to learning about faith, 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".

As always, there is an open invitation for anyone to join us for an interesting and worthwhile day's exercise on 29th April.

Geoff Coggins

2005

Unlock Update

The Walkers

Last year's walk was in Haringey, Hornsey and Tottenham, taking in Lordship Lane, St Annes Road, Finsbury Park and Alexandra Park. We passed the site of Harringay Stadium, which those of us over 50 remembered as the location of the first Billy Graham Crusade in this country, in 1953. We climbed to Alexandra Palace and in the bright sunshine soaked up the splendid panorama right across London to the North Downs. We visited Bruce Castle Museum and learned something of the connection of this part of Tottenham with Robert the Bruce and the Scottish royal family. And in the Broadwater Farm Estate we were able to gain a feel for what the local Christians have been doing to help build a sense of positive community since the notorious tragic riot of October 1985. And hence the title for the 2004 walk: The Palace and the Peacemakers.

Three personal highlights of the day for me were trying to answer a quiz question in Finsbury Park, finding the adjacent Parkland Walk, and St Ignatius Church. The walks are always interesting and instructive, and walkers are provided with about 20 quiz questions to keep them on their toes as they go. But the St Andrew's bunch were completely stumped in Finsbury Park with "Which famous film comes to mind at the 'lookout'?" With a flagpole, a view, and a nearby boating lake, suggestions were: Scott of the Antarctic, Reach for the Sky, and African Queen. But we were pretty sure we never got the right answer!

The Parkland Walk is a linear park following the route of a former railway line. As one who has spent many days of his life walking "dead railway lines" this bit touched a chord with me. And St Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, on Tottenham High Road as you come down from Stamford Hill, is to my mind an amazing building. Next time you pass this way, have a guess at how many bricks were laid to create the Flemish frontage, completed in 1911. The church has a Sunday attendance of 1600, to match its impressive architecture.

There were about 800 walkers altogether who raised some £26000 in sponsorship money for the work of Unlock. The St Andrew's group's contribution to this was £550, and we spent a day that was fun, informative and good fellowship. Why not join us for the 2005 walk on Saturday 23rd April? The route for Unlock's 22nd walk will take in the Paddington Basin and the canal, and there will be a focus on agencies working with the Muslim community.

The Workers

So what does Unlock do with its money? Unlock is a Christian charity, now based in Sheffield, which has grown in response to a need. It is there to support churches and their members in their efforts to be an effective witness in their local communities. Historically, the focus has been on urban and “struggling” churches, with the emphasis on training, but Unlock resources have been used and valued by many other churches and non-church organisations.

A recent initiative has been the introduction of a “Corner Shop” type ministry, offering “Materials – Courses – Know how – Advice – Support – Skills” on a more local basis. Previously Unlock had tended to offer its support as from a central distribution centre. The new vision is for distribution of the resources through small but solid local groups with someone paid one day per week to work for Unlock. There is a pack to help any group of Christians explore the possibility of developing an Unlock Corner Shop in their city. It costs Unlock £2000 per annum to fund each Corner Shop, with the local group expected to raise an equivalent level of funding. With Unlock’s current level of income only four can be sustained at any one time, so competition for these developments has been hotting up.

Part of this strategy is the appointment of new-style ‘Development Workers’ in a limited number of local areas. The first of these, Anne Craig, began work last September in Glasgow, making contact with local groups and setting up opportunities to deliver Unlock support in a variety of contexts. Anne’s appointment is supported by the Church of Scotland Priority Areas Office.

Other recent changes at Unlock include the appointment of a new Chair, Andrew Dorton, who is a Church of England Social Responsibility Officer from Hull, and who has been involved with the work of Unlock for more than ten years. Andrew replaces our local friend Bishop Peter Hall who did the job for twenty years. At about the same time, Unlock found a new Chief Officer in Dawn Lonsdale, who was ‘head-hunted’ from her previous position as Adult Education Officer for Derby Diocese.

