

John McCandless, Community Outreach Worker

Report – April-May 2015

“Hearts lifted, attitudes changed”

One of my favourite chocolate bars, and I do have many favourites, is Frys Turkish Delight...mmm – full of eastern promise. It was introduced in 1914 and the nation loved it. However, engineers at the chocolate factory discovered that oil from the plant machinery was leaking into the flavouring vat. Of course they set about rectifying the problem, stopped the leak and the Turkish Delight bar changed to what it should have originally tasted like, i.e. a rose flavoured centre. The people in the UK didn't like the change and sales plummeted. So the makers had to artificially change the flavour of Frys Turkish Delight back to its oil-flavoured centre, which makes it the best tasting Turkish delight in the world!

CHANGES... some people like them and others, well, they are slow to make them.

Working with a team of dedicated workers in Mersey Street and Mountpottinger, we are witnessing changes in people's lives and hearts, young and not so young. Some of the changes are slow and small and others quick and dramatic. One thing I've learned is that as God's people, we cannot meet others without having an influence on their lives, however small.

Mountpottinger Mens Group sees, at times, over 30 men coming together and finding connections and friendships and a whole change to their outlook on life. Men who at one time were contending with isolation in their homes, perhaps content to watch the world go past them, and yet others who have a wealth of skills and knowledge and insights to share; changes in their pattern have brought new horizons, meeting with other men and God's people and His spirit working in them to change lives.

As Karis Baker, our family worker, and I bring a promise from God's Word to these men we can see hearts lifted and attitudes changed. Men, who at one time felt disconnected, now feel part of something good and hopeful and ever changing as we meet with other groups.

Our toddlers and afterschool groups have been so encouraging to team leaders as numbers increase rapidly; and as we look back over the past six months we see our God at work, changing circumstances to build better meaningful relationships, with not only the young people but with parents too.

Thankfully our God never changes. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. He never changes... but is ready and asking to change us, thankfully He is still working on me.