

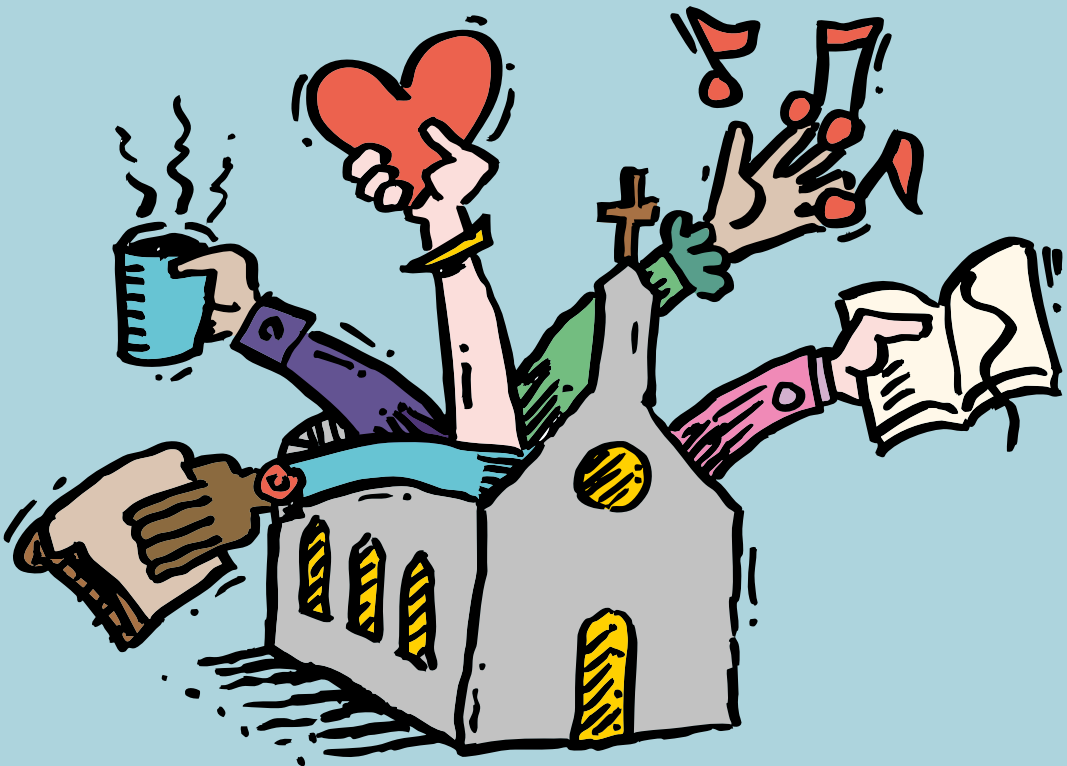
WINTER 2025/2026

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
NEWSLETTER

SHARING LOVE

What the church in Europe looks like today



ECM BRITAIN

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
IS AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL,
EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY ORGANISATION
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WE LOVE EUROPE AND WE LOVE JESUS



SPEAK LOVE

We speak God's
message of love
across Europe.



SHOW LOVE

We show love in
practical ways
across Europe.



SHARE LOVE

We plant churches
that share love
across Europe.

**HELP US TO SHARE THE LIFE-CHANGING
LOVE OF JESUS ACROSS EUROPE**

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER



KENT ANDERSON

*"The church is God's plan for the salvation of the world.
There's no Plan B... God is putting all his eggs in the church basket."*

Stephen Foster, Rector at St Aldates Church, Oxford

I love that quote. It sums up exactly why the Church isn't just one of God's ideas — it's the way He's chosen to show His love to the world.

At ECM, we plant and grow churches because that's what God has been doing since the book of Acts. But churches don't all look the same. The believers in Corinth in 55 AD would have worshipped very differently to a church in Athens today. And a small congregation in a Spanish village faces different challenges from one in the middle of Berlin. Yet each is part of the same story — God's Church, sharing His love in its own way.

In this issue of ECM Life, we're exploring what that looks like across Europe today. You'll meet:

- A church in Barcelona offering clothes, showers, friendship and practical help to people in need — as well as providing a homework club and street outreach.

- A church in Albania training new leaders who then go on to bless others across the region.
- A church in Austria, where people from more than a dozen nations worship together every week.

Each story is a glimpse of God at work — building His Church, one community at a time.

Our missionaries may be the feet on the ground, but they couldn't be there without you. Your prayers and giving make it possible for churches to share the love of Jesus in Slovenia, Ukraine, Portugal, France and beyond.

