**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR OCTOBER 2018**

This has been a very “full - on” month for the Food Bank. We have received an enormous amount of Harvest donations from schools and churches in the area and this has resulted in three extremely busy afternoon sessions of dating, sorting and storing food. I should just like to say a very large thank you to all the many organisations who have given us food and also to the volunteers who have given up their time to help do the sorting etc: On top of all of this, October has turned out to be the busiest month this year – with the exception of August when we were dealing with the School Holiday Voucher Scheme – with 175 food parcels being given out to 94 adults and 81 children.

If you have read my recent reports you will know that there has been quite a serious problem with the building from which we operate. There have been talks with the Town Council about what will happen to the building (which is over 70 years old and in a poor state of repair) and it is the Council’s decision that it is going to cost too much to bring the state of the building up to a reasonable standard, which in any event would probably only last for a further 5 years. They have therefore decided that it would be better to close the whole place down, probably at the end of July next year, although this has yet to be confirmed, and that the 4 users of the building ie; The Rainbow Nursery School, Citizens Advice Bureau, The Bell Ringers and ourselves, would be left to find alternative accommodation. We are, and have been for some time, looking for an alternative base of operation which would hopefully include storage space for the overflow food which at present is housed in our spare bedroom, study, our garage, neighbour’s garage and from next week a friend’s garage! We are mindful of the fact that these organisations meet a real need in the town and to lose any because of lack of premises would be a significant loss.

If you feel able, please pray about this situation. We know that all things are possible with God.

Jean Burt