



recognition and resourcing of christians and churches
in the mission-field on our doorsteps

resourcing recognition

Hello again from Urban Presence and our final UP To Date.

Yes, you read that right. Our big news is that we are planning to close Urban Presence as a charity in 2020. Did I hear an "Oh no!"? Or (hopefully not) an "Amen!"? This has come about through a year-long process of thinking, reflecting and prayer. Here's why we have come to this decision.

- The associates now have their own accountability (though informal relating and mentoring would continue).
- Our Refurb meeting has stopped, in part due to other networks which overlap.
- Derek is mostly involved locally now in North Manchester.
- Paul is part of a number of local and national networks and charities and will continue with these, though is making some changes in commitment levels in 2020.
- It is some time since we used the Urban Presence charitable status to incubate another group (e.g. Carisma, Street Pastors).
- We're* getting old! (*except Hannah!)
- The trustees feel they can continue their advisory role informally.

But we're not going out without another tilt at the windmill called urban mission by making a clear statement about the continuing need for mission in urban/inner-city/overspill/estate deprived areas. We are proposing **a final series of meetings** through 2020, and planning to make a video which will capture the essence of what we have been about and continue to see as a challenge to the church. The passing on of a baton. We will still continue to do what we do (see below) but as individuals and without the structure of a formal charity.



HANNAH BATCHELOR

Hannah will continue to coordinate the **Living Stones Educational Trust** (LSET), a charity that has developed out of living and working in the community and local schools of Newton Heath for the last 15 years. LSET

incorporates a Homework Club, Board Games Club, one-to-one coaching, Open the Book assemblies and from summer 2020 a Transition course with Yr6-Yr7 children. Hannah is also working with members of Heathfield Church to develop work with the young people there.



NIGEL BIGGS

Nigel and Violette continue to lead the cross-cultural **Way Community Church**, which is a member of the FourSquare Pentecostal Church, as part of their vision for culturally relevant churches welcoming those of other cultures and discipling them to be true followers of Jesus.



PAUL KEEBLE

Paul and Judith are still living on the same street being/doing **Mission With** as residents and neighbours. If anything the involvement with local people (and theirs with us) is ramping up. We remain a part of the family at nearby **Brunswick Church** and putting some energy into its ambitious **Refurb Project**. If you want to keep in touch with us via our personal monthly prayer/news email, please **get in touch**.



DEREK PURNELL

Derek and Maureen are working more locally in North Manchester as they continue to live in Newton Heath, supporting **Heathfield Church** (as Elder and Deacon respectively). Both support Hannah in LSET as Trustee, Associate and volunteers, and also continue to run Troydale Tenants and Residents Association. Derek continues on the board of **'Yes'** - Your Employment Service (CIC), engages with local councillors and is also developing relationships with church leaders in North Manchester.



TOM SKINNER

Tom moved on from having a formal link with Urban Presence some months ago, as he is now supported in his work with Greater Manchester Poverty Alliance. We keep in touch and he and Paul still work together on the Mosaic Justice Network. Read more about **GMPA**.

Urban Presence is a Christian organisation and U.K. registered charity seeking to resource Christians, churches and organisations living and working in inner-city Manchester, England, and to make the wider Church aware of and take responsibility for the 'mission-field on its doorstep'.

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