

Dear Supporter,

For those of you that have been following our financial journey as a City Mission, I wanted to start by testifying to God's goodness. We have been streamlining and expanding how we can best serve this city with the church and for Christ. We have increased staff hours and salaries and this growth came at a cost. In 2015, we reported a deficit of £52 000. In 2016, we started to address both our income and expenditure and our deficit was reduced to £31 000. Supporters, churches, and trusts have all started to respond to the need and seen the change of pace at BHCM. We are exceptionally grateful for the sacrificial giving of all of our supporters. We feel so blessed that we are currently not running at a deficit. We continue to rely on your support, and as we gain new supporters, we will ask God how he wants to grow and use the City Mission into the future to bless the church in Brighton and Hove.

In addition to financial stability, we are also delighted to see spiritual fruit from the work of our teams. Here are three testimonies of lives changed through our Rest Homes team and our Brighton Food Bank.



Bev, our Rest Homes Team Leader, reports: *I met a gentleman, we will call Mr R, for the first time the other day. I presented the service as usual with quite a lot of interruptions of people going to the loo, staff passing through, and someone being taken out of the lounge as her son had arrived. After the service I went around talking to people, praying with some, and when I got to Mr R he had tears in his eyes. He was very articulate, with no obvious signs of dementia, and he said: "As I listened to you, and watched you talking to everyone, it reminded me of my Catholic upbringing". He seemed overwhelmed with the things he remembered and I prayed with him for a renewed relationship with God. I told him that God loved him and that he would know His peace. Mr R concluded our meeting by saying that he felt that what he had experienced was a turning point in his life and that he would never be the same again. I gave him a little booklet containing Bible verses and a holding cross, which he was delighted with. It was an amazing encounter and it is wonderful how God used a normal little service in such a powerful way.*

The holding crosses (pictured above) are made in Bethlehem out of Olive Wood. They are a very useful tool in our ministry to rest homes. I was talking with another person in one of the rest homes, this time a lady in a dementia home. I have prayed with her on a number of occasions and she has enjoyed looking at the cross we take as a visual aid. After talking with her and offering prayer, I offered her a small holding cross. She was delighted and said it would be a comfort to her. The cross will be a tangible reminder to her of her faith in the time between our visits.

Another testimony I have is one of a gentleman I have been praying with over the months. He used to be an altar boy and then only went to church for weddings, funerals, and christenings. Since he has been in a home he has started to come to our services and realise just what Jesus has done for him. He has even started to go back to church at the weekend. He sat with tears rolling down his face as he described how incredible he feels it is when you think about what Jesus has done and how we don't deserve anything but Jesus loves us so much. It has been such a privilege to see his faith come to life.



2017 HARVEST APPEAL



Would you like to be involved in our Harvest Appeal this year?

The Brighton Food Bank has been going since the Millennium and is officially Brighton's busiest food bank.

It costs £92 000 per year to run the Brighton Food Bank, this includes staff salaries, rent and utilities, insurance, and fresh food items we purchase, such as milk, bread, and butter.

In 2016, we were donated an astonishing 22.7 tonnes of food from individuals, like yourself, around 40 churches, supermarkets, such as Sainsbury's, Morrison's, Asda, Waitrose, and Co-op, as well as banks, such as Barclays, Lloyds, Santander, Halifax, and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Could you be a fundraiser for us?

Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Harvest Supper and/or an Auction to collect food and raise funds
- ◆ Sponsored event in aid of the Brighton Food Bank Harvest Appeal, such as a 10k run
- ◆ Financial collection at your church instead or in addition to a food collection

So far this year we have handed out food parcels to 211 individuals and 208 families with children relying on our help. Can you imagine what it is like to suddenly hit a crisis and have no partner or family to fall back on? Coming to a food bank can be a hard and humbling experience. We have produced the enclosed DVD that you can show your friends, in your church, or at your Harvest supper. The DVD tells of the crisis experienced by one client and how our food bank handled this with much more than handing out a food parcel. We were able to share our faith and help Kerry, not only out of crisis, but also into a relationship with Jesus. Please help fund our food bank this Harvest.

If you, or your church, would like to have a traditional Harvest food collection for us, please inform our food bank with the contact details below, as we will need to book a delivery time with you.

foodbank@bhcm.org.uk

01273 695330

Thank you so much for your ongoing prayer and support.

Julian Haddow
Mission Director