



TUR UPDATE

December 2017

From the Chair

At The Upper Room we are extraordinarily fortunate to have such a dedicated team of staff, volunteers, Trustees, and Patrons, underpinned and encouraged by the remarkably diverse group of organisations and individuals who support us in so many ways. They all contribute to the practical and emotional help that we provide for hundreds of service users, who are especially in our thoughts at this time of year.

– Simon Tuke

Season's Greetings!

A very Merry Christmas to all our friends, supporters, volunteers and clients. Thank you for helping us improve the lives of hundreds of people this year. We look forward to a GREAT 2018!

Christmas Closure

Our last working day is Friday 22 Dec 2017; we are back on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Harvest 2017

In October we once again received a burst of generosity, as donations of food, clothing and other items arrived from local schools, churches, businesses and individuals. Our 20 foot-long shipping container, as well as other storage facilities, are all filled with tons of tins and donated dried food, which should last us through the next 12 months.

Lee's Success Story

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You may have read about Lee in our Annual Review. He had a very chaotic childhood and young adulthood leading to petty crime, and following this – along with drink and drugs – more serious burglaries, handling firearms and assault. Over a period of 20 years he spent 12-15 years in prison. During his last sentence he made the decision to start making changes in his life; he addressed his addictions, and with the support of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous has continued this journey since his release late last year. He enrolled with the UR4Driving Project in April 2017, not feeling he could use a computer, or have the ability to sit and concentrate. With a lot of encouragement he slowly built up his knowledge and confidence to pass his Theory test in September on the first attempt. He quickly progressed to driving lessons, and passed his Practical test this month at the first time of trying. We are very grateful to City Harvest for welcoming Lee as a volunteer – this too has made an impact on Lee's progress and his self-confidence.

In Lee's own words: *"The support from the staff has given me a sense of purpose, and given my days structure. I have developed my attention and concentration, and can now spend time at the computer studying and retaining knowledge. I have proved to myself that I can achieve things... I am further along the line to a job, to having my own transport and rebuilding family connections. I am looking forward to the freedom and building this new life with new networks and friends. I am very grateful for what I have had from The Upper Room."*

Harvest 2017 Cont'd:

Last year we only spent £444 on food, down from £800 the previous year, and this is only possible because of the volume of high quality surplus food donations we receive through the year.

We are extremely grateful to everyone for their generosity. A big thank you also to all our Volunteers and Super Volunteers; your support is invaluable.

Join us for a fun evening of Chocolate Tasting

Monday 12th February 2018, 7.00-9.00pm
St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, W6 9BE

Includes a welcome canape, a glass of tawny port, a tasting of approx. 8 different milk and chocolate bars, a glass of wine and a sweet ending. There will be a chance to buy raffle tickets and win exciting prizes.

Tickets: £15 Each

(Space is limited to 25 so book early!)

To book your tickets please email arlene.burnett@theupperroom.org.uk

Testimonial

"When I lived in a hostel I would come to The Upper Room for food, hoping to keep away from my addictions. I enjoyed great support from staff and volunteers. With their help and support I have now got my life together – I have a job, a secure accommodation and someone I love. I also volunteer at The Upper Room in the evenings."

Winter Lecturers 2018

We excitedly look forward to our next Winter Lectures series. We can so far confirm that our very own Trustee, Matthew Morgan, will be speaking on 'Monet in London' on the 7th of February, and Rt. Revd. (Dr.) Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, will speak on 'Grenfell and Its Impact' on the 7th of March. Other dates and speakers will be confirmed in the New Year.

FUTURE PLANS

Improving Our Work Space

We have raised all the funds we require, we are now looking to start the works in Spring of 2018. This will see us double our existing space to provide an open plan office for staff and volunteers, a training room, two one-to-one rooms for confidential sessions with service users, safe storage space and an additional WC. This exciting and challenging project will help us deliver better services to the disadvantaged groups we support. The project is generously supported by CRASH and their Patrons, as well as through generous contributions from Story of Christmas, Fidelity Foundation, Batchworth Trust, Jewsons (materials), Belway Homes, Leslie Aldridge Trust, Tudor Trust, as well as individual donors.

The Upper Room's Online Charity Shop is now Open!

Our online charity shop is now LIVE on EBay! We are appealing for donations of items of resalable value such as designer clothing and shoes, portable and branded electronics, Smartphones and tablets etc. If you are not sure whether an item you wish to donate can be resold by The Upper Room please contact us about it. All profits generated will go towards delivering our charitable objectives. So start your spring cleaning early in the New Year!

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