

Dear Supporters,

Well, we are a month into this new year and so far it feels rather like most of last year! When we look around us, we can feel disappointed, worried, even hopeless, however, when we remember to look to God, our outlook can change. We remember again that we have a faithful, loving, and good Father who never leaves us, who has a plan for our world, who has not lost control, but is very much in control. Psalm 46 verse 1 promises *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble*, and in verse 10 God encourages us to *be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth*. Whatever situation you are in right now, God can be your refuge. Let's keep reminding ourselves of who God is! In order to help us look to God, we will be posting Bible verses each Monday on our main Facebook page. We would love you to like and follow us by clicking this link: <https://www.facebook.com/brightonandhovacitymission>.

Many care homes across Brighton and Hove continue to watch Christian services on a weekly basis that our team have produced for YouTube and DVD. It is amazing that God uses a pandemic to enable us to serve him in a new way. Until the pandemic hit, the residents were presented with a monthly service, however, many are now worshipping weekly! Through regular conversations, our team have found care homes staff are working long hours to cover absences, whilst looking after residents with the COVID-19 virus. It has been a privilege for our team to be a listening ear to those who care for the residents and a blessing to have the opportunity to pray for them over the phone. When one staff member was told that our team was praying for the staff each week, they responded with: "just hearing that gives me goosebumps and my eyes are filling up".

Kindness is the theme of the Schools team assembly this month. Being kind to each other is something that we can all be reminded of, especially at this time, as everyone is affected by the pandemic. The assembly focuses on the attitude of kindness, with our team presenting a story using a Lego stop motion sketch featuring Disney characters! The heroes and villains each learn about all the different ways that they can be kind to each other and how they should treat one another how they would want to be treated. As always, the assembly will be sent out to all primary schools in our city. Please join us in praying for the schools we currently have no connection with and that the assemblies would be widely shared within school communities as a lot of teaching is done remotely at this time. In addition to this, our team continue to support Christians in education with the Off The Fence Schools and Youth Team. They have decided to create short, accessible, bitesize messages designed to encourage and bless those in education. The link to the first video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/Ns4oY1r8R20>.



Brighton Food Bank continues to operate during this time, serving those in financial crisis. Lockdown creates an added complexity to our service as people are unable to donate gifts in kind in the same capacity. However, the generosity of many is enabling us to buy in the things that our clients need. If you feel led to give financially to Brighton Food Bank, please follow this link: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1016536&stop_mobi=yes.

Every blessing,

Brighton and Hove City Mission team