So the past couple of years have been a time of significant change in personnel at Unlock, and now we are seeing the vision for a new way of working to achieve its goals coming to reality. The contribution to Unlock’s finances of the annual London sponsored walk, of which St Andrew’s is a founder member church, remains important. So don’t forget the date for the 22nd such event, Saturday 23rd April, 2005.

Geoff Coggins

2004

Unlock:

The Worry, the Work and the Walks

Are you concerned for the effectiveness of churches in London (and Liverpool, and Birmingham, and.....)? If your answer is "Not at all" then read no further; turn the page, or at least jump to the **Walks** on the next page!

The Worry and the Work

The church's failure to meet the needs of working people has concerned perceptive Christians for at least 150 years. In the middle of the 19th century a Liverpool vicar was writing of the heavily populated non-churchgoing areas of his inner city parish: "They call themselves Protestants but they are all the lost sheep of the Church of England." A century later, in the 1960s, a number of key christian leaders were meeting periodically to share their ideas on how better to "Minister to the Working Class". Amongst them were David Sheppard, cricketer and Warden of the Mayflower Centre in Canning Town and later to be Bishop of Liverpool, Peter Hall, a Birmingham vicar later to be Bishop of Woolwich, and John Hunter, a Liverpool vicar whose recent history of Unlock I have used in writing this short article.

Out of this informal sharing emerged in 1972 a small project, the Eutp (Evangelical Urban Training Project). David Sheppard wrote: "Too often Christians have assumed that it was impossible to see self-rooting Churches established in Urban Priority Areas. This lack of expectation led to the belief that leaders must always be brought in from outside. EUTP challenges that." The project's belief was that the potential for growth was already there in the existing membership of urban churches, but there was an acute need to build self-confidence, to share faith-building experiences, and for members to work out what it means to follow Christ in their local situation. The vision was to provide training and sharing-opportunities to enable this to happen. The means was a series of training workshops in various urban centres; participants came from all denominations, including Roman Catholics.

An enabling step forward had been taken in releasing potential for Urban Mission; by the year 2000 the project had changed its name to "Unlock". Training workshops are now complemented by the development of topical resources and other activities, and the scope of the work extends beyond the urban environment as its resources unlock potential in suburban and rural churches up and down the country. Some testimonials:

"I've heard that you have some good stuff that works with Young Offenders."

"The clergy who saw your stuff were very excited by it!"

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for coming and helping us to rethink our outreach style. We have been discussing how to put it into action."

The Walks

Running a project such as Eutp/Unlock costs money. The first training officer worked part time according to demand; a full time officer was appointed in 1983. It was at this time that the idea of a sponsored walk round the historic centre of old London was born, as a means of raising funds. The first walk round London's dockland took place in April, 1984. It raised £3860, more than a quarter of the annual budget. There were 335 walkers from 35 churches. St Andrew's, Sidcup, played a significant part in this inaugural event, and we still have a picture of Helen Bennewith and M.P. Simon Hughes launching the walk. By 1988 the number of walkers had grown to 1200 with sponsorship well over £20000. The walks had become an enjoyable and inspiring annual event, with the opportunity to explore little-known corners of London hiding behind well-known sights, and on the way to visit churches and discover (sometimes in old decaying buildings) new, vibrant, congregations from a wide variety of denominations.

The walks still continue as an important factor in the Unlock budget, and members of St Andrew's remain generous in their sponsorship though the number of walkers has dwindled over the years.

The route for last year's walk stretched from Kennington in the north to Tulse Hill in the south. The St Andrew's squad chose to walk clockwise, starting (and finishing) at Denmark Hill near the Salvation Army International Headquarters. Our walk also took us past the HQ of the Evangelical Alliance, and through the grounds of King's College Hospital. Additionally, and more importantly, we visited and saw something of the work and witness of seven churches in the area, belonging to five different denominations.

There were seven in our party this time, all male (where are the ladies?). In terms of sponsorship, the two young men raised almost exactly the same as the five old men, making a total of £229.00 given largely by members of the church. One of the "old men" was struggling somewhat on the walk, having badly damaged his rib-cage a few days previously, which made laughing, calling and coughing an agony, though walking was just about o.k. As usual we completed the quiz on the way round, noting answers to questions such as "Where can the local Portuguese community buy delicacies?" and "What sculptor did his best for the Brandon Estate?".