Thank you for being part of God's great *Plan A*.

Because of you, churches are sharing the love of Jesus in Slovenia, Ukraine, Portugal, France and beyond.

THE CHURCH IN EUROPE LOOKS LIKE...

Our workers are sharing the love of Jesus in churches across Europe. But what does that actually mean? We asked them, and this is what they told us.

...HEALING



Andy and Andrea Warner, Spain

In Spanish terms, our church, La Vinya Barcelona is big! On a typical Sunday morning, we're about 400 people, mainly native Spanish (or Catalan!) and then a few internationals like us. For several years we've been primarily functioning as a 'hospital' church, caring for many (mainly believers) who have arrived at our doorstep and watching how the Holy Spirit has brought transformation and healing to broken lives.

Alongside our Sunday meetings we have about 30 home groups scattered across the wider Barcelona area where people meet, eat and get to know Jesus and His Family more. We also operate a wide variety of ministries such as a clothes and shower service for people living in vulnerable conditions, a homework club for children at risk of social exclusion, a street evangelism team that shares Jesus and invites people to experience Him and His Kingdom in real and relevant ways, and more.



With awe and excitement at what we're seeing Jesus do amongst us, our church is preparing to transition into a multi-site church — one church but with two sites. In 2026 we plan to open the second site in a town called Sant Feliu, sharing many resources with the current site whilst creating space for newcomers, opportunities for new leadership and a localised expression of the church.

Our senior pastor openly recognises that the church in Spain struggles to connect with and see conversions of native Spaniards. But, as we believe is happening in other places around the world, the younger generation particularly are looking for meaning and identity and we are excited to have and be able to equip a number of younger people, including many raised here in Catalunya.

... FAMILY



Peter and Silje Lilly, France

Outside of larger cities, there are not many churches here in the south of France. In our village and the villages around us, there are no evangelical churches at all. But God has called us to this village to plant something here!

Our experience of church is a simple family time where we share a meal and communion together, talk about Jesus and the Bible, and sing some songs. We spend time praying for the people we are ministering to and for our village. We are

laying the foundations for what God is calling us to do here — providing a safe space for seeking friends to get to know Jesus, a spring where people can come and drink the living water.

Some of our friends are closer to that spring, so with them we have started reading the Bible and praying. Others are a little further away, often asking provoking questions but always with a deep curiosity. We also gather with other Christian families who have a similar passion for sharing Jesus in this unique context. These precious times help to fill us and encourage us, as without them it can be very lonely to be ministering where there are no churches.



... SAFETY



**Roland and Carolien Smith,
the Netherlands**

In our church we've just begun to think about what measures to take to become a 'safe church'. As we've considered what it means to create a safe community atmosphere and reality, Proverbs 31.8 has spoken to us: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

We now have to give this safeguarding shape and format. We would like our church to think of this process as an investment in the future of the church's mission. We would like for our church not to see safeguarding as a "we have to do this because we have to" — but rather as a foundation for the church to be a safe place for all. And especially for those who are on their journey to find Jesus for the first time.

...SERVING



Berti and Tatiana Dosti, Albania

Lushnjë, where I serve, is a small town in the centre of Albania. It's a town that I would describe as having a lower-than-average standard of living. There is no industry here; it's mostly an agricultural area. From when our church was founded here 33 years ago until today, we have not had a single new believer return to serve as a ministry leader in our local church. It may sound a bit unbelievable, but it is the truth.

We serve in the church with different age groups, and they grow up within the church, but when the time comes for them to finish high school, they move to other cities — mostly to our capital, Tirana. Lushnjë has no universities or colleges, which forces our young people to leave in order to pursue higher education.

So we raise and train different generations for ministry, but as a church we are not able to benefit from their service ourselves. Nevertheless, we are not discouraged, because many of them become active and serve in other churches across Albania and even abroad.

The same thing happens with other church leaders — they move with their families to Tirana or overseas in search of a better life. As a result, we often struggle with a lack of leaders in our church. This reality encourages and strengthens us to continue serving, even though the fruits — belonging to the Lord — are reaped by other churches.



...CARING



Marc Hepton, Slovakia

I recently moved with my family from Wales to Slovakia to start a role with Trans World Radio (TWR). We are fortunate because we lived in Bratislava from 2021 to 2023 and are already connected to Bratislava Faith Community Church (BFC). The leaders at BFC agreed to accommodate us in a house they have for a maximum term of two months. As well as this, they arranged for people to meet us to help offload our belongings to a storage facility. They also helped with essential administrative reports and letters that were needed for customs and our removal firm.

