

# infocus

the news and prayer letter from CCM



COVENTRY CITY MISSION  
Serving God · Serving People in Need

Summer 2017

## One wedding and a funeral (oh... and an ordination!)



*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

### Dear praying friends

I realise that the title above is not quite that of the well-known 90's film, but it is the description of my summer to date. It is interesting that at all three events I had an overwhelming sense that God had everything in hand. Whether it was as I sat back and experienced the joy of the wedding of an old friend; the loving memories spoken at a funeral of one of our volunteers; or the words of affirmation and expectation at the ordination of a minister in training, who also happens to be one of our Trustees, I knew that God was in charge.

In each situation change was happening and it at times of change that we sometimes better recognise our need for God to be part of all we do.

I have a sense that the Mission is also going through a period of change with some people moving on (we spoke about Helen in the last letter and you will read about Andy later in this letter). We also said thank you and goodbye to our Chair of Trustees, Phil Albans, who stands down after 9 years as a Trustee. (Thanks to Tim Bassett who has taken on the role of Chair)

The Autumn will see new faces in the building as well as new houses being

built around us (52 houses directly behind and around the Mission building) and the possibility of new projects and groups being developed.

Through all the uncertainty that change brings, I have a real sense of God reminding us of all he has done in the past through the Mission and a sense of what he has planned for us in the future. I believe he is whispering in our ear 'Be still and know that I am God.'

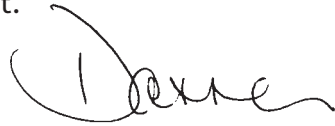
Please pray for us as we move forward. For wisdom and direction and that we may make Godly decisions.

Please also pray for the team of staff and volunteers and for the provision of more help and resources to keep our work moving forward.

And finally, please commit to praying the Blessing prayer below, that was given to John by God during his recent retreat.

Thank you for all your support.

Blessings



**Foodbank** For many years you have supported struggling families across the city through the donation of long dated food which is given out in emergency food parcels each week. CCM's foodbank now opens for four sessions each week (Monday- Thursday 12-3pm) and we continue to see a high demand for its support. Thanks to everyone who volunteers, donates or prays for this essential project.

Over the last year we have fed around 2500 people by giving out 1000 parcels which relates to around 30,000 packets or tins.

Demand for foodbank doesn't seem to be dropping, so we are always looking for more help. We currently have 7 volunteers on the team but are looking for help on a Monday and Wednesday (12-3pm) Whether you could commit to regular sessions or would prefer to come occasionally at a few days' notice to fill a gap, we would really welcome you. Please be in touch if you would like to support Foodbank in this way.





## Crossline Coventry

# 25 year Challenge Update

John needs just 5 more opportunities to come and speak about Crossline to complete his challenge of speaking 25 times about Crossline in 2017.

Can you help him achieve this goal over the last few months of the year? If you would like to invite him to preach at a Sunday service or speak at a mid-week meeting, prayer meeting, home group or mission focused event then please get in touch with John at the office or on [john@covcitymission.org.uk](mailto:john@covcitymission.org.uk).

# The Eating Place

We are now at the end of our first full academic year of running The Eating Place as a pay-what-you-can café (three days a week) and I am thrilled to report that we have served more than 4000 meals and have been able to cover the cost of the food served, which is amazing on both counts. God is good.

We have seen and heard so many positive stories about how the café has been a life line for people and how their lives have been impacted by coming into contact with the team in the café. We have been able to serve people; talk to and listen to people; refer them to other projects/agencies and pray with them. It has been a great experience.



The summer brings a break for the café (it will reopen on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September) and also means we say thank you and goodbye to Andy Littlejohns, who has been an amazing support in the café over the last two years. Andy is training to be a community minister with the URC church and will now move, with his family, up to Bolton for the next two years of his training. Please join us in praying for them as they move on.



Andy's departure leaves a significant gap in our team who serve at tables (12-2pm) and chat with our customers. Could you be available to help? Please be in touch if you think you could offer some time to bless people in this way.

