

First intern joins the team

In September 2017 our very first intern joined us. Having just finished university, **James Wood** was seeking God about his next step. James attends the same church in Cardiff as Training Director Steve Harris, who invited him to join with OAC and explore evangelism as a possibility.

Training started with learning how to do ladder-lettering, using the sketchboard, learning a story for primary school assemblies and joining the street team. Within 5 months James was helping Steve to train others as part of the “SchoolWise” course enabling trainees to take an exciting primary school assembly.

James’ first school assembly, under the watchful eye of Steve Harris, was the story of Rahab and Jericho. James has also

been helping out regularly with his church’s kids club “Big Fish.” He admits that, despite having done some children’s work before, he found working with primary school aged children “pretty terrifying.” Happily he is beginning to relax and enjoy it now.

One of James’ passions is to work with high school children so he was delighted to get some opportunities to take assemblies in high schools in the run up to Christmas. A particular thrill was to get an invitation into Bishop of Llandaff School, James’ old school, which hadn’t previously been open to OAC.

Another aspect of training has been getting involved in the regular open airs in Cardiff and Bridgend. James writes “This was a terrifying experience (and still is for me every time),



but I’ve found that when I’m in that situation, God has honoured the fact I’ve wanted to honour Him and things have turned out to be pretty good so far . To know in that situation that God is behind me, upholding me and giving me the words to say really is a massive encouragement.”

James is also gradually building a network of churches where he preaches on Sundays. All in all it has been a busy few months for James, especially as he and his fiancée Jo only got married on 4th November.

Debating at Speakers' Corner



Dave Workman is based in Kent where he is involved in a variety of outreaches, but like most OAC evangelists he often travels further afield to preach the Gospel. One of Dave's passions is apologetics. This comes across in both his preaching and his personal conversations with people. In this photo you can see Dave leaning on his stepladder at Speakers' Corner as he preaches and debates with the crowd.

Hundreds of people of many nationalities gather at the famous Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park London every Sunday to hear speakers expound their views on life.

Dave regularly preaches the Gospel there and deals 'full on' with the loud but permitted heckling. Muslims and humanists are the main antagonists, but he finds that many there are wanting leaflets and Bibles after his preaching and some listeners even want to believe and be saved. His team of helpers has grown from being intimidated to being skilled and calm proclaimers and defenders of the faith.

Dave has also been taking regular trips to Calais to "The Jungle" to take aid and Christian literature to the refugees and to share the Gospel with those who were open to talk.



The challenge in France

Peter and Alison Kennelly are OAC evangelists living in Bordeaux and working both there and further afield in France. Using the sketchboard and one to one conversations they are trying to share the gospel there. France, as in all of Western Europe, is not an easy country to evangelise. As the picture below shows, it may sometimes seem that you are speaking to a wall or to a person who has decided a long time ago to close the shutters and put up bars against the idea that God even exists.

It provides a great challenge to convince them that they have a need of His forgiveness and love. But as the graffiti shows (which, by the way, was discovered by Peter on a building in Bordeaux and not painted by him!) our aim in OAC is to repeat ourselves again and again both for the gospel's sake and for the people's sake.

Please pray for France, it is a spiritually needy country.



Derek Heyman and Cecil - still going strong! Even though Derek's puppet Cecil is now 40 years old he is still acting as though he is 7.



He is in demand as much as ever. Cecil is a 'bridge' before the Gospel is shared.

Mission24 in Reading



Jenny Carroll writes, "One of the highlights of 2017 for me was a mission in Reading in June. I was asked by three local church leaders to organise the street outreach for a 6 day mission in Reading with Jonathan

Conrathe and his Mission24 team. We had a good team from the churches and Mission24 and saw people being saved on both the streets and doorsteps. The evening meetings saw many saved as Jonathan preached the Gospel. Christians were encouraged and many were physically healed as well.

For many months afterwards we saw people turning up in the churches for the first time, having being followed up by local believers. I personally know of several who are not only growing in the Lord themselves but also bringing others along.

Vinyls – a useful new tool

One of OAC's developments over the last two years has been using vinyl covers with a questionnaire that clips to the front of the sketchboard. The first one was "True or False" which **Marios Kaikitis** and **Gareth Owen** produced. You can see Marios deep in conversation with someone in the photo opposite. This was followed by one asking how much people knew about the Christmas story and then a third using quotes from famous people, including Jesus, about life and death. **Alan Offord** is pictured using the Christmas vinyl in Falmouth.

The vinyls have been a useful new tool in that they work in smaller towns where it is difficult to stop a crowd using the sketchboard and it is perhaps a more easily transferable skill. You can find the vinyls on the OAC website in the resource section: <http://www.oacgb.org.uk/sketchboard-tools/>



Tailored for the message

London Director, **Steve Gurnett** is pictured here in one his trademark suits. You need a big personality to wear these suits, but Steve has found they work fantastically well to engage people when using the sketchboard, performing escapology, working in schools or just walking down the street.



Pirates in Penzance!

The strapline for OAC is 'Presenting Christ by all means everywhere.' National Director, **Marten Holmes** took this literally on the August Bank Holiday by dressing as a pirate to lead a team outreach in Penzance during an attempt at a world record for 'the most pirates gathered in one place.'



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