Church should be a supportive and caring community — in our experience our church community were there for us to help and support us during our relocation and to help carry the burden.

I want to help give more churches to Europe



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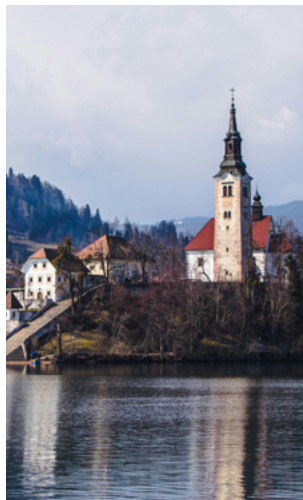
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I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOING

If God has been guiding you to consider serving Him in Europe, please get in touch for a conversation!

1. EXPLORE WHERE WE WORK AND THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT:
ecmbritain.org/long-term or ecmbritain.org/short-term

2. CONTACT US:

online at ecmbritain.org/get-started

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Name:

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Country of interest:

Length of service: ☐ less than 1 year; ☐ 1-2 years; ☐ 3 years; ☐ 3+ years; ☐ not sure

Type of ministry desired:

By submitting your personal data via this form, you agree that ECM may use your data in accordance with the ECM Privacy Statement (find at ecmbritain.org/privacy-statement)



... GOD AT WORK




Delyth Sutton, Spain

In the last two years we have transitioned to more intentional missional house groups where there are opportunities for everyone to participate. As a missionary, I am just like any other participant. We have a format that allows everyone to contribute with ice breakers, goal setting and discussion around the previous Sunday's sermon. All this leads us to a praxis of our faith.

We now have two groups in Pozoblanco (one for women and the other for families) and one in Villanueva de Córdoba (a mixed group unusually made up only of Spaniards and including two new people who have integrated into church and are making steps of faith). Another group that started at the end of September in Almadén is made up of a retired couple and lots of students from Equatorial New Guinea.

What is the impact of all of this? We are seeing more visitors as we intentionally reach out. Someone always wants to give testimony to how God has been at work in their lives that week. One example is that Mari told us about how she watched her son coming out of school gates on a bike and he crashed into a car, hit the bonnet hard and crashed to the ground. She cried out, "Lord have mercy!" — because Hugo wasn't wearing a helmet. In just seconds, an ambulance and local police arrived. There was blood everywhere and he was taken to hospital — but he had only bit his lip and had scratches. Hugo was able to go home that very afternoon.

All of this is taking place because of people like you! People who have faithfully prayed and donated funds so that our workers can share Jesus' love across Europe. Thank you for making all of this, and more, possible!

A portrait of Martina Valcharova, a woman with long, dark, curly hair, wearing a white top. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is filled with lush green plants, including a large palm-like plant on the left and a white decorative balustrade on the right.

NEW WORKER IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Meet Martina Valcharova. Although her nation gave birth to one of the oldest Protestant denominations, it's now one of the most secular countries on earth.

"My dream is that all people in the Czech Republic will worship God."

I was born in the Czech Republic in the Moravian village of Kunín, where the Moravian Brethren came from in the 1450s. Nestled in the heart of Europe, our nation boasts a rich and complex history, and it's religious landscape is no exception. But today, the Czech Republic is one of the most secular nations in the world. Less than 1% of its population of 10.9 million people are evangelical Christians.

Growing up during communism I never heard the gospel, even though I was born in an area where Moravian Brethren missionaries came from (they had a 'prayer

watch' that lasted over 100 years non-stop!). I was 14 years old when communism collapsed. People were filled with optimistic excitement. Banners hung in the streets stating, "Love will win over hatred and truth over deceit." Hopes were high and people were receptive to change.

Fast forward a few decades — when I was 40 years old I found myself in the UK looking for a Bible study in Cambridge. The Bible study I found was led by Dr. Cecilia Brasset. Cecilia always had a dream to do ministry in Eastern Europe, but whenever she pursued that vision it appeared that God closed the door. After 40 years Cecilia had given up on her dream. Then I walked into her Bible study and Cecilia became

“My dream is that all people in the Czech Republic will worship God. I want to demonstrate Christ’s love through diverse and impactful ministries”.

my spiritual mom, friend and mentor. She helped me grow in my understanding of who I am in Christ. And now, through me, she has a ministry in Eastern Europe!