This year's walk will be on **Saturday 24th April, 2004** in Tottenham and Finsbury Park. The route will take in Alexandra Palace and also the Broadwater Farm Estate, scene of the 1985 race riots featured in a major TV documentary last month. More walkers are always welcome; it is both fun and worthwhile.

Geoff Coggins

2003

Milestones

Those of us who each spring take part in the Unlock London sponsored walk are very conscious of "miles". Last April walking around Hackney and Leyton we had to do an additional two miles on top of the official nine and a half, because yours truly foolishly left his glasses behind, and we had to retrace our steps. The walk is always interesting. Last year's took in the former ground of Leyton Orient FC and the Headquarters of Essex County Cricket, the home of the Barclay family (founders of the bank), a mound where hymn writer Isaac Watts used to sit for hours in contemplation, and a cemetery containing the graves of the founder and 19 Commissioners of the Salvation Army. One of the sights on the day was the tangled wreckage of two cars which had apparently collided in the small hours at high speed and landed up a couple of hundred yards apart. The main road at Clapton was closed for several hours.

Of course, one of the purposes of the walk is to see the work of churches in the locality. This time there were seven, representing five different denominations and congregations from all sorts of backgrounds. At Stoke Newington Baptist there are two pastors, one white English and the other Black African. There is only one congregation experiencing together services which happen in three different languages: English, Portuguese and Lingala. At the Lighthouse Methodist Church the architecture is highly unusual, reflecting its name; many of the churches are rather ugly, but St Thomas' at Clapton Common has style. The community round here is mostly Jewish and Muslim with many shops shut on Saturday. And in Leyton, Emmanuel Church is "the only Christian Church in this Parish- in fact the only place of worship if one discounts Leyton Football Club, the bingo hall, the pub and B&Q."

The main purpose of this annual sponsored walk is to raise funds for the work of Unlock. Last year there were fewer walkers than usual, about 900, but between them £29 000 was raised in sponsorship. Only three stalwarts turned out from St Andrew's, Sidcup, and our support was down on previous years, just £250, though this represents generous giving by many members of the church. Unlock, whose business is the training of church members for effective witness in their communities, relies heavily on the walk to sustain its total budget. Last year's target of £60 000 was missed by just £248. Unlock, which used to be called the Evangelical Urban Training Project, works mainly but certainly not exclusively with poorer urban churches. Last year they celebrated their 30th birthday.

Some milestones in the story of EUTP / Unlock have been:

- 1972 Eutp founded
- 1973 first training workshops
- 1984 first London walk – St Andrew's, Sidcup a major founding force
- 1993 network of local trainers established
- 1994 HQ moved from Liverpool to Sheffield
- 1995 Publication of Book of the first ten walks
- 1998 "Go For It" pack based on The Full Monty
- 1999 Name change to Unlock

2000 "Miracle Maker" pack

2002 30th Birthday Party

The years 2002 and 2003 mark some other big milestones in the life of Unlock. At the end of 2002 Jenny Richardson, the chief executive for the past ten years, left to take up the post of Staff Development Officer with the Church Army. And in 2003 our good friend Bishop Peter Hall is to retire as Chairman after twenty years' enthusiastic leadership.

In 1992 Eutp changed its way of working to have regionally based groups of workers, who could offer workshops and consultancy in their own areas. The time has come, ten years on, to review this. At the beginning of 2003 Unlock is asking all sorts of people for their opinions and what they think about Unlock's current way of working. In the summer this information will go to a special residential meeting of Unlock's Council, which will give space to reflect on the past, and catch something of God's vision for the future.

Here is a prayer written by Bishop Peter Hall:

O, God, we are glad for the thirty years in which you have been at work amongst us. We trust in your promise, that your kingdom grows from the smallest of seeds.

We thank you for the faithful, determined and often unsung work and support which have been offered over so long.

