**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS SEPTEMBER 2021**

This has been a very busy month for us with 239 people asking for our help - 159 adults and 73 children, this is more than double the number for last September and the likelihood is that the coming months are still going to be very demanding with the ending of furlough and a reworking of universal credit. We are so very grateful that we are in a position to be able to help, if only in a small way and with the days growing colder the need to stay warm and nourished is so important. Your generosity, both materially and monetary, is overwhelming and a mere ‘thank you’ really doesn’t seem sufficient but I can assure you that it is sincerely meant, both on behalf of ourselves working in the foodbank and those receiving the food.

The harvest gifts have now started arriving and this morning Neville and I had the very great pleasure of attending the harvest service at Cranford House, where I was asked to say a few words about the foodbank. The actual food donation is arriving tomorrow and we were told that there are two classrooms full of food! When Eileen and I first went there 7 years ago, we really had no idea how many pupils there were. We went in my car expecting to bring all the gifts home with us, but as more and more children poured into the hall and started putting bags of food on the table I had to ring Neville and say ‘I think we’re going to need a bigger car!’ a pantechnicon would have been more in order.

For us, harvest is always quite challenging with the sorting, date checking and storing of the food, but it’s also a good time to be working together and feels quite special. So if I may, I wish you all God’s blessing this harvest time.

Jean Burt