

## Urgent - LivingStones – Can you help us stay open?

At the LivingStones AGM held in September, the board of directors stated their intention to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting for LivingStones members.

During this meeting, to be called in January, they are expected to propose a motion that would result in the closure of the retail operations at LivingStones Christian Centre, effective from the end of January.

This decision may be reconsidered if an ample amount of voluntary support is available to continue to keep the centre open on Fleet Road. Following the release of that statement, a number of generous individuals have reached out, expressing their willingness to assist and enquiring about the specific support required to keep the centre operational as a retail facility.

In response, the board of directors convened on Friday, November 3rd, and concluded that our specific additional volunteer requirements to sustain our operations are:

- (a) Two additional Lead Volunteers,
- (b) an Administration Officer, and
- (c) at least one more Trustee.

Specifications of these roles are below: In mid-January, we will host a new volunteer orientation event. During this event, any new potential volunteers will have the opportunity to enquire about our needs, and we, in turn, will assess whether we have generated enough support to viably maintain the retail operations of the centre.

### 1. 2 x Lead Volunteers

Above all, we are seeking individuals who are passionate about being a beacon of light on the high street for one day each week. This role encompasses various practical tasks within the centre, such as opening and closing, managing the cash register, stock management, cleaning, and serving tea, coffee and cakes.

However, equally essential is the Lead Volunteer's commitment to engaging with visitors as they enter the centre and discerning how to best meet their needs. This may involve helping them find Christian books, cards, art, special event gifts, and, most importantly, being ready to listen and offer prayers when spiritually guided to do so.

Our centre attracts both churchgoers and those who may not have a church affiliation, and our aim is to exemplify the love of Jesus in any way we can to everyone who comes through our doors.

If you feel this could be you and you feel lead to take this further then please do get in touch with Emma at [emma@mabin.co.uk](mailto:emma@mabin.co.uk) and we will begin a conversation about how you could join our lovely team of Lead Volunteers.

### 2. Administrator

If you would like to volunteer at Living Stones helping to keep Jesus Light on the High Street and you have a gifting in Admin then we would love to hear from you.

This role requires proficiency in IT, as you will be responsible for searching the Internet to source items that are often hard to find, including books, gifts, cards, coffee machine supplies, toiletries, and more.

You'll be tasked with keeping meticulous records of purchases, ensuring they align with deliveries and invoices before they are submitted to our finance team for payment. You will also take responsibility for managing the marketing communications of LivingStones, through the website, social media and emails that are used to tell people about what is happening at the centre.

Typically, those at the centre will send you a daily email listing items that require ordering, and your role would involve acknowledging these items once they've been ordered. Once a week there will also be messages that need

to be shared over the communication channels available to us.

This volunteer position does not necessitate working on-site at the centre, as you can efficiently manage our procurement needs from the comfort of your home. The time commitment is minimal, likely taking no more than a morning or afternoon per week, at your convenience.

If you feel this may be you then please get in touch with Emma at [emma@mabin.co.uk](mailto:emma@mabin.co.uk) and we can talk more!

### **3. Trustee/ Director of the Charity**

LivingStones is currently served by 5 Trustees, but one of those Trustees is likely to step down after Christmas. We are looking for one, or ideally more additional, Trustees who will share a passion and vision for extending Gods Kingdom through the opportunities presented by having a centre on the High Street in Fleet.

You will need to have practical skills that you consider will be useful to LivingStones, as well as a willingness to serve in the centre to cover on the occasional days when other volunteers are not available.

If you feel this may be you then please get in touch with Mark at [mabinm@me.com](mailto:mabinm@me.com) to find out more about joining the trustees.

**From the Trustees.  
November 2023**