**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR OCTOBER 2016**

Without question this has been a bumper harvest for the Food Bank. Donations have been received from a total of 26 schools and churches and letters of thanks have been sent out to them all. This has inevitably led to a lot of work at our end and I should like to express my huge thanks to all those who gave of their time to come and help. We estimate that we have sorted and date checked in excess of 2,500 tins, packets and jars of food and once again our spare bedroom is unusable for visitors!! We should like to be able to use storage that is all in one place – perhaps a corner of a warehouse that is not being used – and if anyone can help in this respect perhaps you could let Neville or myself know.

The Food Bank itself has not been overly busy this month with 30 adults and 25 children making use of this facility, but we are anticipating the numbers rising with the winter coming on and the cost of petrol and goods rising so it’s great to be so well stocked. As ever there are things that are always needed but not necessarily donated, such as milk, fruit juice and tinned/packet potatoes and as mentioned in my last report, Christmas goodies would be very welcome.

I am sometimes asked if people are misusing or abusing the service we provide. If I am concerned that this may be the case I contact the organisation who have issued the voucher and check with them and often ask the clients themselves – in what I hope is an unthreatening way – what is happening to their benefits. I find it difficult to comprehend how benefits can be stopped whilst problems are sorted out and the clients are supposed to manage with nothing until then.

Earlier in the month we had a group of ladies from South Africa visit us. They are part of an organisation that provide meals for those in need and they were anxious to see how we work. It was good to exchange ideas and to see how they operate.

As ever, I want to thank all of you who have so generously donated goods and money to the Food Bank, we are very blessed.

Jean Burt