

**Winter
News from
HTSE**



Dear Friends & Supporters,

Usually I write a bit later, but as the main event, for the winter, was the Appointment with Christmas, I thought you may like to see some photos.

With nativity services curtailed and school events on line only, it felt right to use our field to portray the birth of Jesus this year



On arrival there was a chance to take a photos in the stable. There were words were lit up inside saying "The best gift ever given."

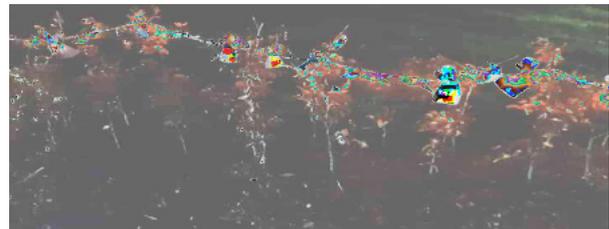


A farming friend lent us some sheep, we also had a shepherds crook from Hayley Humphreys It used to belong to Roger who helped us set up the charity. On the crook were the

words spoken by the angel
"Peace and goodwill



Once it got dark, there was a sense of wonder in seeing the stable, the sheep and the angels all lit up, thanks for cutting out the milk bottle angels



Joan Moncrieffe BA honours painted some wise men and families used them for another photo.

Finally there were several really kind friends who took on the role of socially distanced Santa, and all the children received a present and the Bible Society Christmas book.



Some families had 4 children others had one, but everyone had the same time and attention



We had lots of messages of thanks. The parents had a warm drink handed out from Richards camper van. Children had homemade Christmas angel and star biscuits, which were made in Homes That Smile style with my Mum I am grateful for the help from Steph, making the drink, and for everyone who came to decorate, Helen, Janet, Peter and Katy. Also to Josh for loaning his sheep. Even though the weather meant Friday night was cancelled we only had three families unable to come at a time on Saturday or Sunday. Altogether, we had 147 visitors split into 38 appointments. Some, were new contacts and others from church based families. Most were families we have known for 2 or more years. It was really nice to be able to bless so many families..

Other news

Courses

Parent Group

Four parents have been meeting for a chilled look at the parenting college materials and a Bubble and Play. We have moved this onto Whatsapp since the latest lock down .Although support groups , like this, are permitted ,it is best to avoid unnecessary travel and risk.

Wisdom House

Another small group has been looking at these videos by Care for the Family. Scott Drive church is being used for this

Bubble and Play

Chrissie M and I have been running small group play sessions but have stopped as children are now out of school.

Individual support

A reduced team has meant we have focussed on a group of parents with close ties with HTSE. We have supported with several crisis situations and have been welcomed in to be trusted when they feel unable to trust others. Now we are a team of 4 able to go for walks and others that will drop food share or meals.

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.

Future Plans

Please pray about,

- When will we and other churches have a play group again?
- Which courses will be helpful and supported?
- How can we best help families to connect spiritually when they are under so much strain with online schooling?



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