



The United Reformed Church
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John Cornish

By email

31st October 2022

Dear John,

Thank you so much for the wonderful harvest gift for the Blandford Food Bank from those folk at the Methodist Church. We are most grateful for your generosity. Please thank all those involved in making this possible. Your donation is particularly appreciated as our stocks are at a lower level than usual, and now dramatic increases in the cost of ordinary items are stretching family budgets to breaking point – and often beyond. Add in the cost of heat and light and we are unlikely to see a fall in demand as autumn gives way to winter.

To give you an idea of the pattern recently

2019 990 people were referred to us and helped, often with several parcels

2020 4,300 people were helped as the pandemic hit hard

2021 2,134 people were referred to us and helped. In addition to food, some received meat vouchers, shoe vouchers for children, and top ups for the electricity key.

As a result of local generosity, we were also able to include a Christmas cake or Christmas pudding in many cases.

2022 Already, 1142 people have been helped between 1st January and 1st September and, over the hungry gap of the school summer holidays 76 families were assisted, which amounted to an additional 119 adults and 174 children

In addition to the provision of emergency food our work as **Food Bank Plus** involves partnering with other agencies. These include:

Community Money Advice, seeking to alleviate the underlying problem of a burden of debt. Over 100 local people have been helped in this way.

Youtrust, helping families thrive in their community through specific skills and expertise dating back to 1985.



Shelter, advice and support services offering one-to-one, personalised help with housing issues and homelessness.

Victim Support, an independent charity helping anyone affected by crime.

Citizens Advice, offering good quality, independent advice over a wide range of problems.

Importantly, each referral to the Food Bank allows us to enter into a conversation. This conversation gives us the opportunity to share the burden, which is often a matter of emotional and mental well-being as well as financial necessity, and to act to mitigate it. None of our work could be achieved without the very generous gifts, donations, and support that we receive from our local community and villages, individuals and businesses. Your continuing support enables us to assist those in our community who come seeking help. We are very grateful to you.

Yours sincerely

Gail

Gail Del-Pinto
Foodbank Manager



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