

Sharing Our Story...

Responding to the Coronavirus

Farnworth Baptist Church

Farnworth Baptist Church is a church absolutely committed to serving and reaching its local community with the love of God. They demonstrate this in practical ways through their foodbank, work club, TLG centre, community café and Eden team to name but a few things. Despite all the restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus, the church has continued to seek to be a light for their community at this time. So it came as a real shock and unpleasant surprise for the church to discover that some time overnight on March 25, the church building was broken into. Thieves did extensive damage to the site, stole the church safe and £500 in cash, as well as other equipment from the community centre

John Bradbury, Farnworth's minister, remains unshaken in his resolve to reach the community at this time. He shares, "Everyone is fine, we were a bit shaken up on Thursday morning but we soon got through that., and the community has rallied around us. We put out an initial Facebook post about what has happened, local councillors picked up on it and it's reached 20,000 people so far. We've had calls from people asking how can they donate. Of course, the tricky thing is many people can't get out. We've had local radio stations ringing us up and lots of good publicity at this stage.

As a church we have a foodbank here and we look after a number of vulnerable children. We've re-deployed to foodbank. Many of our volunteers who are over 70 have been sent home, but our coffee shop staff and work club staff have been redeployed to foodbank. Our TLG centre is still running. We've still got a number of kids there, and some who are self isolating, but we're getting lunches out to them. Our advice and guidance workers are working from home in supporting people, giving advice, helping people get their benefits and Universal Credit so it's very busy at this time.



Pray that we all keep well, and for the stamina to keep going. It's tiring doing all we are doing but in less hours, and we are making it up as we go along a bit, trusting in the Lord that things will come. It's incredibly tiring....supporting the community, running the church, going online, doing all that... prayers for the health and strength to keep going are appreciated!"

How are you and your church loving and serving your community at this time? How might the church be remembered in your town after at this?