

Hi All,

Please see below for the above update.

On my return from hols, my laptop screen has failed so I couldn't create documents.

I'm hoping to join you tonight on Zoom through my phone!

J 🤖 🌸

### Food Pantry

We're still supporting 4 families - the 5th family have been relocated to Harpenden and is being supported by a Foodbank local to them. They wanted to pass on their huge thanks for all the support last year.

Through the contacts of one of our families we are in the process of establishing support for a family of 6 ( 5 children).

Financial donations have been coming in and we have about £300 currently ( Need to get update from Dawn tomorrow post hols).

We will use this pot for our supported families extra items needed but not donated on a regular enough basis - receipts and details will be given to Dawn - more detailed report at the next PPC.

Fr Francis has agreed that stock bought can be stored in the committee room which I gave access to - thank you Father!!

Extraordinary spontaneous offers of cash have been gratefully received - all logged through the parish office.

One parishioner family offered to buy Christmas presents for 2 families. I chose the families with one child aged 2 and another with a child aged 10.

I asked the families to give suggestions of about 4 presents with a ranges of prices which they did. The family bought and wrapped all of the presents and dropped them off to me.

I was able to deliver to the families before Christmas and they were stunned as was I. What a parish we have!!

Christine requested that the 3 annual Christmas hampers from the local Rehoboth Church complete with a big frozen turkey and fresh vegetables be offered to our Food Pantry families instead of St Adrian's this year.

These were shared with 4 of our families - I cried with them! Thank you, Christine!

We have successfully worked with the SVP - thanks to Maureen Kelly , Peggy Groves and Ann McCarthy - on one of our families who would have been provided with a new washing machine were it not for another offer from another local charitable organisation. This bodes well for the future!

Mary Bromfield has continued to check the on date details and mark up the donated food items at the pantry on a weekly basis - we're indebted to her!

Similarly, we are very grateful to members of the PPC who regularly tidy and keep an eye on the Food Pantry when I'm away - thank you!!

Before Christmas, I visited the diocesan Palmers Green church and their Foodbank which started as small as our Food pantry during the pandemic and has expanded into a considerable and well used Foodbank in their community.

They were extremely generous and helpful in their information and advice and we will use this information as we go forward .

I have spoken to and will be meeting the Council Environmental Officer later in January - - who also happens to volunteer with The Vineyard Foodbank!- to ensure we are compliant and to discuss ideas for going forward. I'll feedback to the PPC.

Lastly, you will now have seen that the Food Pantry has swapped places with the hymn books giving clearer access for parishioners to the notice boards/area which will be revamped this year.

It also manages, at the same, to give more space for the Food Pantry!

A bit of lateral thinking has meant that the hymn book cabinets have been repurposed - £4 cost only!!  
- into a Food Pantry storage display.

Sent from my iPhone