

WEBBER STREET

LONDON CITY MISSION

NEWSLETTER



"But now I will come," says the Lord, "because the needy are oppressed and the persecuted groan in pain. I will give them the security they, long for." Psalm 12:5



A day in the life of a Webber Street Guest

It's difficult to say when my day actually starts as last night, for example, I didn't get to sleep until about 5.00am and on other days it can be 2.00am or 3.00am or 6.00am.

It's a bit like a mystery on a page and I often feel exhausted so as a result I sleep a fair amount during the day.

The first thing I do in the morning is go to the Off Licence to get a drink as I am an alcoholic. I then go to Webber Street to listen to the Bible talk which I find interesting; I particularly like one of the staff who is so open and honest and just tells things like they are. Although there is breakfast I don't always want it as I don't feel hungry.

After Webber Street I go to the nuns at the Convent as I used to stay there and they still help me out. By the time I get there I am hungry so

I have some food which they are happy to give me. Then I wait around in an internet café till the evening, checking emails and watching YouTube videos.

I PARTICULARLY LIKE ONE OF THE STAFF WHO IS SO OPEN AND HONEST AND JUST TELLS THINGS LIKE THEY ARE

When the evening does finally arrive I will get money off other homeless people or beg for it – late at night is good for begging as people are drunk and it's easier to get money off them. I might then go to McDonalds to buy some food or use the money for drink. I also use the food handouts around the area where I sleep as I can't walk far due to my bad leg.

As I say, at the end of the day – or the start of it for others – I will go back to my sleep-site which is in an alley where there are security guards around; I feel safe there as I don't want to get beaten up again like I did before.



This guest (not shown in the photos) has been using Webber Street since 2008 and has known a whole succession of staff who have tried to have a positive input into his life. Please pray for God to work in his life so that he will know the hope in Christ that we have sought to share with him over so many years.



WHEN MANY RUSH PAST, THESE FEET STOP

RUSH HOUR

8:30 am, Waterloo – the UK's busiest train station. Commuters stream through the doors with seeming disregard for all around them.

Walk away from the busy entrances towards the Old Vic theatre and the noise of the announcements quietsen. Your ears are filled instead with the sounds on the pavement as many hasten to offices, meetings and cafés. Continue past the famous theatre and you'll notice a ragged group of people, mostly men, standing on the left side of the street. Most of the foot traffic of commuters and workers steer well clear, quickly rushing past on the other side.

As smells of bacon and toast urge them forward, around 80 or so of the less well-heeled of London await their turn to file through the doors of London City Mission's day centre.

Webber Street is a home for those who are homeless, even if only for a few hours a day. It's here they can take the weight off, where they won't be moved on, ignored or turned away. A place to be fed, cared for, spoken to, loved.

FEET THAT STOP

The staff at Webber Street, whether paid or voluntary, come from all walks of life – musicians, sound engineers, HR managers, baristas, students, bank managers and rehab workers. But they all share two qualities: a deep knowledge of their own spiritual homelessness before

Jesus saved them and a refusal to rush past. Instead of steering clear of the smell, the dirt, the complications, and the difficult behaviour, these feet stop... But it's hope rather than pity that's on offer here.

A quiet respect for the privacy and self-worth of the guests is peppered

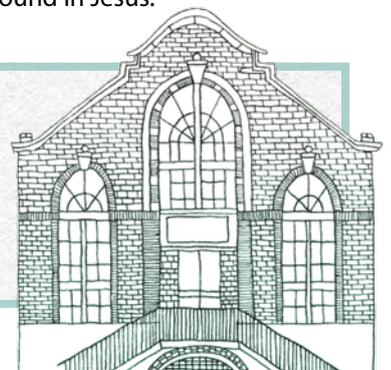
A child soldier in a West African civil war, a former professional who's fallen through the gaps of society with no family to support them, and a person with severe mental health issues – all sitting on the same table.

Our guests come from all walks of life. Some are alcoholics, drug addicts, foreign migrants who arrived without a job or money, ex-military men, refugees, or simply unable to support themselves. Aside from their situation, the one thing they all need is hope.

with challenging gospel conversations and a daily talk from the Bible. The staff are well aware of the practical help and friendship needed to see these individuals find a home and begin to look after themselves. Hope Community Homes was set up to address this need. But the Webber Street team is even more aware of the guests' greatest need: the hope and home found in Jesus.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for the team as they share the hope of the gospel.
- Pray for safety and peace at the Webber Street Day Centre.
- Pray for and give financial support to multiply the number of feet willing to stop.



