



Ruth Sayers

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Location: Britain



What I do: Church worker showing Christ in the community through helping people get back into work, assisting with Bible studies, pastoral care and more.

Dear friends,

Greetings to you all. Happy New Year!

A new year and new challenges! Christmas, as you would expect, was rather busy with activities and the work of the Food Club. The Food Club has been running for nearly two years now and those registered with us has increased to well over 100 families. Our faithful team has been able to support families with food, refreshments, the opportunity to talk with energy advisors and a listening ear, which has meant we have been able to create some very positive relationships. In partnership with local organisations, 10 families received a Christmas hamper, which made Christmas for them so much easier. The supply of food has mostly been good. FareShare are supporting us and every Tuesday we have a delivery that is distributed on Wednesday mornings.



Feast of Fun activities for children and parents/ carers continue to be well-attended

Wednesday mornings create opportunities for contacts and so many of those who come bring their families to Messy Church or our very well attended Feast of Fun activities. I have shared with you before how Feast of Fun operates and the need for this has not diminished. After providing a sandwich lunch, we offer games, craft activities – painting being one of the most popular – and a play mat for the youngest attenders. Parents and carers accompany their children and help also in just managing the situation. The most recent Feast of Fun took place just before the children went back to school. Prayers would be appreciated for both the Food Club and Feast of Fun and for the helpers, particularly that we have enough for each occasion. All the activities are dependent on the goodwill of our volunteers and without them it would be difficult to do what we do in Devonport.

One of the pictures included in this letter is of a rack of coats. Our local library is offering coats that have been donated to anyone who needs them. This is part of the services offered linked to the library and to the activities we offer.

Part of my work in Devonport is visiting and taking a service in a community facility for the elderly. Devonport Views was the first building on the new housing development and is a collection of individual

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



and staff the opportunity to sing carols and hear a short talk. City College is a well-respected college of further education in the south west and offers many courses that give students a gateway into employment as well as university.

School continues to challenge. Our headteacher has been in the post for 18 months now and is leading the school on the back of an Ofsted inspection last academic year. I was appointed Chair of Governors for another year at the AGM. I am well supported by a new deputy chair who comes with much enthusiasm and energy. We have had to suspend temporarily our nursery facility for the coming year due to the lack of numbers of children. This is a problem across Plymouth and challenges the availability of suitable nursery provision for 2,3- and 4-year-olds for 2024/25. This will have a knock-on effect for the whole school in the coming years.

There are many things to pray for. The work continues and we are able to offer help where we can. The cost-of-living difficulties are still with us and it does not feel that things have much improved. Please pray that we can meet the needs of those who ask and those who come to Messy Church and Feast of Fun. As helpers, we have seen God at work in individuals and in our volunteers.

Thank you for all your support.

Ruth

flats with communal areas including a bistro and a large lounge. The residents are mostly from Devonport or the immediate area and there is a lovely atmosphere as you walk in. Very early on in my time in Devonport, the opportunity arose to go into the facility to take a short service every fortnight. It began with a carol service and has developed into a regular service, which has become a feature of the social programme offered to the residents. We sing along to a CD followed by a Bible reading and short talk. Recently on my visit the service finished and turned into a question-and-answer session of various topics varying from people in the Bible to does God really exist. One person who professed to be agnostic agreed at the end that the greatest gift we can give to each other is love.

I continue to volunteer as assistant chaplain at City College. I was able to lead both the Remembrance event and the Carol Service. The Remembrance event was well attended, including by the Principal. The Carol Service gave the students



Photos: Enjoying Feast of Fun activities; donated coats in the library; Remembrance event at City College



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