

## Autumn News from HTSE



### **Dear Friends & Supporters,**

6 months have passed since Covid restrictions changed everything we did. We are grateful that we have been able to adapt. Volunteers continue to give time and attention and practical help all seasoned with words of faith. Here are some things we managed to do.

**Thirty six separate grants** were given to families facing severe hardship. These were from £70 to £15. Brixington, Exmouth Chapel, Christ Church Woodbury, Church on the Green and Budleigh Baptist churches identified families, with sudden income drops. The Open Door centre also received a restricted donation of £320.

One Mum had no idea how she was going to feed her family when she received the surprise grant. The night before, she was in tears, and we were able to share something of our faith by text contact.

Our planned **mental health** awareness day became two energetic videos by Matt Merriman. They gave helpful tips for parents that were especially relevant with the current crisis. They can be seen on the website too or Facebook.

### **Family Support, Food share and Facebook**

Our family support has been remote apart from some very special circumstances. In one case, a grandmother in her 50's that had Christian grandparents and is terminally ill accepted visits for prayer and restoration of her life to the Lord. We have been talking with her daughter and Whatsapping readings from the Bible to this lady as she is in the hospice. She is keen for her grandson

to get to learn about Jesus through coming to Exmouth Chapel.

The **Foodshare** collections were coming regularly, sometimes 3 or 4 a week.

One day, it was all bananas and another all buns. There are 8 families, that I know, will accept bread items, and use them to make other things. Recipes have gone on Facebook to use up bread, such as old fashioned bread pudding, from Jacky. (When flour was in short supply breadcrumbs helped fill the gap). The Facebook page has 100 followers, so let's pray this will lead to results in God's Kingdom. Please like our page for up to date information.



### **Picnics in the Park**



Long term contact families and newer ones came to meet us each Thursday of the summer holidays. They sat in bubbles and had a treat from Homes That Smile. One week it was pasties from Moores and on another there was a cream tea (per family) from Teapots. There were Food share pastries and healthy things too. This basket was really useful for them to pick out their treats.

### **Coffee and Chat**

We are continuing to meet with four families with school age children for coffee and with the ones with preschoolers for a **"Wrap up and Play"** outdoors at their request. By splitting up we can keep to the rule of 6.

New!!

### **Bubble and Play**

Exmouth Chapel have allowed us to use the crèche and Tuesday room on Wednesday afternoons. Chrissie M is coordinating

bookings for groups of 6 to spend an hour playing in the crèche. Our usual volunteers are unable to join this, so please pray that Chrissie and Becky can be helpful and that the parents needing our support come along. (Chrissie also helped with buying and distributing support in the lockdown, when shopping was a problem for me.) Thanks Chrissie, what a star!

### **Kick Start Grants**

Youth and family work has been under pressure so we offered grants to churches for their post lock down activities. 3 grants have been agreed for Littleham, Christ Church and Exmouth Chapel.



### **Going Forward**

Please pray for the ongoing work of Homes That Smile Exmouth. We have a small team; many have been only able to help at a distance because of their age or health conditions.

Recently, we fixed up a First Serve placement for 3 months, but this had now been cancelled due to fears over a new lock down coming. The purpose of having such

visits would be to raise the profile of our project in other areas; this is with the hope that the church and individuals will seek ways of reaching out to families with Christian support and teaching. We believe there is a spiritual thirst that comes out, when you scratch the surface problems. Hence, we are always looking for opportunities to pray with families about their choices and futures.

### **A personal Note**

Thank you everyone for praying for John and I while we have had so much loss. I remembered that one Mum, from our early contacts used to make memory toys. I was able to ask her to make one for me. It was such a joy that she said how much Sue H helped her when she was in a bad place. Now she is studying psychology with the Open University

Becky

Gift aid forms are available for UK tax payers

Please contact us



07884242750 or [homesthatmile@gmail.com](mailto:homesthatmile@gmail.com)

CHARITY 1167292

Gift aid forms are available for UK tax payers

Please contact us by phone or email.

Bank Account Details

Sort code 40-20-32

Account number 41555871

### **Trustees**

We have been meeting on Whatapp. Please all volunteers save 12.00, December 10<sup>th</sup>, for a formal meeting together. If we are allowed to have more of an informal meeting, we will do so. Thank you for all the support we have and the flexibility shown by the Homes That Smile Team. See you all soon.

Paul, Anthea, Amanda, Becky and John