

BCM UPDATE



A covenant of life and peace

‘Lord, please touch my mind, my memory, and my heart.’ This was the prayer that I prayed as I sat in my office preparing to write this front page. Sometimes a thought has been with me a few days, and on other occasions even weeks. But on this day I didn’t feel inspired! I considered the texts that I had been preaching on and those I had been reading in my personal devotions, as well as life events of the last month. I knew I had to make a decision as the printing deadline was drawing near.

The decisions we make can often shape our day or, if they are big decisions, even our lives. For months now, along with the thousands of other people who drive to and from Birmingham each day, I have had to make extra decisions. Do I watch the traffic as I drive, or do I look out for the countless potholes in the road that are growing in number? Of course, the answer is both. As my car thuds down another unnoticed pothole, I cringe as I wait to see if my tyre will deflate and hear the rumble of my wheel on the road, or if I keep going.

As Moses journeyed with the people of Israel and they came close to the end of their time in the wilderness, I think he also faced a big pothole. In Numbers 25, which is a hard chapter to read, some of the Israelites had started to worship other gods and even marry against the Lord’s commands. We are told that the Lord’s anger burned against the people and He sent a

plague. God told Moses to kill all the leaders who had led the people astray so that his fierce anger would be turned away. A hard decision for Moses to make.

The chapter describes the actions of Phinehas, a grandson of Aaron, who was so incensed by the actions of one of the leaders, Zimri, who took a Midianite woman called Cozbi to his tent, that he drove a spear through them both. This caused the plague to cease, but sadly thousands lost their lives. The Lord told Moses to tell Phinehas, because he was ‘zealous for the Lord’s honour to be amongst the people,’ that He was going to make a covenant of peace with him. In the book of Malachi, he speaks of God’s covenant with Levi, the tribe to which Phinehas belonged, as a covenant of ‘life and peace.’

This coming month our staff and volunteers will be sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ that can bring ‘life and peace’ to as many people as possible. As Paul said, ‘Since we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.’ We will also express the love of God in practical support, whether it is in food, clothing, furniture, visiting the elderly, helping to access accommodation or just being a friendly ear.

Please pray that, like Phinehas, we will be enthusiastic in our work, and that the Lord will bless our efforts so that some in our city will discover ‘new life in Jesus and peace with God.’

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wes Erpen'.

Wes Erpen, Chief Executive

For my new home

At BCM's Resource Centre demand is growing. Around 220 people come in for food parcels each month, with probably two thirds of them also needing clothes or bedding. As the requests for furniture packs and white goods increase, the quantity of donations is decreasing. We very much appreciate the donations we do receive, and give thanks to God for his provision to us and our customers.

The people we can help are grateful for what we do for them, and one of those happy customers sent us this testimonial:

'I have recently purchased several pieces of furniture, furnishings, bedding, cutlery and trinkets from BCM. I was extremely impressed by the vast array of furniture and immediately sought items that would suit my new flat, even down to door mats and cutlery!

Delivery was arranged for the following Tuesday and the chaps called me on the day. A friendly pair of faces greeted me at the flat and were very considerate and empathetic with my disabilities. Furniture was loaded off the tail lift of the highly recognisable BCM-liveried Luton van and manoeuvred carefully through some tricky isles to my flat's front door. All in under an hour, which was superb. A food parcel was also gratefully provided to ease the pressure of recent financial expenditure.



I am very impressed with BCM and, with their business model geared around sustainability and Christian principles, this works well for me as a Christian myself. They run a tight budget but deliver an excellent service to ALL the customers who enter their welcoming doors at Langdon Street.

