

## FSJE report – Laura Jane Tiffney

Whilst on placement with Freedom Church Mereside (FCM), it became apparent that all ministry activities would be online for the foreseeable future, and so I used the money from the grant I received to buy a laptop to allow me to partake more fully in my placement and the life of the church.

FCM streams Morning Prayer every day on a closed Facebook group, and I was able to lead this twice a week. At first, I was nervous, but Rev. Linda was very encouraging and eventually I gained confidence and also lead the weekly prayer meeting on a couple of occasions.

Freedom Church would usually run a holiday club for children on the estate one week during the summer, but due to coronavirus restrictions and the lack of a venue, they moved the holiday club online. With my laptop I was therefore able to help gather ideas, and to assist with filming and editing portions of the holiday club alongside the youth worker Lizzie. We put together packs with craft supplies for each of the children to collect, and it was brilliant to see both them and their parents engaging with the material we posted online.

The social aspect of church is so important, especially for those who live alone. As part of my placement, I organised quiz nights to take place over Zoom on Saturday evenings, which I wouldn't have been able to do without a laptop. I enjoyed getting to know people better, being able to see peoples' faces, and laughing with them. We had a fancy-dress theme each evening and it felt like we were together, even being online.

I finished my placement with FCM at the end of August, and I'm delighted that they have now been able to gather together for their first in-person service since March. I am very grateful for the money I received to help me with this placement with FCM, and my laptop is already serving me well as I begin my studies and a new placement as I start training for ordination.

Many thanks,  
LJ Tiffney