I returned to the Czech Republic knowing that I wanted to serve God. My dream is that all people in the Czech Republic will worship God. I want to demonstrate Christ’s love through diverse and impactful ministries, such as:



Evangelism & Discipleship Materials

I have overseen the translation of the majority of the courses by Christianity Explored into Czech. These biblically-grounded materials help people discover who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. Most Czech denominations are using them and I’m happy that this is building relationships across church boundaries.



Prison Ministry to Women

I serve women in the Opava prison, bringing hope and the transforming message of the gospel to those often forgotten by society. No one is beyond God’s redemptive love.



Anti-Occult Teaching

Because so many people here are involved in occult and New Age teachings, I have published a Czech translation of SEAN International’s course The Spirit World.



Roma Community Outreach

I work among the Roma community, one of the most marginalised groups in Czech society. Through relationship-building, practical support, and sharing the gospel, I bridge the cultural divides and extend Christ’s love to families that are often overlooked.



Moravian History Association

I’m involved with the Moravian History Association, connecting the rich spiritual heritage of the Moravian Church with contemporary faith.



Digital Evangelism

Embracing modern technology for gospel advancement, I collaborate with **HledamBoha.cz** (the Czech version of **jesus.net**). This is an online platform that connects seekers with the message of Jesus Christ. We facilitate digital evangelism and respond to spiritual seekers in the online space.

Martina is looking for people to join her varied and exciting ministry by praying or giving. Let us know if you would like to know more.



THE WORLD COMES TOGETHER IN AN AUSTRIAN CHURCH



By Linda James, Austria

Linda from England, MaAnn from the Philippines and Clement from Ghana explain what it's like in a church where people from more than a dozen nations worship together.

Linda: Revelation 7.9 says: *“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”*

We have the privilege of experiencing something of that here and now in the *Life in Colour* group within Life Church Villach. *Life in Colour* is an umbrella for a community of internationals living here in Austria. Our vision is to see the internationals in our church thriving in their relationship with God, serving in the church, and being fully integrated into church life.

MaAnn: What is important to us as internationals? It is important to us to be part of a community that acts as our local family — many are here alone, far from their family, friends and culture. Around once a month we meet together to eat, have games evenings after church, or go on excursions. Some meet for sport each Tuesday evening. Not everyone comes to everything — though most do come when there's food! Then we can be a group of 35+ people (including children).

We come from around 17 nations — Ghana, Ireland, DRC, Philippines, Austria, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Canada, Germany, Portugal, Brazil, Romania, England, Wales, Belgium and Spain. For many, English is their second or third language, and many are also trying to learn German.

Clement: What do we want to be as a group? We want to be a community where people can grow in their relationship with God through the word and service. Some of us meet twice a month for Bible study

and prayer via Zoom. We go through books of the Bible in depth or think about how to talk about our faith with work colleagues and fellow students. Sometimes we meet as a larger group for worship or training.

Many internationals help at Life Church Villach in the worship team, the technical team or at prayer meetings. Others work in the background, such as in the social media team, preparing sermon slides, creating service plans or helping with catering. We also want to be an attractive community for other internationals who do not yet know God.

Linda: What are the unique challenges internationals face?

- Living far from family and friends.
- Living in a very different culture – not always understanding or feeling understood.
- Struggling to get visas and being uncertain about the future.
- Facing demanding jobs and difficult studies.

Could we do more to meet the needs of this wonderfully diverse community of people — of course! That's why we are so excited that Kye and Emily are coming soon as missionaries, supported by their church in England. They will be serving in Life Church Villach as a whole, but have a vision to serve among internationals in particular.

Back to our verse in Revelation — what did the great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language do? They stood before the throne and before the Lamb and they worshipped Him together. That's what *Life in Colour* wants to do!

YOU COULD BE PART OF THE TEAM TAKING THE CHURCH TO PEOPLE ACROSS EUROPE!

Here are a few of the exciting opportunities waiting for you.



SPAIN: Welcome pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago



SPAIN: Lead music both inside and outside church



GERMANY: Work short-term in a high immigrant neighbourhood



SCOTLAND: Get hands-on internship church planting experience



ROMANIA: Train and equip youth and children's workers



EUROPE: Many other short and long term opportunities



IRELAND: Use relational discipleship to help draw people to Jesus



KOSOVO: Help run events for children, young people and disabled men

If any of these sound interesting, contact us and let's talk! We'd love to help you discover the exciting future that God has in store for you. Explore more opportunities at ecmbritain.org/go



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