**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR OCTOBER 2020**

With the current Covid situation we were unsure as to whether Harvest would be happening at all this year – as far as services were concerned. The question was answered by donations which came in from several churches and schools in the area. We are so grateful for all the contributions and am pleased to say that our storehouse is looking very healthy again. Many thanks to all who have given, either with money or goods, everything will be used to help others who are struggling at the moment.

With this in mind we thought it would be helpful if we gave the schools in our area a chance to take up an offer of vouchers for families who are finding it difficult to manage at the moment. Our main thought was for those children who had free school meals. We have done this over the summer holidays in the past but felt that with things as they are at the moment – furlough coming to an end, people being made redundant and losing their jobs and with the possibility of school classes, if not the whole school, having to be isolated because of a positive test in their ‘bubble’ – it would be good for those in need to know that we can and will help. Although we sent out a letter to the schools during half term, which means that not all the schools will have seen it yet, we have already had reply from two of them and two families from one school have been in contact to ask for help.

This month has seen almost double the number of clients that we helped in September. We gave out food to 172 people – 110 adults and 62 children. We have also received numerous offers of help, either in the foodbank itself or with delivering the food. Unfortunately because of social distancing we are not able to accommodate any more people to help with the packing but two or three have taken up the opportunity of delivering and I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their concern and interest in what we are doing. It is very humbling and also a privilege to be of service to God.

Stay safe and well

Jean Burt