Pray for a guest we have known for about eight years who just seems completely unable to deal with their alcohol addiction.

Pray that God would soften *Zak's* heart to accept our help to make his flat a more liveable and pleasant space.

Pray for the ability to forgive my grandmother and mother for years of abuse.

Pray for freedom from addiction to the drug spice.

Donald has some serious health problems and is refusing to come to terms with them, keep appointments, etc.



Pray that God would give us compassion and understanding for those guests who struggle with their mental health. Life at times must seem very frightening for them.



Pray for *Adam* who has a gambling addiction and makes it hard for him to hold down a job.

Pray for *Kevin* who has had contact with the Mormons in the past; it has caused him great confusion.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM OUR STAFF AND GUESTS

Pray that *Brian*, who is bound up by superstition and conspiracy theories, would bow the knee to the Lordship of Jesus.

Pray I will find accommodation.

Pray for patience and a caring attitude. Pray that I will trust God more and that I will do the best for his glory. Pray for the men and women, that they will find their hope in Jesus.



Pray that I will live a balanced life without extremes, be led by the Holy Spirit and have the mind of Christ. Pray that I will bear fruit and bring glory to God in all that I say and do.



Pray for all staff and volunteers who give the daily Bible message. Finding inspiration can be a real struggle. May we be faithful in preaching the word both in and out of season.

Pray for *Tim*. He recently decided to get help to fight his alcohol addiction. Pray for strength and courage for him so he can take the required steps to fight his addiction. Pray also for his relationship with God.

Please pray for *Graham* who relapsed a week ago. He has previously relapsed five times. We are assisting him to get into rehab. Pray that he will be accepted and that he comes to faith.

Pray for our guests to know Christ. Pray for *Oliver*, that his circumstances change and that he will find work.

A TALE OF TWO Annas...



Anna Crawley

volunteers at Webber Street and ran the 'Spitfire Scramble', a 24-hour team relay run in Hornchurch Country Park. As a team, they managed to complete 26 laps (each lap was 5.9 miles) in the 24 hours. We spoke to her about her fundraising for Webber Street.

What made you decide to run for Webber Street?

Because I see first-hand the work that Webber Street do, I know how costly this ministry is. Originally my friends and I decided to take part in the run for fun, but then we realised it would be a great opportunity to fundraise and support the work of Webber Street.

What did you learn in organising something like this?

I think I learned that a daunting challenge can feel less daunting when you're doing it with others. Also, 1 Corinthians 9:24 encouraged me to give it my all during both my training and the actual challenge; it helped me to keep going and not give up.

What have you learned from volunteering at Webber Street?

I've learned just how easy it is to become homeless and that homelessness really can affect anybody. It's also made me extremely grateful for the support network (friends and family) I have around me and I'm confident that if I ever got in to any financial difficulty, they would be there to help and support me. Unfortunately not everybody is as privileged.

What would you say to others considering fundraising to support our work?

I would say go for it as it's a really rewarding and worthwhile thing to do and you'll probably be surprised at just how generous your friends and families are! I also think people love the opportunity to support challenges like this and will be pleased that you're taking on the challenge rather than them! In comparison, donating a little bit of cash is pretty easy!

To read Anna Crawley's full interview, visit lcm.org.uk/blog/webberstreet.



Anna Marie Kurtz

is an actress who recently performed a one-woman show re-exploring the stories of the women in the Bible who first met Jesus—setting their lives in contemporary, rural America. Anna kindly gave a proportion of the proceeds of the show to Webber Street. Here she reflects on her visit to the Centre.

To my surprise, the Webber Street facility is right behind the Old Vic Theatre. How typical! The world's most famous men and women performing a few hundred feet from those who are destitute. Walking into the breakfast room, I noticed men and women waiting for their turn to shower. Webber Street staff laughed and joked with the guests as they went about their duties.

What struck me was that the needs are very specific. Small cans of soup, for instance, can't be heated on the street and aren't efficient for group meal times. Even if we can only give a little, giving a little where it is most needed can make a difference. My small donation went on socks. Socks! I never would have thought to donate socks. Thank goodness for those who do, and those who prayerfully and wisely serve at Webber Street.

We are once again holding a **Sleepout on Saturday 11 November 2017.**

Join us and experience a night on the streets while helping to raise funds to support homeless people in London.

You can take part as an individual or as a group. For more details and to register visit lcm.org.uk/sleepout.

To protect identify, real names of guests have been changed.

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