

LBC Update

January 2021



What's been going on?

Christmas 2020



The church looked wonderfully festive - just a shame that the tree wasn't quite so obliging!!

During advent we were able to have a small, socially distanced service in the warmth of the church for those who don't have regular access to the online services. Meanwhile others braved wind and rain to meet for a drive-in service at the Dale's farm on the 13th Dec. And we were blessed by clear, star filled skies for our Candlelit service on Dec 20th and were able to enjoy some joyful carol singing washed down by hot chocolate and mince pies.



Our young families had fun dressing up and visiting LBC family in the run up to Christmas



Angels update



In November a small group started to knit angels and by December 1st the first fifty were ready to hang on the church railings. They were quickly taken and replaced. In total nearly 130 angels have been 'rehomed'. Each angel was accompanied by a Scripture verse - ***"The angel said 'Do not be afraid. I bring you tidings of great joy...a Saviour has been born'"*** and an invitation to join us as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour. This project was one way of showing our love to our community and has opened up several conversations with passers-by.

Anne

Pamper hampers update

Sarah and I have been overwhelmed by the amount we have been able to put in these pampering bags! Thanks so much to everyone for helping us with this. We have been able to make 20 jam packed bags for the ladies and put some leftover money towards putting together some more mens' gift bags too, which Josh Harris organised. The



for

bags were handed out to people who came along to the Food Share sessions in the week running up to Christmas.

Leanna

One of the recipients wrote... "Thank you for the lovely presents, especially the socks. They're lush. It was the first time in years that I've had something to open on Christmas day and everything I got was stuff that I badly needed! It was so lovely - thank you so much!!"

Craftathon update



Wellbeing officers Charlene and assistant Andrea at Norfolk House were thrilled by the numbers joining the recent fundraising Craftathon. Very different from last year, there was no pleasant afternoon crafting supported by tea and seasonal goodies. Tenants at Norfolk House, Eaton Close and LBC folk purchased craft kits to create bauble shaped Christmas cards or decorations, working at home. The photo shows how some of the participants at NH used the kits to send messages to each other via the Christmas Tree when Covid regulations advised no visits to each other's flats. Charlene was pleased that so many joined in and even more delighted to send

off the following amounts from the craft activity and donations - £182 to the Dementia Society and £62 to Mind. So they would like to convey their thanks to all who supported this event and hope to see you all together for craft and tea maybe in 2021...when Covid free?

Sue Downey

Ministry And Mission

Checkpoint



After being reconciled to his brothers, Joseph reassures them with these words: *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."* Genesis 50:20. Joseph was confident that God was in control and had a plan even during the toughest of times.

Reflecting on this verse, I felt strongly that CheckPoint could echo that thought. This year could have easily felt like the toughest of times; after all, operating schools' work when all the schools are closed sounds like an impossible task! However, looking back over the year, I praise God that He was in control and continued to bless the work.

Highlights from the last 12 months include:

- The week with the Capernwray students at the end of February. It seems a lifetime ago now, but, as always, the children loved meeting new people and the team did a great job of sharing the Gospel in assemblies and Spotlight Clubs.

- Providing 'Spotlight Clubs from Home' meant that the good news of Jesus reached whole families.
- The positive reception of schools to the various resources CheckPoint sent out during the lockdowns.
- The warm welcome received from those schools that I have been able to visit since September, along with the expressions of appreciation for what CheckPoint offers.
- Learning new skills. It has been a challenge getting to grips with YouTube, video editing, Zoom assemblies and the other new technologies!
- The impetus to find new, creative ways to engage with schools.

Looking forward to 2021, I hope that, before long, more schools will open their doors to visitors and I'll be able to deliver more assemblies in person. Spotlight at Home and CheckPoint assemblies will continue to be available on our website and YouTube channel. If you know of families that might enjoy using the resources, please point them in our direction. During my sabbatical over the summer, it was great to have the time for extra Bible study and reading and I hope to keep this going as much as possible next term.

The Trustees and I are so grateful to God for the way He has been a 'very present help in time of trouble' and made it possible for CheckPoint's purpose of 'sharing the good news of Jesus' to continue during this difficult time. Thank you so much for the part you have played in the ministry of CheckPoint, not least through your faithful prayers and generous giving. We are truly humbled and grateful.

Joe

New Life - Holiday Bible School



Our holiday bible school was very different this year due to the pandemic. But it was a challenge that the New Life team was determined to take on because we have faced separation from the children throughout the year – contact with families has only been through their mums. It was a challenge that we had to face and overcome with the help of God – our

biggest fear was that parents wouldn't allow their children to come for fear of infection. We were also concerned about how the children might behave after months away from school and mission activities combined with all the fear and other emotions that the current situation has produced.