You have called us to repentance and passion, when so many are discounted because we as your people have such a feeble grasp of your Good News.

We are thrilled when people who thought themselves nothing, discover they are loved and gifted, part of your growing Kingdom in Christ.

We ask that we may be open to that kingdom which will shape the future, calling us with all your people to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

in Christ's name, Amen.

This year's walk, the 20th, will pass the London Eye and will take place on **Saturday 3rd May, 2003**. Make sure you support Unlock by sponsoring a walker. Better still, share in the fun and challenge by joining in. And in any case, please remember the work of Unlock in your prayers.

Geoff Coggins

2002?

Streets

in Brazil, Mozambique and London

News of Angela

Many readers of this magazine have been praying for Angela Flynn, a former member of St Andrew's Church, who last year left behind her home and teaching job in the UK to go and work with street children in Belem, a city in north Brazil. Sadly, at the moment Angela is back in England, having had to return to sort out some health problems. Angela still needs our prayers, especially that she may be restored to full health and soon be back in Brazil.

Dan

So now I want to tell you about Daniel Saunders. I've known Dan, at a distance, for most of his 19 years. He was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and we don't know much about his natural parents. Almost certainly he would have been one of Brazil's several million "street children" were it not for his adoptive parents, missionaries who made this baby one of their family. Dan has spent most of his life growing up in this country. In his mid-teens he drifted and rebelled, left home, and became a British street kid, known to the police and frequently in very serious trouble.....

.....until Jesus became a reality in his life.....and has now given him a vision.

Here is his account:

"Whilst praying, the Lord blessed me with a vision of a figure surrounded by a mass of much smaller figures. Looking closer, I could see there was a great need, a lack of belonging and a lack of love, the sort that can only be found in Christ! Looking again upon this need, I could see the larger figure seemed to be of the same type as the smaller ones who were now resting on his arms! He was at the centre but he didn't seem to be in need as they were! That's when I came to realise that he was helping them! Then I also started to sense that this bigger figure was me! Then in absolute sharpness one of the sewer tunnels, typical in Brazil, was before me. Sat in it was another figure, but this one had a *face*, a brown one with pleading eyes! He was dressed in your typical street child outfit of raggle-taggle clothes and bare feet. In that split second I felt and knew for sure that the figure standing so tall and without need was me. *I also knew that I was standing at the centre of the very ones that I should have been myself!* Instead, through God and His master plan and His abounding grace which he holds for each of us so dear, I am able to stand tall in the knowledge that I can call someone 'mum' and someone 'dad'; and through this I have been led to something far greater - **Someone** to call '**Father**'!

"I cried when the fullness of this hit me! There was no moment when I thought, "Why me?" But I knew what I had to do, and that was to take reality to those street children in Brazil, to tell them that even though I have been blessed with two fathers, the first only led me to the second! So even though they may not know their first one, there is nothing stopping them knowing the Father of all fathers!"

Daniel has been accepted for training by the Oasis Trust, and initially he will be going, not to Brazil, but to Mozambique for six months where he will work alongside, and be discipled by, an experienced missionary working with street children. He asks for prayer, especially for growing stability in himself, in Christ. He has had some unstable years in the recent past; he wants now for his Lord to use these experiences as he seeks to do His will.

Hackney

Finally, to the streets of London. This year the 19th Unlock/EUTP sponsored walk will be based in Leyton, Clapton and Stoke Newington, and take in the Hackney Marshes. Last year's walk raised £34,000, and yet again St Andrew's team were amongst the top twenty churches for sponsorship. The number of walkers has diminished from those heady days when St Andrew's was a founder member of the first London walk. Last year there were just three of us, but "retired" walkers remain generous in their sponsorship. The walk this year is on **Saturday 20th April**, and as always we'd welcome others to join us and many hundreds from other churches for a worthwhile fun day.

Geoff Coggins

2001

Caleb can - can you?

IT'S UNLOCK TIME AGAIN

Many readers will probably need a gentle reminder that *Unlock* is the new name for EUTP, an organisation which supports Christians and churches in city and suburbs to be more effective in their work and witness. Members of St Andrews have actively supported this ministry for a number of years, mainly through involvement in the annual London sponsored walk.

