

Sharing Our Story...

Aintree Baptist Church, Liverpool



Geoff Bentley is the minister of Aintree Baptist Church, and here he shares something of the church's journey during the past year, and how they've been responding to the needs of their local community in light of Covid...

"The church got off to a good start in January, we had just started a new care team; Jolly babies (our mother and baby/toddler group) was well attended, and services were going well.. Then of course in March we had our first lockdown, a first for all of us, the Government closing churches. What was the world coming to?"

It took us a while to get organised, but gradually we began to put together content for the church, a thought for the day on email and a regular newsletter to keep people up to date. We already had had monthly prayer letters, so they went out on email. Like many, we moved our Sunday morning services and Bible study on to Zoom.

This did cause some problems as we realised there were members of our congregation who did not have access to the internet or the technical ability to use Zoom, so they were missing out. We addressed this by making sermon notes available after the service so they can be printed off, then delivered or posted to those who have no access and the prayer letters also go out the same way. In addition our care team increased contact with the congregation - regular phone calls, cards or emails to check everyone was well. We have tried to keep up the social side of church with a quiz night on Zoom.

In September the church building was given a new lease of life when we were able to open it up to the Army for a Covid Lateral Flow Testing Centre. This was attended by over 20,000 people and was active until the end of the year. Several people from the church visited the soldiers over this time with cakes and biscuits which were well received by the mainly young soldiers. It is our prayer that some of the people who visited the church over this period for testing may come and join us in worship when all this is over.



One thing we have all learned this year is a church is more than a building or even a computer screen. We have had to use a variety of resources to show our church friends and family we care about them. One which is becoming more appreciated is pen and ink, old fashioned letters and cards. We may not be able to meet together in person yet, but we can all still meet with God who never leaves us or forsakes us."