

opendoor

Mission statement

- To make a positive difference in our community.

Open Door Exmouth
www.opendoorexmouth.org.uk

November 2014

ICE - a busy start to the new term

Our ICE team is in an incredibly privileged position, to be serving the school and it's 2,600 young people. They are investing in young people, building relationships, and giving a Christian message of hope, love and forgiveness. Who knows when in that young person's life they might come back to the words they heard?

The role of ICE in the school has increased quite significantly over the past year, with the successful introduction of the mentoring programme and the Charity Fashion Show event, adding to the existing programme of detached youth work, food distribution to families in need, assemblies and RE lessons. It is a privilege to be able to give the Christian perspective on

questions such as 'what is compassion?', 'what is worship?' and 'why did Jesus die?'. We've just finished a 3 week series of assemblies on the Lords Prayer reaching 450 year 7's. It seems like it's getting harder and harder to encourage young people to attend church so this is such a great opportunity to explain our faith and give them the chance to explore it if they want to.

In September, we were offered a prime spot on the lower site to set up a drop in session called 'the hub'. It's a safe space and a fun environment open every breacktime and lunchtime where students can come and meet new friends and, as youth workers, we can build relationships. We have been seeing up to 60 students each lunchtime!

So many young people today are broken and hurting. We have young people who are self harming, confused in their sexuality, struggling with self esteem and confidence, struggling with anger management issues. Some are from broken families, low income families or from families whose parents work a lot and some who just struggle with the pressures of being a young person.

Do you have a heart for young people? Could you spare a break-time or lunchtime a week to help support the young people in the hub? Or would you be interested in being a mentor? If you're interested in serving the young people of our town through the ICE project, please do get in touch. It's truly inspiring work!

A few words from... café poet, David

Recently we set up a 'creative' wall in the café, for people to display their work of art or creative writing. If you have something to share, please drop it into the café and we'll gladly add it to the wall!

For those of you who don't get a chance to come into the café, we thought we'd share a poem with you, written by David Woolger in August 2014.

Boom-Boom Boomerang

**Never Never
make fun of another
perhaps one day
that other will be you**

**Never Never
hate or avenge
maybe one day
you will be the victim**

**Always Always
show love and laughter
and yours one day
will be grace everafter**

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all the local churches and schools who have supported Open Door Exmouth this Harvest. We are truly grateful for all the donations and pray God's blessing for all those who gave and for all those who will benefit from the donations.



'Make Lunch' - filling the holiday hunger gap

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Please pray for:

- Give thanks for the exciting start to the year that ICE has had. Pray for each child coming into contact with the ICE team, that they will feel valued and receive the support that they need. Pray for the ICE staff and volunteers, for strength and wisdom, and for more volunteers so that ICE can do more and more for the school!

- Give thanks for the children at the contact centre who are really benefitting from positive contact with their absent parent. Pray for continued wisdom for the staff and volunteers as they try to support the families as best they can.

- Pray for the Men's Shed team as they seek to develop a bigger, more suitable 'shed'. Pray for the right location to be found and approval given so that building work can start. Also, pray that word spreads about the shed so more and more Exmouth men have the opportunity to come along.

- Give thanks for Kit who has settled into the café team well and pray for some volunteers who are happy to be on an 'emergency list' for those days when we find ourselves short.

- Give thanks for the new volunteers who have started with Nightshift and for all the Nightshift volunteers for their commitment, especially as we enter the wintery months!

This Summer we responded to a BBC2 programme called, 'Breadline Kids', which highlighted the issue that many families face who, during term time are eligible for free school meals and during the school holidays, find themselves struggling to make ends meet.

Little did we know at the time, but this programme inspired churches and cafes all over the country to set up temporary kitchens in a bid to reach families in need. This national initiative is called 'Make Lunch'.

We worked with Exmouth Community College to contact families eligible for free school

meals and during our trial launch this Summer, we welcomed four families into the café. Without exception, the feedback we received, from both the parents and the children, was wonderful.



We are certain that there are many other families who would benefit from this support during the holidays but we understand that it takes a while for word to

spread and going to a new environment can be intimidating. Therefore, we will be joining with the national 'Make Lunch' initiative and offering free meals for all eligible children from Exmouth Community College during the school holidays with low cost meals for parents should they also want to eat at the café. If you know of a family who could benefit from this scheme, please let them know. If you are a parent and would like further information, or you're a local primary school who would also like to be involved, please call 01395 224218 or email info@opendoorexmouth.org.uk.

And finally... Christmas!!

Sorry if it seems a bit early to be talking about Christmas but this is just a little 'heads up' that we will be holding our annual Christmas Day meal this year! Doors will open at 11:30am for a time of reflection to remember those who cannot be with us and to light a candle. Then at 11:45am we will open the doors for the meal! We will start with a few carols and then have a delicious Turkey (vegetarian alternative available) dinner with all the trimmings. After lunch there will be a chance to chat, play games or watch a Christmas movie and we'll close at 3pm. It's all free of charge and is open to anyone

who would like to come.

The sign up sheet for the Christmas Day meal will go up in Open Door on the 1st December so if you would like to register to attend, please come in to add your name from the 1st onwards. Spaces are limited!

If you would like to volunteer, we would be so grateful of your help, either on Christmas Eve as we prepare the vegetables, wrap presents and decorate the centre, or on Christmas Day, from serving food to washing up, singing carols to socializing. If you have chef experience, we would also really welcome your help as this is Kit's first Christmas in the kitchen!

If you can help this Christmas, please get in touch by emailing info@opendoorexmouth.org.uk or call 01395 224218 to find out more.



Date for your diary!

**Monday 15th December
7pm**

Christmas Skittles Social to say thank you to all our volunteers and their partners. Please join us for this lovely social evening including a buffet and a game of skittles.

Do you have any spare Christian books? We'd like to fill our café bookcase with helpful, interesting Christian books, from self help to Bible studies to Christian fiction. If you have some you could donate, please do!