**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR MAY 2020**

As I write this report I do hope that you are all safe and well and coping with the isolation restrictions. The temporary management team are doing a wonderful job at the Food Bank and have dealt with 202 people this month – 126 adults and 76 children – a drop from last month.

In the eight and a half years since we started the Food Bank I have never had to say this but it would be a great help if donations of food could be put on hold for a couple of weeks as all the storage space has been taken up and we do not have overflow facilities. What an amazing place to be at and it just shows, in a very obvious way, what a caring and generous community we live in. Thank you all so very much.

When the food comes in it’s not just a case of putting it on the shelves, it has to be date checked and any out of date or opened food has to be put aside to be disposed of, then they have to be stacked on the shelves in the correct order so that near dated goods are used first. As you can imagine, this is quite a large and time consuming job when 70+ bags of food are delivered at any one time and usually has to be done when opening hours are over. The team have been terrific at doing this and I should like to say well done to them.

As lockdown restrictions are slowly being lifted I am sure that some of our present volunteers will be heading back to their own jobs and I am hoping, very much, that as soon as it is safe to do so, we shall be able to get back to the ‘normal’ running of the Food Bank – whatever that might turn out to be!

At the beginning of the lockdown we were contacted by someone who needed food, he was duly supplied with some bags and he got in touch with us later to say that he was so grateful and it was the first time that he had felt full for over a month. That is why it’s a privilege to serve in the way we do.

Take care, stay safe and God bless you,

Jean Burt