

Summer Newsletter 2020

Continuing through the crisis

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. We have adapted many things during the pandemic and our team of both staff and volunteers have pulled together as one team to serve our city as we continue through the crisis.

Our Brighton Food Bank continues to operate in our city, delivering essential items to current and new clients. As we continue to support up to 90 clients per week, we have many stories from both staff and volunteers who don't normally work in the food bank of those we have helped over the last ten weeks, here are the highlights:



A client called at the door today. We've been unable to contact him as he doesn't have a phone. We gave him some food and listened to his story. We were able to offer some solutions to his issues and pray with him in a socially distant way. He was grateful and calmer when he left.

Helen, our Schools Team Member

A guy rang to thank us for his box, really thrilled with everything then wanted to tell me about a dream he had had the previous night. He said it was the Father, (I wasn't sure if it was his own father at this point) who was there telling him that however dark things seem to be He would always be there watching over him. I guessed then it was God. He was out and it was very windy so hearing him was hard, but I said how important faith was in life and he agreed it was very important. He was very encouraged by the dream. When I ring him next I will pursue the

conversation about belief and make sure I put some good reading in his food delivery box.

Liz, our Trustee

We continue to ask, at this time, that those wishing to donate items to the food bank, please refrain from doing so and instead, if you wish to do so, please donate financially by visiting our Virgin Money Giving page - <https://tinyurl.com/qaatbtt>.





Our Schools team continue to film assemblies for parents to access remotely for their children as they continue to be away from school. Our team have added these assemblies to our YouTube channel, so, should you be interested in them, please subscribe to us: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgclJtYH8KIVE4T1FvI-nuA>.

Our Rest Homes team has had to work in a very different way over the last few weeks. Rest homes were some of the first places to go into lock down and will probably be the last to open up.

Our team have been doing their best to support the homes remotely, with two homes requesting Skype services. These were successful, despite limitations when it came to computer equipment. After looking at what resources are available in most homes across the city, the team, aided by our Schools Team Leader Lloyd, put together a DVD, which included prayers, a Bible verse, and some of the residents' favourite hymns. This has been sent out to 20 homes so far with large print hymn sheets. Our team has had some very positive feedback on how the DVD is being enjoyed by the residents.

Some of the homes have been hit by COVID-19, whilst others have, thankfully, remained free from this particular virus. Our team have been attempting to support staff, making themselves available via email or phone, should they need someone to talk to. In some cases, homes have responded to this. In addition to this homes are called regularly and cards of encouragement have been sent.

I had a very good conversation with the owner of one of the rest homes that we normally visit on a regular basis. On asking how everybody is coping in these times, we began to chat about the blessing of the rest home being free from exposure to the virus. This led to a very interesting conversation about prayer, how the owner prays every night, how she believes that God has been helping her in her work, and how He has caused the residents to be not just virus-free, but extra-healthy during this time. She also thanked us sincerely for the calls and continued offer of support.

Aaron, Rest Homes Team Member

Over the next few months, we'll continue to keep in contact with the homes and offer the DVD to homes we don't usually visit. Another DVD is in the early stages of planning. At present, we will continue to support the staff as best we can and pray for them and the residents; for health, strength, and that the hymns and prayers may bring comfort and a growth in relationships with God.

We hope that this gives you some understanding of how our team are operating during this time. We are happy to serve our city for Jesus in this way, however, please join us in praying that the virus will disperse and that the people of this city will know the love of God during these testing times. We have included a prayer diary with this newsletter that details more prayers that you can pray for and over our city.

Every blessing,

Brighton and Hove City Mission team