The massive growth in footfall in the café has put an extra pressure on the fabric of the kitchen and it is tatty and falling apart. We need to refurbish the whole kitchen as soon as possible. With that in mind I have launched...

## The Great CCM Kitchen Refurbishment 2017

We are looking for 25 people/groups to help us in the task. We need:

*9 people to pledge £100 to the project*

*7 people to pledge £200 to the project*

*5 people to pledge £500 to the project*

*3 people to pledge £750 to the project*

*And 1 person to pledge £1000 to the project.*

Obviously, anything you can give is a blessing. With Gift Aid, this will raise around £10,000 with which we are confident we can get the job done.

One lady contacted me to say that she was undertaking a marathon walk in September and how she plans on collecting sponsorship which will go towards the refurbishment. If you would like to support her in her challenge you could go to her Just Giving page

<http://www.justgiving.com/Wendy-Hunter8> or visit the Mission web-site

Can you or someone you know be able to help us better serve the people we help through the café.

# Crossline Training Course for New Listeners

Can you help us answer more calls by training as a Crossline Volunteer? New Listeners are needed to meet the demand for the Crossline Service in Coventry as part of the National Christian Helpline as currently we are receiving over 13,000 calls a month of which only 54% are being answered. Just 2 hours per week answering the telephone could make all the difference.

A Training Course is planned for 4 Saturdays starting 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 and then 30<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October from 10am - 2.30pm at Coventry City Mission, Deedmore Road, Wood End, Coventry, CV2 2AA. To attend or for more information please contact John at the office or [john@covcitymission.org.uk](mailto:john@covcitymission.org.uk) by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017.



For more than 30 years the Mission has supported disadvantaged children and their families with the provision of toys/gifts at Christmas. Following Helen's departure in the Spring, I am happy to report that Sarah White will take over the role of Giving Tree Co-ordinator from September. Sarah has been a part of the volunteer team helping with the Giving Tree for a number of years and will be a great addition to the CCM team.

We are excited to be able to partner with several churches across the city to ensure we can help even more families. If your church/group/organisation would like to partner with us on this project please be in touch.

As our wrapping sessions book up quickly each year, we are giving you advance warning so that you can book in early. For the up to date list of available wrapping dates please contact Sarah at [Sarah@covcitymission.org.uk](mailto:Sarah@covcitymission.org.uk) or on 02476 615931. Slots are available during the day and also from 5pm.

If you are having a toy service, please get the toys to us by 12<sup>th</sup> December if possible. Thank you.

# *Blessing Prayer for Coventry City Mission*

At the beginning of July, John was on his work retreat and God gave him the following Blessing Prayer for CCM. He was attending a course at Scargill House on “Rediscovering the Ministry of Blessing”. It came during a quiet time and when he started to write it down it just flowed in a few minutes. Please consider using this blessing on a regular basis in your prayer for the work of CCM.

*We ask Lord that you will bless Coventry City Mission with all that it needs to minister to those in Wood End, the wider city of Coventry and beyond.*

*We ask you to bless the Staff & Volunteers to enable lives to be touched and changed. Bless them, their families and loved ones with each having enough to live and enough to give.*

*We ask God that you bless all conversations in the building, over the phone, by email and social media that they will truly serve your purposes and further the growth of your Kingdom.*

*We thank you for all your blessings and faithfulness to CCM in the past, your provision for the present, especially today, and trust in you with hope and anticipation for your abundant blessing for the future.*

*Amen*



Deedmore Road, Wood End,  
Coventry CV2 2AA

*Or for post use:*

PO Box 40, Coventry CV1 9DQ

tel: 02476 615931

email: [office@covcitymission.org.uk](mailto:office@covcitymission.org.uk)

website: [www.covcitymission.org.uk](http://www.covcitymission.org.uk)



Coventry City Mission is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales No 4121649 and a registered Charity No 1090102.