

BLACKPOOL

CENTRE OF MISSION

September Newsletter: *Loving God and Neighbour in the New Normal*

Like everyone in the United Kingdom and abroad, the Blackpool Centre of Mission (CoM) is accommodating to the new normality. From our last newsletter, many changes took place, and we want to share those developments with you. Despite the ever-changing times, we continue striving to serve and love the community of Grange Park and Blackpool.



Kidz Klub & Summer Holiday Club

This year Holiday Club was an unusual combination. Because of lockdown restrictions, the programme was a mix of online content and daily visits on Layton and Grange Park. A team led by Evangelist Matt Rowley delivered activity sheets, meals and social media content to more than 50 kids for a week. A team of staff and volunteers organised stories, prayers, teaching, funny videos and choreographies that were streamed daily through Facebook and Youtube. A total of 250 meals were delivered through the week, and a significant number of parents and kids enjoyed the online content. One of the highlights of the week was the *Kidz Club Bear vs Iron Man* adventures! The kids loved it!



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Hope Community Church



In the "new normal", Hope Community Church (HCC) has been functioning through social media and personal presence.

In the past few months, HCC has been meeting twice a week on its Facebook group. The Sunday service has moved to the garden of St Michael's vicarage (Matt's house) until HCC can meet at @The Grange. We are working towards the right and safe time to go back to meeting with a larger group.

In the past few months, the church started a weekly discipleship group. As a church, we want to grow in discipleship, thus we are learning about the core beliefs of Christian Doctrine. HCC also has a monthly bingo night through a private Facebook group for the residents of Grange Park. Bingo nights have been a great way to build fellowship in the area. Finally, we continue providing donations from *Pets at Home*. These donations have been well received, and they are a great way to love our neighbours and build bridges.

Youth Ministry- Thomas Community

Javier continues leading the youth group newly named 'Thomas Community'. In the past few months, the group has been meeting at a safe distance in the vicarage garden. The members have a firm commitment to the youth group, despite the different variations with COVID restrictions. The 'Thomas Community' is becoming a solid group, which reaches the goal of creating and developing youth disciples on Grange Park.

As a youth evangelist, Javier has spent significant time in the past few months working on the *Blackpool Deanery Youth Project*. The project aims to



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know the dynamics of youth discipleship in the area and enhance future partnerships to reach the young people of Blackpool deanery. The first part of the project conducted a study with twelve parishes in the area, and the results will be delivered in the monthly regional (deanery) meeting. The next phase of the project will involve forming partnerships across churches to deliver youth outreach plans in the area.

Lastly, Javier is working on starting a youth running club on Grange Park. He wants to promote health and fitness amongst the youth on the estate. He also believes that this could be a good point of contact to start developing stronger ties with the youth of Grange Park.

Exciting New Developments

The CoM is working with a professional developer to create a brand new website. We are hoping the website will go live by the end of the year. There is also a plan to produce a mobile app in the first quarter of 2021. These developments shall enhance the CoM to have a noticeable and effective presence in the community.

Personal Updates

Matt will start his ordination training to become a priest with the Church of England this month. He will be studying part-time for two years at All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry. The programme is for people who want to get ordained whilst continuing working. The training shall enable Matt to develop his ministry and become an ordained evangelist within the Church of England.

Prayer Requests

- For the team of the CofM
- For wisdom to navigate the different circumstances with COVID.
- For Matt and his family
- For Matt's ordination studies.
- For Javier's projects with Blackpool Deanery Youth Project



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We are so grateful for those who already provide financial support. If you don't currently do so, please consider whether you could make a one-off or regular gift to support this vital work.

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ESS codes - Matt 2012MRO and Javier's is 2020JSA

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us.

Thank you!

Captain Matthew Rowley

Pioneer Javier Ricardo Salcido



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