At the lunch stop on last year's walk I was able to buy a copy of the newly published "A Touch of Class", the story of the EUTP since its embryonic beginnings in the docklands of Liverpool and East London in the early 1960s. I was delighted to find among the pictures in the centre of the book (ask me if you would like to borrow it) a photograph of St Andrews' Helen Bennewith, launching the first sponsored walk with MP Simon Hughes in 1984. More of this in a moment.

This year's walk, the eighteenth, ventures into new territory to the west of London, and takes in the scrap yard on which Steptoe and Son was based, the Portobello Market and the Thames at Hammersmith Bridge. About this area Bishop Peter Hall writes:

"We can easily misjudge this year's walk, which reaches parts of London that *Unlock* has not explored before. It is full of impressive London affluence - where people in churches can be persuaded to give money relatively easily, but if you want willing hands to do a job in the church you might have to pay someone else to do it!

"But also here are churches with no money and deep commitment, that responded when, for example in 1958, the first generation of people from the Caribbean coming here to work faced mob racial hatred. Also here the Westway riot of 1970 was the first time that the nation was made to look at the human cost of the spectacular solutions of the inexorable expansion of road transport.

"Both church and community responses to such urban tensions have been inspirational for many struggling with the same issues elsewhere."

So again this year we can expect the walk to be interesting and inspiring as well as challenging. Last year there were only three of us from St Andrews, the lowest number ever, though with generous sponsorship we raised £275, about two thirds of our recent usual total. Donations from individuals fund 88% of *Unlock's* work, so walkers and sponsors continue to play an important role in this ministry.

You don't have to walk. You could run; in recent years only one younger member of St Andrews has responded to my challenge to do it this way! Or you can even go round on wheels, which is how Helen has completed the walk on the many occasions she has participated. This year we expect Caleb to do the distance on wheels. "Who is Caleb?" you may be asking. Caleb was born on and is the youngest child of your magazine's editor. This year will be his first *Unlock* walk. If he can do it, perhaps you can, too.

Geoff Coggins

2000

Unlock

A NEW NAME FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

You probably have never heard of *Unlock*, and the name has certainly not been mentioned in this magazine previously. Yet if you're a regular member of St Andrew's or you've been reading the magazine for some time, you'll already know quite a bit about it. This is because *Unlock* is the new name for an organisation that has been part of St Andrew's life for the last sixteen years. Remember EUTP? Well, the Evangelical Urban Training Project has changed its name, reflecting a changing role as new ministries and methods develop. While inner city churches and their needs have in no way been abandoned, *Unlock* is playing an increasing role in supporting many churches serving large suburban housing estates, helping them reach out into the "different culture" that surrounds them.

THE FULL MONTY

The original concept for EUTP was to provide training, eg through workshops, for workers attached to urban congregations. However, the approach has always been flexible, so training extended to introducing new ways of working to whole churches. And now another important feature has become the production of resources such as topical and accessible bible study materials. Did you see the film "*The Full Monty*"? At least you'll have heard about it! Can you imagine using the video as a basis for bible study? EUTP very quickly produced a pack for group discussion, helping people explore the social issues raised in the story, share their own experiences and reflect together on what the bible has to say.

MONEY

Unlock is a small organisation with an annual budget of the order of £50 000. About 80% of this comes from donations and fund-raising events such as the annual London sponsored walk, with which St Andrew's has always been involved. Although the walk isn't just about raising money, it is a vitally important feature in the economic life of *Unlock*, and it is both encouraging and challenging to recognise how important our contribution continues to be in supporting *Unlock's* mission.

FEWER FEET, MORE MILES, SUSTAINED SUPPORT

The number of walkers from St Andrew's has dwindled in recent years, and our photograph shows last year's enthusiastic few, whose ages spanned fifty years. The youngest feet probably travelled the furthest - not because the legs were shorter, but because there were so many interesting things to explore to this side or that. Two of us did an optional two miles extra to visit a ninth church off the main route. We felt very good about that! Overall, one of the joys of the event is seeing other churches, seeing and hearing about their work and problems, having the opportunity to pray briefly, as well as using a cup of tea or toilet.

