

Reading Boiler Room
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Dear friend,

Four years ago, we launched in the Forbury Vaults pub, with a certain amount of fear and trepidation I will admit. Since then we've seen prayers answered, people coming to Christ, others motivated to mission or to work with the poor. Reading has welcomed literally hundreds of visiting pilgrims from around the world too. Just last week 15 Danes and 2 Americans were our latest guests. We have also seen the idea of Boiler Room spark in the hearts of many across the world, with launched Boiler Rooms now operating in London (3), Brighton and Calgary. Other communities are emerging in Ibiza, Kansas City and Dresden to name but a few.

Reflecting

In March we re-opened in Gosbrook Road, Caversham and we have had more stories to tell.

- **Continuing prayers**, maybe a little less crowded than our previous location in the town centre, but none the less a number of regular pray-ers mixed with seasons of 24-7 and daily prayer times. It has been a time to pray through some difficult situations in Reading's recent history but definitely a time when God reaffirmed our calling to pray.
- **Young people visiting**. There continues to be regular visitors to come and hang out, explore and sometimes to pray. We are benefiting from being on the school route home for many young people.
- **A new training scheme**. Transit, launched in September has us hosting 7 people from 3 nations and then a fortnightly training block for 15-20. This has helped bolster our team, brought fresh ideas and most importantly new friendships.
- **New connections** with those in need. It seems our journey this time is more about individuals than big projects, so there are visitors who we take very seriously and whose needs we try to meet when we can – from a cup of tea and a chat to painting hallways or clearing gardens.
- **Developing relationships** with churches. We continue to host groups from a number of local churches, work in conjunction with church initiatives and to continue to try and bless the church in Reading.

I was touched to wander round the building last week and find passionate prayers, beautiful paintings from an artist in residence and even a picture declaring 'I love this place'. It is also thrilling to hear of people hearing of Jesus for the first time and of others being stirred to commit time and energy to serve the poor in our community. All this is going on right now.

Renewing

I mentioned that many new things were going on, and probably the biggest one is about Lorraine Joslin, who is taking on the leadership of the Boiler Room. After four years of

looking after the team, but also working to resource other Boiler Rooms through 24-7, it became clear that God wanted to hand over the reins. He also showed us as a team that Lorraine was the woman to step into that role and at the same time spoke to Lorraine about her future. Over the past year a slow and careful handover process has been taking place. This culminated in Lorraine's commissioning last week, during a meal in the newly decorated mezzanine room at Gosbrook Road.



We prayed for Lorraine's future role in being Abbess of our Boiler Room. We asked God to fill her, equip her and commission her. We asked for God to give her strength for the task, but also for good rest, good friendships, good health and a good relationship with God. It was a special time for us all.

I wanted to write to commend Lorraine and her leadership to you as she takes on the Reading Boiler Room. She has always exhibited a strong gift of leadership but we've been amazed with the way she has developed over the past year. I'd like to ask you to pray for Lorraine as we did; for her role, but also for her health, her friendships and her own spiritual walk.

Lorraine is now the main contact for any of your enquiries. You can contact her at the Boiler Room on 0118 946 1245 or at readingboilerroom@24-7prayer.com. One of her roles will be to liaise with local churches and groups. If you'd like her or one of the team to visit your church or group then please get in contact.

As for me, I'm still going to be around, involved in the Reading team but also increasing the time I give to the wider 24-7 movement. This hand over is about giving Lorraine the leadership of the Boiler Room, but I'm glad to say isn't about me leaving the project. Indeed one of my first tasks is to help the Boiler Room transition into being a charity in it's own right.

Thank you

We do appreciate all the support you and others give to the Reading Boiler Room. It is not an exaggeration to say that we wouldn't be able to keep going without you. Thank you for your prayer slots, thank you for coming and helping decorate, thank you for volunteering, thank you for your financial gifts, thank you for using the building and bringing life to it. We are still facing many challenges, pressing financial needs, difficult and challenging situations but we are grateful for God's continued faithfulness and for your continuing support.

Looking forward to the next steps on our journey together.

Yours sincerely

Andy Freeman
Reading Boiler Room team