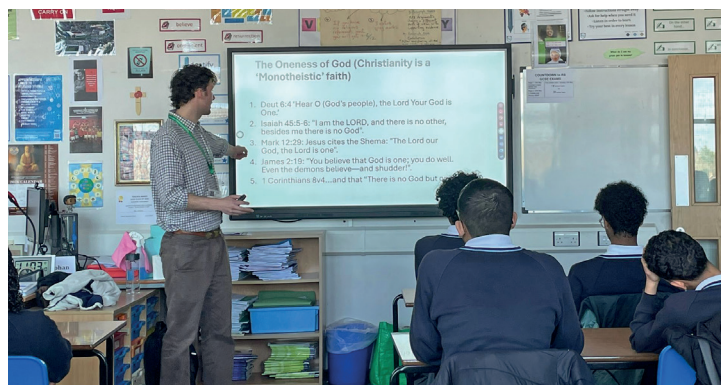
This charity has become very close to my heart and I shall continue to pop in and see what latest stock they have. I have recommended BCM to friends and family. A massive thank you to the team there and, in particular, Andy who was always there to help and advise me. A good sense of humour and a polite and friendly attitude goes a long way. Thank you, Birmingham City Mission!

In January one of BCM's vans, crucial to the Resource Centre's operations, needed urgent repairs costing a huge £15,000. Thank you to all who responded to our appeal for help to keep the van on the road, raising £9,350 and covering almost two thirds of the bill.



THE CHILDREN'S TEAM enjoyed an amazing Solid Rock Easter holiday club in Summerfield. It was great to see many church volunteers getting stuck in and building on community links.

Are you passionate about Jesus and sharing him with children? Do you have one or two mornings a week you could give to help reach the children of our city? As more and more schools are opening their doors to BCM's Children's Team, we would love to recruit a **regular volunteer** to help meet this need. Full training will be provided. If you're interested, please email kathrynhindley@birminghamcitymission.co.uk



THE YOUTH TEAM AND ITS CHURCH PARTNERS delivered 59 Easter assemblies and 15 RE lessons in 26 schools. Thank you to all involved and to our schools for welcoming us in. We pray that the students gained much from the experience.

weakness

BIRMINGHAM
SPRING CONVENTION 2026

OUR
STRENGTH

birminghamcitymission.org.uk/news/birmingham-spring-convention

Friday 8th May 7.30pm to 9pm
Saturday 9th May 11am to 4pm
with speaker **JOHN HINDLEY**
Seminars on... **Knife crime**
 Faith in schools **Mission**
at THE PRIORY ROOMS

CONVENTION KIDS
all day Saturday
BOOK NOW →

A year to serve God

Lily Buttery and Ethan Yeung have been BCM In-Service Trainees since last September, and they have been a blessing to us. As their year with the Mission comes to an end, they reflect on their experiences.



Lily

I have learned so much this year with BCM and all the experience they have blessed me with. It has really made me grow as a person and in my relationship with God.

I know that wherever God wants me, that is where I want to be.

Some encouragements have been making new friends who I can share my faith with, finding my voice as a new Christian, and knowing God's guidance. There have been challenges too and I have had to step out of my comfort zone. Sometimes I can overthink, worrying about finding the right thing to say in conversations with people.

Before I joined BCM as a trainee, I had a very strong calling from God that this is where he wanted me. I haven't got a fixed plan going forward yet, but I know that wherever God wants me, that is where I want to be.

Ethan

This year with the Mission has been an optional placement year in my university course in Biomedical Science, a chance to take a break from academic things and serve God. I have worked in different departments, gaining confidence in public speaking on the streets and answering questions in school assemblies.

Street evangelism has made me practice talking to strangers, explaining complicated concepts, and asking questions to learn their thoughts. It can be discouraging when people do not want to talk, or ask questions I cannot answer. But difficult questions have pushed me to learn more by reading and asking others.

I was born and grew up in Hong Kong, so it has been difficult for me to understand what people of other cultures think, to explain my beliefs to them or give examples. But I have found it meaningful to share what I believe. Talking to people with different beliefs has broadened my perspective greatly.

