

STOREHOUSE UPDATE – MAY

Dear Parish,

I would like to start by expressing my thanks to every one of you for your ongoing interest and support of all that we are doing here at Restore Hope. So much has happened since we last wrote to you that it's difficult to know where to begin!

Thanks to your generous donations, we have hit our target of £40,000 for the Easter appeal, which enabled us to pack and distribute 7000 Easter eggs with Easter magazines, as well as 1100 Kids 'Big Boxes of Hope' packed with toys, games and craft activities.

We have received so many encouraging messages, like these below, from families who have been blessed. "Out the blue today there was a delivery of gifts and eggs for the children. It was so overwhelming that you think of us so much and take the time to go out of your way to make my children happy. I really don't know where I would be without you."

"You have really put a smile on the girls' faces at this sad and uncertain time! You really are a life changing charity - thank you so much, it's appreciated beyond belief... You've put a big smile on my face today and I'm so grateful."

We have also packed 1200 boxes of non-perishable food, and are now partnering with over 60 organisations from across the region. None of this would be possible without our incredible team of volunteers from over 28 different churches who are involved in every aspect of our work from administration to gardening to delivering food packs. If you would like to volunteer with us, we would love to hear from you - please email volunteer@restorehopelatimer.org with your details.

In addition to this, our Families team are continuing to provide daily support for families facing difficult circumstances and personal crisis.

Lastly we wanted to let you know about our most recent initiative, FoodLife, started as a way to support families impacted financially by the Covid-19 crisis. As such, we are now sourcing, packing and distributing fresh food boxes containing fresh fruit and veg, as well as "A Dinner is Served" - a range of delicious frozen meals direct to people's doorsteps, and have already raised over £70,000 of our £100,000 target to enable this to happen. Anyone wishing to donate can do so at www.restorehopelatimer.org/donate

However, FoodLife is much more than simply supplying emergency food. Once we are fully open, we will recommence our Hope Café Community providing a place for local families to meet, eat and find support and friendship. We are also expanding our Community Garden and are creating a brand new market garden to produce larger amounts of homegrown produce. (We are always looking for gardening volunteers - please email us if this appeals to you!) We will also be running FoodLife courses covering everything from cooking, budgeting, and food hygiene through to gardening and health and wellbeing. And we are planning to use our homegrown produce in our Celebration events! We believe that FoodLife will continue to bring hope to hundreds across the region in all sorts of ways from crisis support to equipping them for future employment.

We hope this has given you a taste of what we have been doing over the last few weeks. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to get involved in any way, or if you have any questions. Once again, thank you so much for all your support.

Kind Regards,
Graham Wakeman
Director