However we can testify that God is faithful and we have been awed by the way God acted during the course of the week. Around 80 children came along - they were really interested in the topics, turned up punctually and got really involved in each activity, eagerly awaiting what was to come whilst being really careful around the protocols we had to put in place.



They listened well during the teaching sessions, had loads of questions, eagerly looked up bible quotes and had fun filling in their worksheets.

As a result we can say with confidence that God continues to use the team at New Life to bring hope of abundant life to the people of Santa Faz. As a team we feel privileged by the call that God has put on our lives to serve these people. And we believe that as a team, with God's help, we can be part of His work in transforming our nation. Thank you to everyone at LBC for their love, prayers and support.

Adonia and Julio

Yorkshire Camps update

This month has been very jam packed and busy as we have created tonnes of online content to put out online. Firstly we produced three ten minute Christmas assemblies to send out to local schools and I believe they have been used further afield as well. Normally at this time of year the local schools would come to the hall for a morning as well but as that couldn't happen we did an interactive video for them to use at school instead that included crafts, games and teaching. During advent we have been posting minute long advent devotions on Instagram based around the names of Jesus. I spoke about him being the vine for one of them and our redeemer in another. Finally, this last week our series of online Christmas Camps came out on Youtube and have had a very wide viewing so far. They were filled with fun, songs, games, quizzes, good teaching, a memory verse and even the Great Yorkshire Camps Bake Off! The assemblies and camps can all be found on our Youtube channel if you're ever interested in seeing them.

I was not expecting this much filming and editing when I signed up for this but it has been a fantastic experience! I'm now much more confident in front of cameras, doing filming and editing videos. It's been quite amazing because the online stuff is reaching a much bigger audience than just running camps with limited spaces so I hope that we're able to continue to produce online things in the new Year.

The zoom bible studies on Wednesday evenings have also been a great success as we ran some sessions towards Christmas. We're praying that the children will have picked up lots and have been blessed by the sessions and the discussions. It has been really nice to chat to them and share with them, even if it has been over zoom. While producing content is fantastic, there's nothing like a good discussion with somebody face to face and hopefully the time has really helped them and taught them some new things. I certainly discovered new things as I read through the book that we based the discussions from. They went so well that we are going to run them again in the new year.

After a very busy month we're having a month of holiday through December so I'm now back with my family in Herefordshire. Our next mission is the New Year camp which has traditionally been one of the most important camps of the year, always being very highly booked. This year we're running a two hour zoom on New Year's Eve instead which we're all prepared for and looking forward to.

Thankyou for the constant support I have been receiving from everyone helping to make this happen. So much is able to go ahead despite the virus and I'm confident that it will be the same in the new year.

Alex Gloag

BCM update

The Birmingham City Mission website says

"We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people donating to our ToyLink project. So much so that we now have enough to provide for all the families referred! Thank you very much indeed for your support"

Raised out of £ 5000.00 target

£ 9615.42

Including Gift Aid: **£ 11143.36**

Raised offline: **£ 0.00**

LBC family

Our best wishes to Henry as he celebrates his 1st birthday on January 7th and, at the other end of the age spectrum, congratulations to Penry as he celebrates his 90th birthday on January 25th.

Marie writes... *"As infection rates rise and the country locks down once again, if you, or anyone you know, needs help with shopping or anything else, please ring me and I'll get it sorted"*

Gemma Moore writes....*"I thought it would be cool if you could put my website onto the LBC newsletter so others could have a look at my art and brighten up the various, never ending covid lockdown restrictions!!"*

Visit Gemma's art on <https://gemmamooreart.wordpress.com>

Life

Still hoping to fill this section in future newsletters with your testimonies - life stories, how God has spoken to you during the pandemic over to you!!!

Coming Up

Another reminder that **Friday March 5th** is the **World Day of Prayer** (formally known as the Women's World Day of Prayer). It is our turn to host the service which has been prepared by Christian Women in Vanuatu on the theme "Building on a strong foundation". At this moment we are not sure what form the service will take - in an ideal world, it will be at LBC at 2pm but it may end up being on-line. Whatever form it takes, we would appreciate your prayers and support.

The next **LBC Update** will be coming out during the first week in February. Please send contributions - news, forthcoming activities, testimonies, photos etc. - to Chris at riceandco@hotmail.com

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