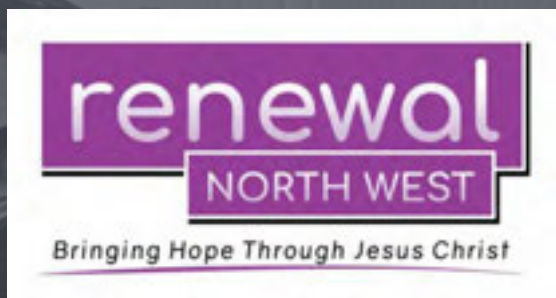


# RENEWAL NORTH WEST IMPACT REPORT OUR YEAR IN 2020



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## OUR YEAR OF 2020 IN REVIEW

### Wesley Downs, CEO

Wow what a year! None of us expected 2020 to turn out the way it did. We began the year with such enthusiasm with an excellent team of people who genuinely bought into our vision of **'Transforming Lives by Bringing Hope through Jesus Christ'**. Little did we know of what lay ahead of us. Our faith in God was tested in so many different ways and none greater than on the 24th March when we shut up shop for the 1st lockdown not knowing what lay ahead.

Organisations are really tested when events like this occur and they will either lose hope and go into decline or take hope and look for ways to overcome the obstacles. We have a motto at Renewal, **'to be amongst the two and not the ten,'** referring to the 12 spies who went to spy out the land God had promised to give to his people in the Bible. The ten came back saying we can't but the 2 came back saying we can and we believe God Can! And so we trust him for the future looking for ways that would enable us to keep growing and overcoming.

Two such ways that developed and grew in 2020 was our eBay operation and the acquisition of a house and office clearance business called **Stockport House Clearance**. Both these operations can be operated during lockdown, providing employment for some of our beneficiaries and an income stream to help cover our fixed operational costs. The growth of these two operations in 2020 was exceptional and the teams involved with that growth are also exceptional and deserve a mention here.

WHEN YOU SHOP AT RENEWAL  
NORTH WEST, YOU'RE  
SUPPORTING A CHARITY THAT IS

## COMMITTED TO CHANGING LIVES

For me, two of the greatest joys of being part of Renewal North West is the people I work alongside. Their enthusiasm and positive attitude give me great hope for the future. They are a delight to be with and a privilege to lead. When teams work well together it is amazing what can be achieved!

Secondly, and most importantly is that Jesus Christ is at the centre of all that we do at Renewal North West. We start the day reading his word and praying to him and then we look to him to lead us and give us wisdom for the work we do. To God be the glory great things he has done!

“

**We breakdown barriers,  
rebuild lives and  
bring hope through  
Jesus Christ**

”

9

LONG-TERM  
UNEMPLOYED  
INDIVIDUALS  
SECURED  
EMPLOYMENT AT  
RENEWAL NORTH  
WEST THIS YEAR

16

INDIVIDUALS  
PROVIDED WITH  
WORK EXPERIENCE  
AND SKILLS  
DEVELOPMENT TO  
SUPPORT THEM  
BACK TO WORK

2

INDIVIDUALS  
WITHOUT RESIDENCY  
PROVIDED WITH  
ACCOMMODATION,  
EMPLOYMENT AND  
ESSENTIAL SUPPORT

3,993

ITEMS OF FURNITURE  
REHOMED

45,481

BRIC-A-BRAC AND  
CLOTHING REHOMED

250

DELIVERIES INTO THE  
COMMUNITY

411

TONNES AVOIDED  
LANFILL

27

ELECTRICAL  
INSTALLATIONS WITHIN  
THE COMMUNITY

2020

18

Formerly unemployed  
individuals are now employed at  
Renewal North West

51,089

Items of furniture, household  
items and clothing sold at low cost  
to support those experiencing  
financial hardship within  
Stockport & surrounding areas

250

Sessions of bible time where  
people had opportunity to  
consider its message and impact

Plus 100's of leaflets, bibles and  
books distributed

# MY STORY BY WAYNE

A TRUE INSPIRING LIFE STORY

## GIVING HOPE AND A FUTURE

"My early memories are of a loving, caring mum and a drunken, abusive dad. I've spent most of my time outside getting into whichever trouble was popular at the time. I started smoking, drinking and glue sniffing at around the age of ten. As I grew older I tried out more and more different types of drugs. Eventually I became addicted to heroin at the age of seventeen. I lost friends and family because of drugs. I never really understood why I felt empty and alone even when I was part of a group.

