

ST. BART'S FOOD PANTRY PPC UPDATE 6 MARCH 2024

Jackie Tominey

One family has been moved to Harpenden by the Council and is being supported by another food organisation.

Another family of a single mother and primary aged child has been referred to us by another of our families. This is very helpful as the hardest part about running this small pantry is reaching the hardest to reach.

As a result, we are now back up to support 5 families.

In addition, we have the open pantry in the porch at the back of the church where those in need are able to take what they need for themselves and/or others.

This is becoming well-established and we have regulars that take from the pantry on the same day every week (Claudine).

Food donations are left in the “new” cupboard, on the table and also, in the big box beneath and we have a steady flow now. The new layout is proving a success.

We have financial donations to use for specific food items and will be using this money shortly to offer more focussed support.

Parishioners have responded well to the regular, various communications/social media requests made so that we are increasingly receiving the specific food items the beneficiaries can make use of. (Though we still have some fun rogue ones!)

Specific requests for more donations during holiday time are particularly well responded to.

The mid-week closed church has proved a bit of a problem though with the volume of food accumulating each weekend, it indicates the increase in parishioners – and others – using the open pantry for what it is for.

Claudine has been very vigilant regarding the regulars still coming to the church to collect food mid-week and has provided access to them – a huge debt of gratitude to Claudine there.

Dawn was also particularly helpful a week ago when a well-known, vulnerable parishioner was left without any resources to buy food in. She contacted me and I was able to alleviate the immediate crisis – thank you Dawn!

I generally visit the Food Pantry a couple of times a week to tidy/sort/add/bring out the extra donations from under the table and the, after then weekend, gather what is needed for the 5 families we support.

I am indebted to Mary Broomfield who checks the donations for in date food items and marks them up and removes the out of date items.

I'm looking to review the workings of the Food Pantry over the new few months to see how we can improve it and will report back to the PPC sometime after Easter.