

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY MISSION

— 170 YEARS —

SERVING THE CITY, WITH THE CHURCH, FOR CHRIST



NEWSLETTER / WINTER 2019

Dear Supporters,

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CITY MISSION
— 170 YEARS —
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The nights are drawing in, the heating has gone on, soon it will be the shortest day of the year, and Christmas will be around the corner. Another year gone and 2020 is on our doorstep.

What a year it has been! We have had a year of celebrating our 170th Birthday, with our celebration in June and our Open Day in September, it was so good to see so many of you at one of both of our events. We have welcomed Hannah, Grant, Helen, and Aaron onto the team, taking us up to 11 staff in total. It has been a long journey since 2014, of advertising, interviewing, and appointing staff and we are so blessed to have, what we consider, a full team. Praise God for his goodness and provision.

With the increase of staff and, therefore, running costs we are facing challenging times. If you look at our yearbook from last year, you will see it costs over £250 000 per year to run Brighton and Hove City Mission. We also receive and hand out over £80 000 worth of food. For various reasons, different funding sources have sadly not been able to help us again this year and we are heading towards a significant shortfall.

170 PEOPLE
170 POUNDS
170 PRAYERS

I'm sure that you are aware that earlier this year we launched our 170 Appeal, that we hope will continue to encourage new supporters to support us both financially and prayerfully. The 170 Appeal has seen some response, however, we still haven't reached our target of 170 new active supporters. We have again enclosed a leaflet as we need your help. Please prayerfully consider if

there is someone that you can pass the leaflet onto, maybe a family member or friend.

We feel that one of the best ways to get the word out about what God is doing in our city is through you, our supporters, who help the work in Brighton and Hove happen. We know that nothing is possible without God, therefore we ask that you commit our finances to Him in prayer. Please raise awareness in your church and encourage people to join in that prayer. Our prayer is that lack of finance won't hinder the growth of our work and that God will provide in bountiful ways.

We are now in desperate need of a new building. We have been searching for a building for over five years as where we are currently located is unsuitable to run a food bank and house our expanding staff team. I have therefore just started a Building Steering Group. Please pray for the 10 people who have volunteered their time to meet to pray and use their expertise in all building related areas to make our dream building a reality.

It has been a joy to speak in many churches over the last year, to share stories of God at work in our city and to meet many of our faithful supporters face to face. I love building a real partnership with churches across Sussex, as together we look at better ways of reaching our local city. We hope that we can visit your church again, or for the first time. We always have availability across our staff team to come and visit you at your convenience.

Seeing the team in action and hearing stories of lives changed, as people meet Jesus for the first time, is so encouraging, it's why we exist. I have asked each team to share stories of lives changed in this newsletter. I hope that you enjoy reading about what God is doing through us.





Last term our Schools team were out delivering their Harvest assembly. Their message this time was about being thankful, and when we are thankful we want to share. The assembly saw the team transport the children back in time to find out what Harvest time was like through the ages up to the current day. The children even got the opportunity to meet Reverend Robert Hawker, the man who had the idea of the first Harvest celebration service in church in 1843!

At Harvest, our team visit schools that they don't normally visit with their assembly due to the fact that they collect food at this time of year for our Brighton Food Bank. In one of these schools a child came up to Lloyd, our Schools Team Leader, and said "I've just recently moved here from York, my mummy said that she didn't think the Harvest festival at this school would be Christian!" Lloyd then asked "did you have a Christian Harvest festival at your old school?" She nodded, and replied, "I know what you should do next year, you could sing. We used to sing a special Harvest samba song!" Knowing the song that the child was referring to, Nairne and Lloyd started singing the popular song that is sung in many of the schools we go into. The child was beaming with joy that our team knew the song, this was so lovely to see!

The assembly enabled children think about people less fortunate than themselves, and has even stirred some into action. At the end of one assembly a boy came onto the stage as our team were setting down, held out his hand with a 50p pence in it, and said "here you go!" Our team were overwhelmed at this act of generosity and kindness. They didn't take the money from the child, however thanked him for offering what he had. He had obviously grasped the message of the assembly and was so thankful for what he had, that he wanted to share!



When does a Muslim lady sing Christian hymns? No, this isn't the start of a bad joke. The answer is when our Rest Homes team visit the care home where she works. Last week our team were out visiting and one member of staff in particular was asking for the hymn sheets so she could sing with the residents. After the service Bev, our Rest Homes Team Leader, asked her what church she went to and she replied she was a Muslim, but had been to a church school.

When our team visit the rest homes across our city they naturally focus on the residents, however they are becoming more aware of the impact the Christian message is having on the staff who care for the residents everyday. Often, our team don't know the background of the staff, some are Christians but many are of other faiths and none. It is both a joy and a responsibility to tell those in the room that Jesus died for them, rose again, and is alive today, knowing it is not only the residents, but also the staff that are hearing the good news.

For some we will never know if 'the seed has fallen on good ground', however, at other times we see a real hunger for God. At one home Bev was moving around the room after the service praying for people and she was going to bypass the staff member, but she grabbed her hand and said "do me now!" She didn't know what to ask for, so Bev prayed a simple prayer and the staff member left the room in floods of tears. God touched her that day because our team were there.

Spending more time visiting the homes has made our team more available to staff, as well as residents. Staff have off loaded on our team, cried on their shoulders, and asked for prayer. It is a privilege to know God uses our team to change the lives of all those they encounter.



Our clients are referred to us by over 70 agencies across our city. Our Brighton Food Bank team know that when they come to us they are in a crisis with financial and other complex needs. Our team want to ensure that when our clients are with us we really do care for them, listen to their problems, make them feel special, and rebuild their self-esteem. Whilst our clients are with us, our team provide them with what they need to support them in their crisis. However, the aim of our team is to enable our clients to live without our support. Through signposting them to other agencies that can help, and ultimately, introducing them to Jesus, sensitively through prayer, our team hope that they can move through the complex situations that they are facing into a place where they feel supported by those who deal specifically with debt or benefit advice, and, most importantly, by a church family.

Our team see such big positive changes in people just because they feel listened to:

One client who has been supported by our team for over 12 months, in which time they have also helped out at in the food bank, is now debt free, has just secured a job, and is cared for by a church and is looking forward to going on a holiday with her new church family. The client is now able to support them self and their disabled son. They feel happy and loved.

Another client, mentally scared from his upbringing, who was residing in inappropriate accommodation, was recently moved into suitable accommodation through our team working with another agency in our city. Equipped with a new flat with weekly support and attending a new church where he feels loved, the client is now in a position to support his daughter. The client is now able to feel something that they have not felt for a long time, joy.

CHRISTMAS NEEDS LIST

Currently we require the following items -

TINNED MEAT - curry, corned beef, pies, spam, hot dogs, mince, meatballs

TINNED FISH - tuna, sardines, salmon, mackerel

PASTA SAUCES

SAUCES - mayonnaise, ketchup, brown

CHRISTMAS FAVOURITES - mince pies, boxes of chocolates, crackers, christmas pudding

HERBS & SPICES

TINNED DESSERTS - rice pudding, custard

MENS TOILETRY GIFT SETS

LADIES TOILETRY GIFT SETS

INSTANT COFFEE

HOT CHOCOLATE

JAMS & SPREADS



- PLEASE AVOID ITEMS WITH ALCOHOL IN

- PLEASE CHECK USE BY DATES GO BEYOND CHRISTMAS

Thank you so much for your amazing support and
Happy Christmas!

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