Things finally came to a head when I landed myself in prison. I had sold some drugs to my cousin, she took them and she died. I was so full of guilt and pain I even found myself thinking about suicide.

Then I started questioning things and eventually started meeting up with a Christian who visited the prison. He told me of a God who loved me, who had died for me and who could fill the void in my heart and my life. I did make a decision to trust Jesus and a weight was lifted.

Life didn't change much though I made some bad choices and decisions and even turned my back on God. I ended up back in prison. It was whilst I was there that I began to read and study my bible.

I decided to open up and talk about my issues. The prison chaplaincy was a real help. They later found me a place with a charity called Renewal North West, who provided me with a home, a job, some wonderful role models and spiritual guidance. I had always found it easier to live as a Christian inside prison.

My issues started when I got back into the world. I learnt some real life lessons there. I gained some real friends, a work ethic and a hunger for righteousness. My biggest lesson as a new Christian was walking away from my past. It's very important to find good Christian friends and mentors and don't be afraid to talk.

Today I live in Kent and I'm married to Carmen who is perfect for me. She's a bright and godly lady. I am active in our local church, I teach Sunday school and occasionally lead our mid week bible study. I now work full time which for me is a massive thing. My mum often jokes saying "his last real job was a paper round. God is faithful and I know that I can trust Him with my future.

Jeremiah 29:11 "I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" "

**MORE INSPIRING READS :**

**MY STORY BY HOWARD - 6**

**“They had discovered that a fixed routine and meaningful occupation of time helped self-esteem more than time spent unoccupied at home”**



I met good and bad people. I was sick, lost work, and home. I was homeless for a long time.

I started voluntary work where I met nice people, best friends and Christians. My life was not perfect but I love work and they always help me. I am now employed and now I see a better life.

**Bogdan, Employee**

The staff at Renewal are a great encouragement because they show how to work hard and have an enjoyable time. The managers all have a great work ethic and for those who are Christians they exemplify living life to the glory of God.

I have learned from them to trust God in the midst of difficulties and to be thankful for what we do have and to cultivate a positive, can-do attitude.

**Abed, Apprentice**

**18 staff were unemployed when they joined Renewal**

**16 of those came through our Community Work or Volunteer Programme**

“

The people there are wonderful, very caring and I know the furniture is extremely reasonably priced and very clean, I will most certainly be visiting again should I require anything else.

**Kate, Customer**





# MY STORY BY HOWARD

A TRUE INSPIRING LIFE STORY

"My dad was in very poor health and needed care and we couldn't really afford to pay for a full time carer so it made sense for me to take the redundancy and look after the old man full time. So I did that, my mother died an alcoholic completely out of the blue when I was 18. She needed help and I was too immature to realise, I wasn't going to make that mistake again. I would do everything to help my old man.

He passed away in 2018, so now it was time for me to go back to work or so I thought...not so fast. The employment landscape has changed a lot since the 80's and I had never even been for a job interview before. What's a CV?. I applied for plenty of jobs, all unsuccessfully.

I was lost. I didn't know where to turn or what to do. I've got no family and I'm kind of stranded. I considered myself hard working, enthusiastic and honest, even though I find self-appraisal difficult. Why can't I even get an interview? Renewal North West was something I hadn't heard of before, even though I'd lived in Stockport all my life.

I was astonished that all of Renewal was built from scratch and what they did for the local community was fantastic. It might advertise itself as a Charity Shop, but I don't think that tells half of the story...it is so much more than that.

There were others who found themselves in the same position as me, others who had found trouble finding work because of mistakes they'd made in the past. There are some who do it for the love of God, to help others less fortunate.

