

Bryn Sion Baptist Church Story

Bryn Sion Baptist Church has been operational in the heart of Trecynon since 2004. In March 2020 when Covid-19 lockdown first began, in my role as Wellbeing Coordinator for Cynon North, I approached the Church to find out whether they were providing support to people in the local community. I spoke with Ian, the Minister, Paul, the Church Elder and Alys, the Youth and Community Officer.

Paul and Alys instantly gathered a team of dedicated and committed volunteers who could offer support those most in need in the local community. They supported over 50 people multiple times with food parcels, shopping trips, prescription pickups, dog walking and friendly phone calls. The response to their support and the positive impact they have had on people's lives and the community has been overwhelming.

In May I was approached by a care worker who asked if anyone was able to organise activity packs for local care homes. My first port of call was Bryn Sion who jumped at the chance to continue supporting more people! They had a team of eight young people available due to school and college closures who volunteered to pilot the project. Starting with one activity pack for a local care home in Trecynon, through generous donations from TK Maxx and from the Church congregation we were able to create eight packs for other care homes in the area all in the first week of operation! The packs were warmly welcomed, they contained a variety of games and activities for residents who were becoming increasingly lonely and isolated during lockdown as visiting had been put on hold.

In total Bryn Sion Church have twenty two volunteers supporting the community during C-19 lockdown. They run a multitude of activities both from the church and also in other locations and welcome everyone from surrounding communities. After successfully exceeding their goals with the care home activity packs they are now hoping to apply for funding from the Comic Relief Fund to support 'Operation Kindness' from Bryn Sion, they wish to create family activity packs for families within the community to help them through the summer holidays.