I take the final year of my degree next year, and I hope to continue volunteering with BCM. I pray for opportunities to use the different skills I have learned to serve God in the future.



11-18's PHILIPPA

BIRMINGHAM CITY MISSION
60 years
BCM
1966 - 2026

LIVE MUSIC - SPECIAL GUESTS

BCM
A SPECIAL Youth CELEBRATION

BOOK HERE ← ← ← ← ← 26TH JUNE, ST MARTINS IN THE BULLRING. 7:30PM.

AN INTER-DENOMINATIONAL YOUTH EVENT
Bringing churches together

Gather together to mark 60 years of the Mission

BCM BANQUET

Saturday 19th September
at 6pm for drinks, 7pm for food
at The Burlington

for a 3-course meal
with live music
comedian PAUL KARENZA
and speaker BOB TELFORD

Ticket: £60

Call 0121 766 6603 or email
office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk

MAY'S PRAYER FOCUS

SUNDAY - CARE CENTRE



Please pray for the Care Centre, that it would be a peaceful place of welcome and support. Pray for guests with serious issues, whether addiction, homelessness, mental health or isolation, that they would be helped to find solutions and God's grace in their lives.

MONDAY - BCM SHOP

Thank God for his protection at the shop, and for customers now attending the local Charlton Road Christian Church. Pray staff and volunteers would serve customers with God's wisdom and love.

TUESDAY - ELDERLINK



We will greatly miss BCM volunteer, John Adams (on the left) who passed away last month. He was on the ElderLink befriending team and used his musical gifts in care home services for 15 years. We are grateful for how John helped to keep our eyes fixed on God.

Pray for the ElderLink team to value and support its volunteers as they give their time and skills to serve older people. Pray for the team day away to be fruitful as they reflect and re-focus.

WEDNESDAY - CHILDREN'S TEAM

Please pray for the team as they share the story of the lady and the lost coin this term, with the message that everyone is precious to God and that he rejoices whenever anyone believes in him.

THURSDAY - YOUTH TEAM

Pray for the assemblies, RS lessons, lunch clubs and church visits taking place in May and June, and the GSUS Live resource which will be visiting up to three schools this month. Pray that God would help the team and its church partners, and that students would gain hope and understanding through the content covered.

FRIDAY - RESOURCE CENTRE

Please pray for all who receive food, furniture and clothing at the Resource Centre (see *For my new home* inside this BCM Update). Pray too for sufficient donations to meet growing need.

SATURDAY - BCM TRAINEES

Pray for Lilly and Ethan as they approach the end of their In-Service Training year (see *A year to serve God* inside this BCM Update).



at St Martin in the Bull Ring

with speaker
PAUL MALLARD

Join us from 11am to chat to staff and discover more about our projects

- ✦ worship
- ✦ meet new staff
- ✦ project updates
- ✦ induction of new CEO

Saturday 6th June
Birmingham City Mission's

60 BRIDGES sponsored WALK

21 miles
along the Worcester & Birmingham Canal

8am START
Hanbury Wharf

END
Gas Street Basin

Hosted by
Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

For more information or to sign up, get in touch:
office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk
0121 766 6603
birminghamcitymission.org.uk

BCM OPEN DAY

Saturday 4th July from 10am to 5pm
at The Clock Tower, 2 Langdon St, B9 4BP

Take a tour, discover more. There'll be tea and cake too!

Jean's Garden Party Take-Away Box 2026



Order for collection or local Halesowen delivery on Saturday 13th June from 9am to 1pm.

A **party box** (min donation £10) with 2 home-made scones with jam and cream plus 2 cupcakes... or a **box for one** with one scone and cupcake (min donation £5). Please let Jean know if you would like to go to the garden party at her home in the afternoon. In aid of BCM. *Sorry that food allergies cannot be catered for.* **For orders:**
jeanharborne@birminghamcitymission.co.uk

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Telephone: 0121 766 6603
Email: office@birminghamcitymission.co.uk