Although the sponsored have been fewer, the level of sponsorship has been maintained, the figures for the past three years being as follows:

1997 £441.50 1998 £423.00 1999 £439.50

Sponsors, your contribution is important (though not so much fun as walking). Keep it up!

WILL YOU WALK?

This year's walk is scheduled for **Saturday, 6th May, 2000**. Please put it in your diary NOW. Once again the walk is on our doorstep, straddling the Greenwich Meridian, taking in the new infrastructures surrounding the Royal Naval College, the Millennium Dome and Canary Wharf, with stretches both north and south of the river and using the Docklands Light Railway's new extension as a transport link. Come and join us for a fun and uplifting, albeit tiring, day out. And yet again, as a rising 58 year old, I issue my challenge to the younger folk: Why not run it with me? It's only eight miles and you don't *have* to do the quiz!

Geoff Coggins

1999

GOING FOR THE HAT TRICK?

Help to put St Andrews in the Top Twenty for the third time.

This will be the sixteenth year that members of St Andrews have taken part in the EUTP London sponsored walk. As a church we have a good record, and each year a group of stalwarts has turned out for an experience which can be as relaxing or gruelling as you choose, but is always uplifting. Last year there were only a handful of us - two carloads - but thanks to generous sponsorship we have featured in EUTPs "Top 20" for amount raised in both 1997 and 1998. Can we do it again this year? What will you do to help?

Give, Walk or Run

One obvious purpose of the exercise is to raise funds for EUTP, and those who cannot join in the fun directly continue to be generous in their support. Thank you and keep it up! The walk is about eight miles in length, and there's always a quiz to keep you alert as you go around. More importantly, the host churches en route offer the chance not just for a watering stop but to find out how different groups of christians are meeting the challenge of witnessing in the urban environment.

Up the Junction

This year's walk is in the Clapham area, and takes in three large commons, urban villages and a wide variety of inner-city housing and industry. There are seven churches to call in at as check points, demonstrating different ways of presenting a gospel witness in challenging circumstances. The walk is on **Saturday 24th April, 1999**, so **book the date now**.

Last year I challenged younger members of the church who might like to run rather than walk. I'm a year older and not so fit as I was a year ago, but I repeat my challenge! If you are thinking of joining in this year, walking or running, please get a map and sponsorship form from me, either in church or ring 0181 302 4900.

Geoff Coggins

EUTP stands for Evangelical Urban Training Project

EUTP is a charity which helps inner-city Christians, and more recently housing estate churches, in their task of witnessing to their local community. The annual sponsored walk is vital to the finances of the EUTP, since together with individual donations it provides 84% of the income.

1998

St Andrews in the Top Twenty

The picture shows the group from St Andrews taking part in the 1997 EUTP walk round parts of Lambeth and Southwark. We are posing with Bishop Peter Hall, the chairman of EUTP, and should you spot that two prominent members of St Andrews appear to be missing, one is behind the camera and the other was conveniently absent at the time the photograph was taken.

That 1997 April Saturday was very wet, as the 1400 participating walkers well remember; it did stop raining while we took our lunch break in one of the churches, which didn't really help. Nevertheless, we enjoyed ourselves, whether in the fast group who whizzed round the eight miles, or the more sedate plodders who took their time. About 175 churches took part, raising just short of £25000, and St Andrew's featured as one of the top twenty in terms of amount raised, thanks to the generosity of those approached for sponsored support.

Can we keep it up? Will you be a walker this year (or a runner)? This April the walk ventures into new territory which is right on our doorstep, described in the release as "Venice-upon-Thames". The route is based on Thamesmead, taking in the Norman ruins of Lesnes Abbey and a mile of riverside walk, as well as the decaying Victoriana of Plumstead. Book the date now, **Saturday 25th April 1998**, for the 15th EUTP sponsored walk.