



# “I need that Jesus stuff...”

## Helen's story

From the lips of Helen came the greatest endorsement for Christ I've heard in a long time. “I need that Jesus stuff as your life is a lot less screwed than mine!”

Helen was referred to me over two years ago under the labelling of ‘disruptive’ and I've been meeting with her ever since. The title of disruptive was simply the tip of the iceberg; what was going on in the background made me impressed that she turned up to school and was only labelled as that.

Her life is full of people wanting to get to know her who she wanted nothing to do with; the Police, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Social Services, ADHA specialists and doctors to mention a few. So at the end of an eventful year of being arrested, made homeless and hospitalised from the

effects of drink and drugs, and attacking me with a compass, Helen said that infamous line.

What I'd like to say, is that she is now fully restored and at peace with the world because of my ministry in her life – but I can't. Yes, she is resitting her GCSEs and when she applies the advice given, life will even out. But fully restored, no.

The tension we always have when supporting the more vulnerable in our society is that some get it and find peace, while for others restoration is a long slow journey.

It's a journey we're prepared to walk with all the young people we support. I'm just excited that Helen can see the “Jesus stuff” light at the end of the tunnel. I simply pray she keeps walking towards it.



## Thoughts from the Director and drinker of coffee

Andy Burns ■ [andy@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:andy@easttowest.org.uk)



If the earthly mission of Christ teaches us anything about how our mission should be, it is that True Love reaches

out, goes towards and lives among. It doesn't preach from afar or wash it's hands when those around seek not to live in a way that is deemed appropriate. For it is Christ who came to seek out the lost and to bring them home (Luke 19:10). So at a recent team meeting I asked the team in a round-about way what the lost looked like this year. The lost, they said, were to be found caught between the parental pull of divorce and through the underlying grief that the separation caused. The lost were those struggling with their sexuality and a high number of young teens who sought intimacy and acceptance with those who had left school some time ago. The lost were regular users of cannabis who are now becoming regular users of cocaine.

In a year when most conversations have included the latest buzz word 'fiscal'. We can't forget that there are those for whom the present crisis is just another in a long line. We can't forget that we're called to be bearers of a Hope that is of greater worth

and less fragility than a global economy. We are called to be conduits of a self denying love that doesn't get us into debt, it's a love that comes freely and one that puts us in credit.

It was Mother Teresa who said that we are called not to be successful but to be faithful. With that in mind we've fixed our eyes on Christ, grounded our feet in the realities of their world and found that 2008-09 has been a tough road to walk for so many of our young people. A road you'll be able to understand through the stories that are in this newsletter.

Thank you for your constant love and support for it has been a year of incredible highs; with the police and supported lodgings roles starting and an increased number of church volunteers joining us in the work. It has been a year where we've known God's faithfulness both in sustaining us and the Trust and a year where we've grown closer as a team.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AB' with a large flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Please note our new office address & telephone number: Unit 3, 80 High Street, Egham, TW20 9HE  
Tel 01784 438007

# Bringing HOPE to YOUNG LIVES

## “I lost both my parents...”

### Paul's story

Paul joined the school in year 10, having moved down from the North East with several of his siblings after the death of their father. If coping with the loss of dad and moving to a new area wasn't enough, several months after arriving here and following on from the birth of his youngest sister, Paul's mum collapsed and died even though he

tried to resuscitate her. As a result the family were broken up to live back in the North leaving Paul behind with his uncle.

Over the past few months I've been meeting regularly with him using a memory book and photos to help him deal with these overwhelming issues of grief both from the deaths of his parents and loss of his siblings that he

was caring for.

It remains a true privilege being able to minister to young people like Paul; knowing that what we bring does change and support vulnerable lives.

**NB: for confidentiality reasons names have been changed and none of the photos depict any young person mentioned.**

## The new Operations Manager

Joy Ahearn ■ [joy@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:joy@easttowest.org.uk)



I am on a journey of discovery – discovering more of God, more of what He has for me and who He made me to be, and now discovering more about this organisation called **east to west**.

