

## **Mission Sponsorship Programme: Moot Community, Diocese of London, UK**

### **The Need**

The Moot Community is currently negotiating with the Anglican Diocese of London to take on a city centre church building as a place of mission and community 24/7 in a busy locality in the heart of the Old City of London. Moot's aim/vision is to develop it into an art gallery space, café, bookshop, performance venue, to promote the Christian faith to London's post-secular unchurched culture of spiritual seekers. Moot is committed to relational and artistic approaches to mission, to enable people to encounter positive expressions of the Christian faith.

To resource this we want to equip and resource three members of the community to engage in this work by paying their rent, and thus/therefore begin to develop a team committed and enabled to develop this base. Part of Moot's ethos has always been to build a New Monastic community, and although the vision a New Monastic House is currently under practical and financial constraints our intention is still to set in place some of the shelter and provision of a home that will enable younger people to engage with mission initiatives.

We are therefore seeking sponsorship for the next year from donors to cover the rent of these three people to start this work. This team will then run the arts cafe space and undertake local relational missional projects.

### **Aims of the Café**

- To build up a relational approach to mission by developing a place for spiritual seekers to drop in and have conversations with members of the team
- To be a forum for workshops on Christian spirituality
- To develop Christian Meditations group pitched at city workers at all levels of trade, earning brackets and social demographics, and all spiritual seekers
- To develop a place for art and performance promoting exploration of the Christian faith

### **Relational Mission**

We aim to free up people to be able and committed to engage in a multifaceted missional engagement with the people and community around the building:

- Befriend local homeless people living rough in the local area
- Befriend local workers in the City
- Befriend spiritual seekers
- Develop a relevant and audience-specific programme of artistic and creative activities as mission
- Re-develop the old market area in the church grounds, priced out by rents. Possibility of developing fair trade and other local stalls.
- Promotion of Christian and Christian-relevant artists and musicians in 'arts as mission' events
- Develop a pattern of spirituality with creative approaches to the ancient routines of morning and evening prayer, lunch time services and discussion groups/forums/workshops.
- Develop a culturally sensitive pre-catechetical discussion group.
- Assist in the development of a spiritual community at the host building, and develop a pattern of daily spirituality for prayer, reflection, dialogue, worship and meditation.

## **The Moot Community**

Moot is an Anglican Emerging and Fresh Expression of Church. It seeks to build an ecclesial community out of contextual mission, drawing on a sacramental and new monastic life. Moot has been running for five years, and is one of the leading Fresh Expressions of Church in the United Kingdom specifically targeting London's 'un- and de-churched' post-secular postmodern culture. Moot is at a key stage in its development as an Anglican initiative in the Diocese of London, as it now seeks to develop its life on a more 24/7 basis in a way that is more accessible to an incredibly busy city. For more information on Moot's work, see <http://www.moot.uk.net>.

Eventually, we seek to take on a New Monastic House to accommodate members of the community to enable a four-person team to work with the Moot core mission activity on a daily basis, and with the possibility for training places to stay for Ordinands, Pioneers and researchers, and rooms for retreats or other involvement. In the short term however this looks to be not currently feasible financially or within the constraints that the Diocese is currently working within in resourcing Fresh Expressions mission/ministry/work, but we –are committed to start to build to this vision, and hence the community needs to finance the beginnings of this team and community ministry/work/ethos, to build from an embryonic, frugal start into a full rich expression of Christ's love, community and creative truth in the heart of London.

## **Financial Implications**

Breakdown of costs per person per month

Rent	£500
Travel	£100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£600 UK per</b>

We therefore need to raise £1800 UK a month, and a total of £21,600 UK a year.

## **Seeking Sponsorship**

We are seeking therefore a commitment to help us fund £1800 UK a month, or £21,600 UK a year. Moot has its own banking facilities, and if you want to make a one-off or a regular donation to help us, please do contact us.

Donations can be made by interbank payment (IBAN), or through Paypal (although there is a charge for this service with Paypal).

Please do contact us if you are interested in supporting this sponsorship scheme, or require further information:

Telephone: +44 20 3239 6350

Skype ID: ianmobsby

Email: [sponsorship@moot.uk.net](mailto:sponsorship@moot.uk.net)

Post: The Moot Community, The London Centre for Spirituality, Church of St Edmund the King, Lombard Street, London, England, UK EC3V 9EA