

# Sharing Our Story...

## Responding to the Coronavirus

### Clayton le Moors Baptist Church



Two miles north of Accrington in Lancashire, the congregation from Clayton le Moors Baptist Church are making a huge difference in their local community at this time. While a relatively small church, they are being used in a big way and building on the things they were doing before this crisis began. Pastor Anne Lincoln shares their story:

‘We are extremely busy. This past week alone, we delivered food parcels to 140 homes. With each parcel, we put a Bible, a child story book and a leaflet. We have had beautiful feedback from people almost in tears, thanking us for the Bible. People have also been asking us to pray for them and their loved ones. Even before this crisis started, the Lord has blessed us, above and beyond our dreams! The council has come alongside us; our MP joined with us to deliver parcels, the local councilors have become our helpers. Money from the council has been available to us through the Hyndburn HUB (of which we are part of).

The helpers are a mix of people - some are church-goers, some are atheists, some are many things - and they are amazing! The Lord has opened a door to share His love and power. People here are witnessing the favour of God towards us and they are amazed! People take me as I am, and I take them as they are, and that in itself is an open door as people share more about themselves; their faith, or lack of faith, their struggles and hopes. People come in to talk, to cry, to receive prayer - what a wonderful God we serve!

Since the crisis started as most people from the fellowship are keeping safe in their homes, the church has been able to do a number of things for them: There are regular phone calls to ensure they are ok, to encourage and see if they need anything; words of encouragement have been and continue to be posted on Facebook; We have a livestream for 20 minutes every Sunday at 10 a.m.”

In the midst of this, Anne has faced personal tragedy; her beautiful aunt from Reading passed away last week from Covid 19, and she is finding the busyness very tiring. Despite this, she writes also of God's provision and support:

“I get home and I go to bed early. I am in the Word a lot. The Bible is on my desk, opened with paper and pen for when I hear the Lord speak to me. I am a bit tired and I thank the Lord that He renews my strength every day. He is teaching me to be totally reliant upon Him, especially that now my husband (a builder) does not work and I have three children in the house, and the cats! The Lord is showing me His provision, His love, His strength and His great power. He is my Comforter. I got the news about my aunt just before I went live on Good Friday! The Lord carried me through. He is faithful. He dries my tears and hugs me with His Word. I am blessed indeed... There will be an amazing harvest for the Kingdom in the world! Praise God!”