Over the last 10 years I have learnt about working with young people through various roles with Guildford YMCA, and also through volunteering with

the YMCA in Cape Town, but recently felt it was time to step out again, and see where God was leading me. Having left the YMCA last September, I spent some time working with a homeless outreach team in Guildford, before applying to join **east to west** as Operations Manager.

I was looking for work where I could share my passion for seeing young people grow and change, and wanted to join a team

where we could pray about the work, responding to local need, and shaping it as we felt God was leading – and I haven't been disappointed. As I work with the team, and hear the stories of how they are impacting lives, I know that I am in the right place. I believe that God has plans and purposes for us all, and we can all be involved in what He is doing – I'm just privileged to be in a place where so much is happening.

# “I’d just doss on the streets... I was going nowhere...”

## Craig’s story

I’ve had the privilege of supporting a young lad since January who was referred to me for ABH, by the police. As you find in most things, the caution wasn’t the main issue in his life; Craig was unemployed, unmotivated from constant setbacks and heavily involved with a local gang whose influence on him dramatically drew him

away for the life he wanted to choose.

Since drawing alongside him his confidence has grown which has changed his outlook and behaviour. Craig has now left the gang, stopped smoking weed and come off the police’s radar; although on occasions we do need to chat through one or two slight variations from the path. He’s completed a

CV and successfully applied to college in his dream career.

It’s amazing what difference you can make when you stop labeling people, buy them a coffee or ten and journey with them as they process life and all it throws at them.

# “I got a text from my mum that said I couldn’t live at home...”

## Lucy’s story

“I was sent a text by my mum and told that I was no longer allowed to live at home. I kept moving round friends’ houses sleeping on sofa’s until I ran out of

places to stay. I was then placed with a family and as a result of their kindness I was able to stay at college and moved onto a flat nine months later.”



It is for people like Lucy that Supported Lodgings was started three months ago. The aim of Supported Lodgings is to place young people like Lucy into a host’s home for up to a year. It’s this gift of hospitality that provides the security, stability and confidence in order to simply cope with day-to-day life.

Today we have three hosts signed up and two more in process. We will be taking referrals for young people from October

and would value your prayers particularly for this time. If you have a spare room, are willing to share your home with a young person and happy to be trained and paid, please do contact me to find out more.

**Catherine Burns**  
**Supported Lodgings Manager**  
[catherine@easttwest.org.uk](mailto:catherine@easttwest.org.uk)



# BRINGING HOPE to YOUNG LIVES



## “My family abused and assaulted me...”

### Luke's story

Luke is a good example of why being based in a school makes such a difference. I met Luke at the beginning of the school year, said a few hellos but nothing more than that. Then in February he started attending one of my support groups and that was the point life started to change for the positive. Luke had been taken in to care when he was 5 following on from abuse by his siblings and after a near fatal assault by his mother. As you'd imagine Luke struggles with self-esteem and has difficulties controlling his temper which limits his interaction with his peers.

Just getting him to attend the group each week was a miracle in

itself as he'd withdraw himself and often walk out. Yet each week he'd hear the others share their life stories, both the highs and lows and gradually he learnt to trust and realised they too had issues. It took some time but he eventually decided to share his story which was a profound and humbling moment.

Luke now engages with the group, goes on cinema trips, sends instant messages like it is going out of fashion and allows the other guys to hang out with him at break. Which in turn has boosted his confidence and self-esteem. Maybe the greatest outworking of Hope is that he now has friends and the long journey of reconciliation with mum has begun.

### Huge thanks

to Dave Sterry of DS Plumbing Ltd, Sunbury  
(Corgi Registered) Mob: 07973 120395  
who is enabling Supported Lodgings to happen  
through doing boiler checks

## DS Plumbing



# new OPPORTUNITIES in 2009/2010

## Emma Swinden

[emma@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:emma@easttowest.org.uk)



### Thomas Knyvett College Relational Support Worker Starting in October

It is with great excitement that we announce the appointment of

Emma Swinden (pictured centre) as **east to west's** Relational Support Worker to The Thomas Knyvett College. Emma will start in the school on the 5th October and her remit is:

- To provide pastoral support and social development for the students

- To promote citizenship and cohesion
- To connect the local church into the life of the school

Emma has already worked part-time in the college by supporting 'at risk' students and confirmed to us after the interview that God had been on at her for sometime to invest more into Thomas Knyvett. The Headteacher was so thrilled that it was Emma who'd be taking on the role, she repeatedly thanked us and informed us that we'd made an excellent choice.

