

We are grateful for any donation
from our shopping list



HOPE

Pentecost 2016 | No 15

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Gospel of St John 14:15-18

Welcome to the fifteenth Hope+ newsletter.

Walking in Witness

If you are reading this on Pentecost Sunday, then you will know that in celebration of what many see as the festival of the birth of the Christian Church, we walk. We walk from one Cathedral to another, celebrating our shared Christian faith. In this part of the country Whit walks are still a very important tradition for many local churches and the wider community; and although they trace their origins to a celebration of the coronation of George IV, today in our diverse world they very much symbolize a coming together of all members of our communities. The image in Acts 2:5 of the streets of Jerusalem, filled with people from every nation of the earth, is a very apposite one for our ethnically and culturally diverse city today.

Rather like **Hope+** where we seek to help any who are in need of our support. Wherever they live in the city, and wherever they have come from; they are all our neighbours. Two months into our fourth calendar year, we are already past the milestone of having provided **27,000** food hampers: or to put that another way just over 406,000 meal portions. Like the crowd in Jerusalem, our volunteers come from around the globe, united in the common cause of helping people just like us.

HOPE

SHOPPING LIST

We gratefully receive any items on this list.

Milk (UHT or powdered)
Baby formula
Toiletries
Cooking Oil
Fruit juice (carton, long life)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Tomatoes (tinned)
Cereals
Tea bags/instant coffee
Rice/pasta
Tinned meat/fish
Tinned vegetables
Biscuits or snack bar
Nappies
Feminine Hygiene Products

Collection boxes are situated in Liverpool Cathedral
in the South Nave Aisle by the Tower Entrance.

Fill These Shelves

Anyone who is involved with any charity is familiar with so called “Compassion fatigue”. In Liverpool, this does not really exist, because this has to be one of the most generous and compassionate cities in the world. However, we do recognise that when your activity depends on having to ask people for donations week in, week out, it can be difficult to find innovative ways to encourage people to give regularly.

So we have decided to keep it simple:

Please help us to **#FillTheseShelves**

We know we asked you to help us do this last year, but we need to keep doing it, this year, next year, and in all probability for many years to come.

We wish we didn't have to, we wish we were not needed at all, but whilst any person, for whatever reason, in this city, needs our help, then we would hope to be able to provide some **Hope+**

Usually around now, we would be telling you how much busier we will be in the summer months. This year, we are already seeing the sort of numbers we would not expect to see until the second half of July. This means that we are already experiencing the sort of shortages in certain items that we normally have an abundance of. Basic staples such as pasta and rice, tinned fish, and tinned tomatoes; even our tea mountain has become a hillock, but if you get through 3,000 tea bags each week, perhaps that is no great surprise!

Our major problem in the coming months is as always, people take a well deserved break. In order to do that they save up, cutting back on non essentials; and when they return, they are more often than not spent up! At the same time, people on the ever increasing zero hours contracts, or those whose low earnings qualify them for Universal Credit whose benefit entitlement has been cut this month, struggle to provide the basics. For those newly arrived asylum seekers, having fled war and human rights abuses, there is the challenge of living on £35 per week. For those with young families summer is the most expensive time of year, and that is before all the expense of new uniforms to go back to school in. Little surprise then that teachers tell us of children returning in September, visibly thinner than when they left in July.

This why at this time of year, we need to ask for your to help now. We know you've heard it all before, we know it feels as though you are being asked to support the same things week in, week out; we cannot apologise. If the Holy Spirit cannot live in the world, but only in us, then we need to live it out in the world. By our deeds are we known.

How You Can Help Us Help Those Most In Need

- **Why not mark the birth of the Christian Church with a birthday present for Hope+?**
- **Get together with a group of friends and/or colleagues and establish a regular collection, our eager van SCIPIO can collect; or place an order with a supermarket and have it delivered to directly to our store at St James House**
- **Continue to support Hope+ with regular donations from our new, healthier shopping list**
- **Make a cash donation, gift aided if you are a UK tax payer**
- **Make a regular donation by setting up a standing order**
- **Use social media, or good old word of mouth, to spread the word and encourage others to support our work.**

Pentecost is a time for thanksgiving for the gift of the Holy Spirit, and at **Hope+** we have many to thank for helping us to support such a large number of people. When **Hope+** first opened, we estimated that we might see around 1,500 people each year. That we have been able to help and support over 24,000 in just over three years has only been possible because of so much generosity; but we need that support to continue. So here are just some we need to say a **HUGE** thank you to:

- **Our wonderful Volunteers, who turn up week in, week out, providing comfort, support and a cheerful welcome to all our guests no matter who the guest is or what their problems may be.**
- **The schools of this city, who have provided many huge donations; especially the primary school children of St Silas, St Cleopas, St Vincent's, St Nicholas, and St Agnes; also the students of Bellerive FCJ College, St Julie's RC College, Liverpool College, King David School, and Liverpool Life Sciences University Technical College & The Studio.**
- **Both Cathedrals and St Luke in the City team; also Liverpool Parish Church, Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, St Michael in the Hamlet, St Anne's Aigburth, St Claire's York Avenue, St Mary's West Derby, St Peter's churches in Formby and Woolton, and Liverpool Quaker Meeting House. Finally yourselves, for every tin, packet, tube of toothpaste, woolly hat, cash donation, and prayer offered.....**THANK YOU****