

# Sharing Our Story...

## Responding to the Coronavirus

### Hoole Baptist Church, Chester

Andy and Sue Glover head Hoole Baptist Church in Chester, Cheshire. Before the Coronavirus hit the church was already carrying a vision for its community: "HBC is a church with a vision to bring healing, wholeness and freedom to broken lives and communities as we expect great things from God and attempt great things with God." Andy and Sue embodied this as the lockdown began, encouraging members to be beacons of light at this time. Andy shares, "We've got members of our congregation to take the initiative and set up a 'WhatsApp' group chat for their street. We have already got approximately a dozen of these groups up and running for support and shopping etc. It's a great way to get to know your neighbours. This got picked up by local authority as a good news story as Sue and I did this ourselves. (The following wording comes from the Cheshire West and Chester Council website, highlighting this initiative)

'Andy and Sue live on a small street of eleven houses. Before the lockdown took effect, they decided to invite all their neighbours to join a WhatsApp group so that they could offer support to each other if need be. Aware that one neighbour did not use a mobile phone, Andy got in touch with her daughter to make sure that she was aware of the help on offer. But unfortunately it was Andy and Sue themselves who came down with the symptoms of COVID-19 first, but neighbours have helped them with shopping during the 14 days they have been self-isolating.

Both being on the leadership team of a local church, Andy and Sue have kept their routine going by live streaming church services and using Facebook Live for daily prayer sessions.

Top Tip: WhatsApp is great, but you might need to consider turning off your notifications and instead choosing when you want to catch up with people. You also need to consider those who might not have access to it!

***What could you do to reach out to those around you with practical demonstrations of the love of God at this time?***