Please do pray for Emma as she hands over her existing post and prepares for this new venture.

## Carolyn Shaw

[carolyn@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:carolyn@easttowest.org.uk)



### New Team member in Charters Starts September

Has been appointed to work Tuesday's and Thursday's alongside Tracey to help run the support

groups and mentoring. Carolyn's appointment is the first time that **east to west** has employed two workers in one project and is another indication of our growth.

### Carolyn writes:

Over the past 6 months I have been working alongside Tracey as a volunteer mentor and during this time I have had my eyes opened as to the very real needs that many young people are facing. I'm really looking forward to my role so that between us we can continue to bring some Hope back into young people's lives.

Please do pray for Carolyn as she settles in to this new post.

# New opportunities and growth bring new steps of faith

As we go into the 2009-2010 year we take with us financial needs over several of the ministries which is not surprising as new projects are starting and existing ones are growing.

The growth can be best seen in the budgets. 08-09's budget was £178k and 09-10 budget is £257k.



Funding secured from local churches, supporters & grants  
**90%**

Funding need for 2009/10  
**10%**

## east to west moves into Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

One of the big goals for this coming year is to see how east to west can be cut and pasted into new areas and counties. It is exciting to let you know that we have had three significant conversations over the past term about starting some work in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, one of them being to create the Police Role that Dan currently delivers with the Windsor Police.

We will keep you posted!

Will you join us and partner with us to meet the increase in our ministry? To know how you can give please call or text 07958 725731 or email [christine@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:christine@easttowest.org.uk)



the  
youth, culture  
and mission  
lectures

presents:  
**gender**

thursday 18 march  
London Institute for  
Contemporary Christianity  
St Peter's, Vere Street, London

thursday 25 march  
St George's Church  
Great George Street, Leeds

Lecturers:  
Dr Elaine Storkey  
Church Army  
Tearfund

Dr Kristin Aune  
University of Derby

Cost £30 (including lunch)  
Concessions £20 (limited availability)

bookings:  
[christine@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:christine@easttowest.org.uk)

for more info visit [yclm.org.uk](http://yclm.org.uk)

the youth, culture and mission lectures  
is a partnership between

Sophia NETWORK  east  west  the Diocese of Winchester 

# Courtney Loosemore

Member of Ashford Congregational Church, starts volunteering in Matthew Arnold



Before volunteering at Matthew Arnold School, I didn't

realise the extent to which local young people needed support. The issues young

people face can seem truly unbearable. Walking out of the school during my first week as a volunteer, I thought, "These are problems that adults deal with, not kids." But as I thought about it more, I realised that these are human problems that all

humanity faces in one way or another. Young people, just as adults, need support during life's difficulties. It is a humbling privilege for God to use me in this way as I seek to walk with them through tough situations, showing them a glimpse of God's unfailing love.

## Meet the team



### Schools Relational Support Workers

Nicola Lainsbury: [nicola@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:nicola@easttowest.org.uk)

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Nicki Sudworth: [nicki@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:nicki@easttowest.org.uk)

### Police Community Youth Pastor

Dan West: [dan@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:dan@easttowest.org.uk)

### Supported Lodgings Manager

Catherine Burns: [catherine@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:catherine@easttowest.org.uk)

### Bookkeeper

Christine Doln: [christine@easttowest.org.uk](mailto:christine@easttowest.org.uk)

### Next newsletter: February 2010

For regular news updates, become a member of our email prayer group or check out our website: [www.easttowest.org.uk](http://www.easttowest.org.uk)