I was given a chance and I initially volunteered for around 8 months. I loved it. I was encouraged to work on my own initiative. I had a chance to prove I was good enough to be part of a great team, the way the managers treat you is really something special.

I am a terrific people person, I will help anyone and every person at Renewal is the same. I am now employed. I play a part in making Renewal great. I'd struggle to tell you how good that feels. I have developed many more skills since the first day I walked into Renewal. Wes and Dominic in particular have been very supportive of me, pushing me on. I have now passed a PAT exam for electricals off the back of their encouragement.

We (see I'm part of the team) have acquired a small cafe next to the main showroom and also an eBay centre on the other side of town. I'm excited to be part of Renewal growing bigger and most importantly helping others make a better life. Renewal has given me a new lease of life."

## BEING PART OF THE TEAM TO HELP OTHERS

# OUR GOALS FOR 2021

## Launching 'Refuel' Community Café

Open the catering gateway to provide employment, training and placements to support more long-term unemployed people facing multiple barriers

Launch a community resource to provide affordable hot drinks, food, company, support and good news for local our community

## Opening the 2 Bed Accommodation to Support Those Leaving Prison

New accommodation to support unemployed, homeless individuals leaving prison with a heart's desire for a fresh start in a Christian environment onto the Residential Programme

## Development of Community Computers: Low Cost IT Equipment, Training and Employment

Working with Stockport MBC, we have joined Stockport's Digital Inclusion Alliance as a #Digiknow partner to refurbish computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones and offer them at low cost to tackle digital exclusion in Stockport during the pandemic of Covid-19

Employment for 2 unemployed individuals and offer of work placements acquiring IT skills and training

Work with Starting Point and Stockport's Digital Lending Library to maintain loaned devices provided into the community

## Homeless Support Provision

Engage once again with the growing number of homeless people in Stockport with the provision of hot drinks, food and essentials  
Particularly looking to provide a pathway from homelessness to employment, a home and a family like community

## Development of eBay Operations & House Clearances, Employment Opportunities for Long-term Unemployed Facing Multiple Barriers

New trading unit to be utilised to grow eBay operations, whilst the purchase of Stockport House Clearance in 2020 will enable us to grow house and office clearances. Both developments will allow more employment & work placement opportunities to support long term unemployed individuals, particularly supporting those who have otherwise struggled due to multiple barriers to employment

## Further Christian Faith

Continue to keep Jesus Christ at the centre and declare the news he brings to those who welcome it

All in all we will be transforming lives by bringing the hope that Jesus Christ brings to more people in more ways and on more occasions to the glory of God!



## 2021 is a year for growth at Renewal

### Continue the Funding Search to Secure More Accommodation for Those Leaving Prison

We will continue to seek funding to secure more accommodation in meeting the increasing demand for those leaving prison with a heart change for a fresh start in a Christian environment

### Access to Low Cost Goods, Reduction of Landfill Waste

To continue the excellent provision of a shop and provide low cost household and office furniture, appliances, clothing, bric-a-brac and computers that has proven to be so very helpful for the residents of Stockport

We will divert even more waste from landfill and contribute to helping the environment by encouraging reuse and recycling



# GET INVOLVED

## 0161 476 2777

### WWW.RENEWAL-NW.COM

#### DONATE MONTHLY

Become a Hope Giver



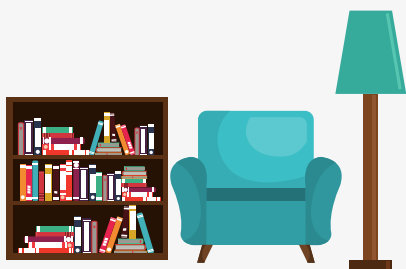
#### DONATE YOUR ITEMS

Furniture, household items,  
electrical goods for re-homing



#### BUY FROM US

Visit our showroom  
or eBay store



#### VOLUNTEER

Help us with our work



**Renewal North West**

**is an independent**

**Christian charity**

**that works with the**

**long-term**

**unemployed to break**

**down the barriers**

**that keep them from**

**working**