

## Good Neighbourhood Group Report April 2020 Claremount Methodist Church



In response to the lockdown Claremount HUB (social supermarket) is growing stronger than ever and we are in communication daily with our other HUBS across Wallasey and 'Feeding Birkenhead' supporting each other to ensure we all have enough food. We have however had to conduct only one person at a time to adhere to the distance guidelines to shop safely. Whilst working we are wearing some measures of PPE (gloves) and cleaning all the surfaces after each customer and brings reassurance for repeat visits.

This has given us the opportunity to engage more and speak (or shout) whilst the community form a queuing system in the carpark. With the blessing of the glorious sunshine this has been an opportunity to reach out and outreach at the same time. We have members of the congregation and the community supporting and working alongside us as most of our own congregation volunteers have been isolated. Opening on Thursdays and Fridays brings joy to both the community and the church as we have been made bird boxes, a family has decorated our tree stump situated outside the HUB as a way of saying thank you to us as a church, we feel united and friendship is building stronger with the community. We do give a little message of Hope to everyone who visits, as we all need to keep Jesus in the centre of all we do.



On Tuesday mornings both myself and Doreen (pastoral worker) attend a morning prayer at 8am to pray for the schoolteachers of St Georges School opposite Claremount Church. The teachers would also join in or ask us to Pray for them, we have built up strong relationships in our outreach work. During the lockdown of both schools and Churches, prayer and communication is still much needed, we now pray over a different platform using a WhatsApp group for us to connect, and this is going well.

Giving thanks for all technology, myself and the management team are in contact with Zoom meetings and this is lovely to see everybody. The Toddler group has a WhatsApp group so I can keep in touch with all parents/carers and forward on any resources or to signpost them to the relevant support if needed.

Our English Café for asylum/refugee classes meets over Zoom 2 or 3 times a week. We have joined in with the Birkenhead class to teach English and to share the Gospel together keeping to the same routine.

Updating pages of the HUB and the church on Facebook is important as more people have turned to technology as a form of communication and this has brought more people into the HUB for us to get to know the community far better.



As not all people have internet, I have supported Geoff (church member) by putting him in touch with my home church to enable church members to be a part of the fellowship during service to listen to God's word. Through this call service, once called (local number) and charged at a local rate they can listen to a shorter Sunday Morning Service which has been delivered by the church by calling 0151 317 3017

Claremount runs a Monday Bible Study with the regular Christian worship which is on hold but they are now looking into picking up the studies with an online group using Zoom or some other digital aid.

Amanda Pauls , Community Worker