



Edinburgh City Mission

Uplifting and transforming Edinburgh through people knowing Jesus Christ

We're here to love the Lord and our neighbour, and make disciples in Edinburgh

Edinburgh City Mission exists to carry out God's Greatest Commandments (Matt. 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). We share Jesus in word and action with the disadvantaged in Edinburgh; the bound, the oppressed, the hungry, naked, poor and homeless, the broken-hearted, captives and prisoners (Isa. 58, 61).

Our work is expansive because our city is full of people with great need

80,000 people in Edinburgh are in material poverty. In Scotland, a fifth of our young people are lonely; a quarter of older Scots are chronically lonely. Young people battle with mental health at historic rates. People in deprived areas are 15 times more likely than wealthy neighbours to die from drug misuse. Refugees and asylum seekers receive only basic amenities and often very little welcome or hospitality. Healthcare is crumbling, housing is an emergency, services are disjointed, community spaces haven't revived post-COVID. Life online is becoming the norm and real engagement with colleagues, the community or neighbours is diminishing.

Christianity no longer has a clear place in the public sphere: touchpoints with Jesus can be hard to find. Census data shows a continual drop-off in Scots with a Christian faith: more than half of Scots have no religion. Gospel outreach in areas of greatest poverty is lacking, as is the presence of the church. Hope isn't prevalent these days.

We've been sharing Jesus in Edinburgh for nearly 200 years

David Nasmith founded Edinburgh City Mission in 1832 with the chief purpose to share Jesus in word and action. Over 193 years, we've partnered with churches and sent missionaries, chaplains and workers into the city to share the hope found in Jesus. Sharing in word has been done alongside improving education, healthcare and sanitation, supporting people in court and prison, supporting New Scots, running outreach cafés, and feeding and clothing people. The Gospel is all-embracing, and our mission is holistic (James 2:16-17). We've seen many people meet Jesus over the years. We seek revival of faith in Jesus again for Edinburgh's people.

We're going back to basics: go where there's need, meet with people, talk about and show Jesus



Community hubs where the needs are greatest: we're setting up community hubs in Granton/Pilton and Stenhouse, neighbourhoods of low resource and complex need. Our facilities will provide practical amenities, activities, and a network of support services (including other agencies). Physical hubs create the lively spaces of welcome, gathering, connection and provision that people have lost.



Sharing Jesus in action, with hospitality: our hubs uphold Christlike hospitality. Every person is made in the image of God with inherent dignity (Gen. 1:26) that the world cannot strip away. Everyone who walks in has access to the best we have from our community café and 'essentials' stores (emergency food, hygiene packs, clothing, etc). Radical hospitality means we sit, share a cuppa, and listen to the stories of those who come in, rather than treating people as numbers in a database or on a waitlist. Jesus loved completely and taught us to do the same (Mark 12:30-31, John 13:34).



Wrapping around with deeper support: everyone's circumstances, needs and goals are unique. We have a skilled team that'll come around each person seeking help. Together, we build tailored care plans with support across three main streams:

Chaplaincy | Could include: 1-to-1 pastoral care, Bible studies, courses exploring faith (like Alpha or 321), worship & prayer groups

Wellbeing | Could include: counselling, recovery groups, peer support, men's & women's circles, and intergenerational befriending

Education | Could include: English language help, parenting skills, budget help (with CAP), job prep, life skills, kids & family activity groups



Sharing Jesus in word, all the time and everywhere: in all our conversations, we talk about Jesus, our enduring source of hope and transformation. We receive God's offer of salvation, forgiveness and reconciliation through faith in Him and trusting the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus dying on the cross for

our sins and His victory over sin and death in His resurrection (Eph. 1:7, Rom. 10:13). We're trained, through Gospel partners, to share this news in an accessible way – and help others to do the same.



Reaching out across the city: when and where the Spirit leads with opportunities, our agile 'Outreach' team serves and shares Jesus in initiatives and partnerships beyond our hubs – like the Care Van with Bethany, worship services in a care home and befriending in homes or supporting ministries of our church partners with evangelists. We welcome people back to hubs for deeper support, but we provide assistance wherever someone might be, especially those who are homebound or in prison.



Measuring what matters: we're focused on keeping 'the main thing the main thing', so across each activity, project or outreach we'll ask three questions:

Who did we share the Gospel with?

Who did we pray with?

Who did we invite to church?

We'll report the answers to these questions internally and to partners. We'll collect and share stories that uplift the people we serve, celebrate their transformation and glorify God.



Partnering with churches and placing people in community: the local church is at the heart of God's plans for the world (1 Tim. 3:15). Young people are already coming back to church. A person will sustain their relationship with Jesus when they're in a community of faith and fellowship. We're part of the body of Christ, but we're not a church. Our hubs are stepping stones into local churches, where people are loved, discipled, serve and spread the Good News themselves (Rom. 15:7, 1 Cor. 12:13, Heb. 10:25).

Work with aligned Gospel partners is already underway

The [Evangelical Alliance](#) basis of faith and the [Lausanne Covenant](#) set out what we believe about God, people, the Gospel, and mission. Our team members are committed Christians, personally worshipping at many evangelical churches across the city. Our partnership network includes:

Churches | We partner with Gospel-centred churches that love and share Jesus and sit under the authority of the Bible. We're blessed to work with churches in Granton, Stenhouse, Musselburgh & many other neighbourhoods. We highlight the Nations network of 70 ethnically & linguistically diverse Edinburgh churches passionate for our mission.

Training partners | We sharpen our evangelism skills with regular training, including with GLO. We partner with Faith Mission Bible College for study and placements. We contribute to Every Community.

Wider connections | We're a City Mission Movement member. We partner with Linking Lives & Bethany Christian Trust to deliver services. Other parachurch connections include OMF & Welcome Churches.

You can be part of the story

Pray to God with us. We pray with thanksgiving, hope and expectation. We pray for His transformative work in the hearts of the people we are serving. We pray for revival in Edinburgh.

Disciple new believers. Your church could be the life-changing and life-giving community that serves, and is served by, those who have been transformed by grace through faith. We do everything with church partners, including work in our hubs, holding to our role as just the first hand-up from the edge into deeper communities.

Volunteer your gifts. God has given individuals in His body different gifts to carry out His work. This could be time, conversation, friendship, teaching, encouragement, cooking skills, musical ability. How has the Lord gifted you? How can you use them for His glory in Edinburgh?

Give financially to sustain our work. We rely on the generosity of partners, and we believe the Biblical teaching that giving blesses the giver and enables them to partner with God in His work. We seek Gospel-hearted, long-term giving partners as we replenish our resources in 2026 and grow them, and our Gospel impact, in the years beyond.

Nisi Dominus Frustra Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain; unless the
Edinburgh's motto LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. Psalm 127:1.