



"It has been a real joy getting to know and appreciate the work of Brighton and Hove City Mission.

I have great admiration for the contemporary approach to mission that BHCM has adopted under Julian's leadership, remaining true to its roots and to the gospel, while always seeking new, appropriate and authentic ways for sharing the love of God. So often this ministry is unglamorous and unseen, but that is its power.

Brighton and Hove City Mission's contribution to the life of the city cannot be overstated."

Rt. Rev. Martin Lloyd Williams
Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes



Dear Supporter,

Our 2016 Yearbook is here! We are very excited to be able to post this out to you to signal the start of the second chapter in our rebrand. We hope that you enjoy reading all about the work going on in our city. In 2015 we focused on rebranding and streamlining what we do in our 4 teams, this year we have had a change in gear and it is all about **Your STORY!**

We kick started this theme at *Taste & See* last month, sharing a total of 18 stories about lives impacted and changed by the work of our City Mission, through working together with churches and Christians locally. We are thankful to be one piece in the jigsaw that enables transformation in the broken lives of those around us.

During 2016 you will see our newsletters peppered with stories; stories, as the Archdeacon pointed out, true to our roots and to the gospel, of lives changed. It is one thing to have a rebrand with shiny new logos, however, our City Mission, at its heart, is about impacting lives for the Kingdom, and that is why this year we will focus on **Your STORY.**

Our **Life Stream** team runs retreats for women 3 times per year. In between the retreats Life Stream host house groups and integrate women into local churches. Here is one story of a life changed through our team:

"I am so excited to be hosting a small group for my church this week. It's the first time for me and I want to practise my gifts of hospitality, with my revitalised faith. I have been encouraged to do this with Life Stream by attending the retreats. I was withdrawn and wounded, but Jesus transformed my life."



Training, equipping, and supporting the Church is such an important side of how our City Mission is developing. After lots of planning and networking the plans are now taking shape. Our **Schools** team are preparing to launch their training course. We will be contacting your church with dates and themes of the equipping days for schools work. This will be in the form of 8 days throughout the academic year, and each day will focus on a specific subject that will hopefully be very useful for any Christian wishing to start to support a school or enhance what they do already. As the City Mission we want to bless and equip the church, and this will be the first in many exciting steps forward to better serve the church.

In our **Rest Homes** team it is very encouraging to see new rest homes coming on board, along with some new volunteers. Our services are well received and it is amazing to see God's love impacting lives. Among dementia sufferers, the impact of our services has had a very positive affect. One lady who is very anxious and talks in long streams of babble is enabled to sit down with a hymn sheet and engage in the singing. One day her husband arrived while she was singing. Our team was very moved by the joyful expression on his face as he looked at the wife he once knew.

Bev witnesses:

"Another lady had sat not seeming to register anything but as we came to sing "He's got the whole world in His hands" she sat up and did all the actions and afterwards just reverted to her previous state, but somehow she had been touched for a few minutes."



In our last newsletter we focused on ways in which you can, and in many cases do, support the City Mission. We have seen an increase in standing orders and we are so thankful that some of our financial shortfall is starting to be met. We are also incredibly thankful for many one-off gifts, including an anonymous gift of £10,000.

After you read this newsletter and our Yearbook you might feel inspired or prompted to support us regularly, well you are not too late. You can still do so through our website at www.bhcm.org.uk. Thank you all for your support, whether that is prayerfully, practically collecting food for our Brighton Food Bank, or financially.

In our **Brighton Food Bank** team we are so thankful to the many churches and supermarkets that support this team, the generosity is breathtaking. We are really encouraged to have so many opportunities to share our faith with clients, whether it is a short prayer in a time of need or a longer gospel opportunity. Here is one story of a life changed through our team:

"You provided emergency food and milk for me. The Brighton Food Bank are full of welcoming, understanding volunteers who provide an ear for personal, financial, and domestic issues. This is invaluable and makes you feel heard. They helped with advice and also directed me to various organisations who could help me further. I would not have been able to survive without their help. Thank you so very much."



If you missed coming to our *Taste & See* event all is not lost! Firstly, please go to our website and you can watch the entire 1 hour event online, including kind words from Bishop Jackson, at the end of the evening, praising the City Mission for "not only having style, but also substance".

Our next event is fast approaching and you are invited to our *Family Fun Day*. This was our most attended event last year, with well over 100 supporters popping in throughout the day to meet the team, enjoy a burger, or even have a swim! It was a fun filled sunny day set in a large garden in Portslade, and we hope for the same weather this year! There will again be short work presentations from team members throughout the afternoon in the tent, alongside many exciting activities for you and your children to take part in. Please find enclosed an invitation for you and anyone else, family and friends, you would like to bring along for an informal day of getting to know the City Mission.

Every blessing,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julian Haddow".

Julian Haddow
Mission Director