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Dear Supporters,

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. We cannot believe that it is already September in what has been a very different year for us all, not only in Brighton and Hove, but across the country, and globally!

Speaking of things being different, we are approaching Harvest differently this year. BHCM, all praise to God, has coped through the crisis of COVID-19. However, some areas of the charity have been hit harder. Our Brighton Food Bank continues to operate through our delivery service, and we are now slowly inviting clients to collect food from our door. Both our Schools and Rest Homes team continue to operate, however, unlike the Brighton Food Bank team, where changes have been less drastic, these teams have seen the most changes. As limited people are able to enter public buildings at this time, both teams have had to 'think outside the box' in terms of serving both the young and the elderly.

Our Schools Team Leader, Lloyd, shares about our Schools team:

*Over the last month, the work that we do in schools has come to a standstill as pupils and staff have been away on their summer break. As schools return for the Autumn term, we have been thinking about how we can continue to bless schools in our city. It is looking likely that we will not be physically able to visit schools, so a new digital approach is going to be the way forward. Our vision is still to see a Christian presence in every school in Brighton and Hove, so please pray for us as we approach schools that are new to us as a team, that they will be receptive. We hope to offer all schools across our city with anything that we can provide to help them at this time, whether that be online assemblies and Religious Education lessons, or something completely different that will bless the pupils and staff in each and every school.*

Our Rest Homes Team Leader, Bev, shares about our Rest Homes team:

*The last few months have been a challenging time for the Rest Homes team; how do you meet the spiritual needs of residents in homes when you can't see them face to face?*

*Myself and the team have been creative and come up with ways to reach the residents and staff in the homes during this time., using the resources that we have available to us. Firstly, our team of staff and volunteers have been meeting via Zoom to pray for the homes and each other every Monday. Secondly, we have regularly contacted the homes to reassure them of our love and prayers. Thirdly, we have produced and sent two DVDs of hymns and prayers that have included a Bible verse and a reflection to all of the rest homes that we regularly visit. The second DVD also contained a personal greeting from every staff member and volunteer of the team. The DVDs are designed to be used by the staff with the residents and have been well received with some really enthusiastic feedback. Fourthly, we have been emailing staff with Bible based activities, including Bible verses and pictures to colour, quizzes, word searches, to support those who provide activities for the residents. We have seen some lovely pictures of residents enjoying the activities. Moving forward, we are using the technical skills that Aaron, our Rest Homes Team Member, has to create a filmed version of the Christian service that we would normally present in the homes. We aim to have a new service on YouTube fortnightly, with DVDs being produced for homes where this is more suitable. In addition to this, we are gifting each home with a set of booklets, produced by Bible Reading Fellowship, designed to help staff provide spiritual support to residents. As we continue to provide spiritual support to both the residents and the staff in the homes, please pray for us. It has been a privilege to draw alongside those caring for the elderly in our city during this time.*

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Therefore, where we need your help this Harvest is donations into our general fund to enable these vital teams to continue to operate. In order to give to our general fund please visit our Stewardship page - <https://www.give.net/20022562>. Donating into our general fund will also enable us to start new projects in areas that God is leading us into, where Jesus is needed most in our city.

Brighton Food Bank has been overwhelmed with the financial generosity of individuals, churches, grant-making bodies, and businesses during this time. Thank you to all of you who have donated to help us provide for our clients in what are such uncertain times for them. If you still wish to contribute to Brighton Food Bank financially, please visit our Virgin Money Giving page - <https://tinyurl.com/qaotbt>, however, we are now open to receive gifts in kind. If you wish to donate items of food, cleaning products, or toiletries, please contact us at [foodbank@bhcm.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@bhcm.org.uk) or on 01273 609484, option 2. Some churches have had collections for us during this time, if you think your church would like to collect items for the food bank, please get in contact. It has been great to see churches adapt to support us while they haven't been able to physically meet. As traditional Harvest services in churches and assemblies in schools, where the majority of our gifts in kind donations arrive from, will not be able to go ahead as planned this year, we pray that people will come up with innovative ways of celebrating and giving during this time. Here is a list of items that we need over the Harvest period.

# HARVEST 2020 NEEDS LIST

**TINNED MEAT** - Spam, Corned beef, Meatballs, Mince, Steak, Chicken Curry, Hot dogs, Ham

**TINNED FISH** - Tuna, Mackerel, Sardines, Salmon

**TINNED VEGETABLES** - Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Mushrooms

**INSTANT COFFEE**

**PASTA SAUCES**

**RICE & COUS COUS**

**JAM, PEANUT BUTTER & MARMITE**

**PULSES**

**TINNED FRUIT**

**SWEET TREATS**

**RICE PUDDING**

**CLEANING PRODUCTS**

**TOILET ROLLS**

**TOILETRIES**



Due to excess stock please **DO NOT** donate the following items -  
Pasta and Baked Beans

Thank you so much for your amazing support.

Every blessing,  
Brighton and Hove City Mission team



[WWW.BHCM.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BHCM.ORG.UK)

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