**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR AUGUST 2020**

This month has been a lot different to the last few years where we have been running the school voucher scheme. With the government providing vouchers for the families where children have free school meals this has meant that, generally, requests for food has been a lot lower. We have helped out 112 people this month – 75 adults and 37 children. Last year the number was over 300.

It’s very heartening that we are still receiving offers of help from people wanting to volunteer in the Food Bank. Unfortunately due to the size of the workplace and with social distancing measures in place, we are unable to ask those wanting to help, to come in and spend the morning with us as three people is about the maximum we can cope with. We have now moved completely back into the Food Bank itself, having used the minor hall at Ridgeway for the last 4/5 months. This has been a real help to us and we should like to thank the church for making this facility available to us. The reception of food and also the delivering system will still be operating from there, at least for the time being. We do not envisage clients coming back into the Food Bank at any time in the near future and the phone and delivery service seems to have worked well.

Because those of us running the Food Bank are not delivering as well, it means that we have lost contact with some of the clients that we used to meet – especially in Berinsfield – and I was very touched the other week when I received a message, via David, from a lady who sent her love and thanks. We had been helping her for some time and I know that she appreciated all the help that was given to her, not only by the food she received but the fact that people cared enough in the first place to provide the goods and money to make up the food parcels. So I pass on not only her thanks to me, but mine to you for your continuing generosity.

Jean Burt