

Dear Supporters,

This month we are focusing in on our Care Homes team.

### Caring Through the Crisis



During the pandemic our Care Homes team have been providing digital Christians services for the staff to use with the residents in the homes. In addition to this, our team have been sending resources in order to support the staff in caring spiritually for the residents. Both staff and volunteers have been phoning the staff to reassure them that we're praying for them and that they haven't been forgotten. This has all been a blessing to provide as it has strengthened our relationships with the homes.

We are now able to visit some of the care homes, whilst others remain closed. The homes are looking forward to us visiting again, but many are concerned about the rising number of cases. All the homes will continue to receive the digital service, until we are able to visit in person again. During this time of uncertainty, our team are trusting God and preparing for the future. They anticipate that there will be a higher demand for our work in care homes across our city as the restrictions ease and they would love your continued support both prayerfully and financially. The most pressing need for our team at this time is volunteers, would you like to join our team?

### Care Homes Appeal for Volunteers

Do you want to reach the isolated and lonely? Do you have a heart for the elderly? Do you want to reconnect the disconnected? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, our Care Homes team are looking for you!

During the pandemic, whilst they haven't been able to meet them face to face, our team have been very busy reaching the isolated and lonely by supporting them digitally through online services and meetings. However, as lockdown restrictions ease, our team can once again visit care homes in person. Prior to the pandemic our team were helping 29 homes and this number has now increased to 35! Our existing team of staff and amazing volunteers are struggling to keep up with the demand and this is why they need you!



Residents have responded in such positive ways since our team have returned to visiting the homes. One resident, who has been a Christian all their life, was lifting their hands in praise and over joyed to be worshipping with others again.

*This has really made her week. She will be talking about this for days!*

Activity Coordinator

Reconnecting people in worship is so important to those who have attended church all their life, but are now disconnected from their congregation of believers. Through bringing people who know God into a place of worship, our team are also able to connect those who have little or no faith with the Gospel. For all the residents, time is short. Letting them know of the love and salvation God has for them is urgent. In many cases our team don't know what impact they have had, especially with those with dementia, however our team believe that the message of Jesus transcends all barriers.

*I went to church as a child, I was an altar boy, then I didn't go to church for years, now I realise what Jesus did for me.*

Resident who became part of the team's worship group, who died 18 months later.

Our team would love to hear from people who want to reach the isolated and lonely, have a heart for the elderly, and want to reconnect the disconnected with the lifechanging news of Jesus. The presence of God is tangible and we can bring Him to the homes.

*Sometimes I feel I don't know why I am here, but today our visit made such a difference, it makes it all worthwhile.*

Volunteer

### Volunteering Opportunities

Opportunities start from as little as one hour per month and training and support are provided, our team just ask that you make a regular commitment:



Services, once a month for one hour: Take part in one of our monthly services, from talking and praying with residents to leading worship and giving short talks. There are many different roles available that can be tailored to your skills.

One-to-one befriending, once a week/fortnight for one hour: Support a Christian resident or share Christ's love by being a friend to an isolated and lonely resident.

Combination of the above, for those who are able to volunteer more frequently: Visit several homes in a month, taking part in services and befriend a number of residents or "adopt" one particular home by being part of the visiting team, taking part in services and one-to-one visitations throughout each month to enable deeper relationships with the care homes.

Brighton and Hove City Mission team