



Paignton Community Larder Newsletter

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HELPING FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN A PLACE OF HARDSHIP

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New Beginnings

By Anita Davies

In mid-November we had enough donations coming in to be able to start delivering our first food parcels. Since then we have been able to support people through three agencies, Crisis Support, Children's Services and Housing options. Crisis Support also gave us £550 pump prime funding and we were able to buy some much needed laptops, these have made life a little easier.

At the Larder

On the 12/12/17 we were ready with lots of lovely willing volunteers to start giving out food parcels from Christ Church where agencies refer clients to us. Having heard some sad stories in the future we will be looking at more training for our volunteers so we can not only listen, but also have the knowledge to help signpost customers and help fill in forms. One of our new volunteers used to work for the Citizen Advice Bureau and is starting to see people and is able to give debt advice. We are at Christ Church between 12 and 2 on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday.

Garden Party

We are holding a garden party on the 9th June 11-3 in aid of The larder. Please come along and join us, a small entry fee of an item of non-perishable food would be gratefully received. Also we are looking for any new toiletries for a stall please.

Food Collections

For all this to happen a lot of work goes on behind the scenes. We are lucky enough to be getting some support from Tesco Torquay and Paignton where we have a basket for non-perishable items and also we pick up bread from the two Paignton stores once a week.

Morrisons have also been supporting us by donating food items they can't sell but are perfectly good to pass on. We collect eggs, bread yogurts cakes and cheese. It's great to be able to add these items to make family meals a little more balanced and also to give some treats too.

Bob is our man who goes to Riverford once a week and collects a car load of lovely fresh fruit and veg. Again this supports healthy eating.

Torquay Boys Grammar School helped by collecting a huge amount of food and donated to Paignton and Torquay Community Larder, they also raised £502.21 with their Christmas Jumper day.

Cuthbert Mayne school did a wonderful collection too and we had over ten trays of various tins from them.



We now have over 40 volunteers

Some of our lovely volunteers sorting out the food that arrives every Tuesday from Riverford.



Volunteer's Story from Bob

"I have been fortunate enough never to need help from a foodbank but some people are not so lucky. Now I am retired I have time to give to help others. Paignton Community Larder gives me an opportunity to give this"



Snow days

Christ Church in the snow. Although we missed being able to do some food collections the snow didn't stop us opening and all volunteers who were able to come in pulled together.



Food parcels

To date we have sent out 427 food parcel which equates to 10,497 meals.

Thank you

Farm foods, Old Farm Surgery, Kevin Foster Fund, The foot clinic, Strandz, The Haven, Christ Church, St Pauls Church, Paignton Parish Church, Paignton Baptist Church, Goodrington Methodist Church, Palace Avenue Methodist, Salvation Army, Living Waters, Barton Baptist Church, Preston Baptist Church, Great Parks Chapel, Foxhole Baptist Church, St Georges, Southview Methodist Preston and Paignton Rotary Club, Torbay Council, What's your problem, Our Lady of Walsingham Sanctuary Housing and Caritas



Thank you to all our volunteers for all their help getting the Community Larder up and running and their continued support. You are amazing.

Preston Rotary Club



Easter

We had a lovely lot of Easter eggs donated.

We received an email from one of the recipients this morning and thought I'd share it with you.

"Thank you so much for providing BD with food and Easter eggs for his boys yesterday at the Christ Church Paignton – He has a big smile on his face today and is looking forward to a happy Easter".

"Thank you so much for making a big difference."

"He is looking forward to getting himself back on track and out of debt."

Media coverage show the Trussell Trust end of year statistic there has been a 13% rise in distribution of emergency food supplies compared to the previous year. It is not always people on benefits that come to us. There are many reason why people need to use our services. Only a few weeks ago a single father of three came to us in need. Although he works something unexpected had arisen and he could no longer support his family and until he was able to get further help we were able to help take a little bit of the worry away by supplying him with some food. He didn't know where to turn as he had never been in this situation. We have initially helped him with food and sign posted him to Angie Manning from What's your problem. Another lady was referred to us as her husband had been made redundant and although he found another job they wouldn't have any money coming in for at least six weeks.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

This was a message we received last week.

"A MASSIVE thank you for the food parcel. I am so grateful. Being able to sit and eat with my children is priceless. Thank you so much."

After a very long and busy day to us this made every minute worth it.

A Trustees' comment

On the initial conception of the PCL I was fortunate enough to be part of the steering committee where seeing the determination, dedication and delivery of parcels to the most vulnerable is the most wonderful gift to the community, I implore each and everyone to get involved, reach out to your community, help others build a stronger and better future, in whatever way. Please support Anita as leader and the volunteers of this wonderful charity...love them all.

Our future

Our future aims are to get a van as our deliveries and collections have increased and with a larger vehicle we would save fuel and time and also be able to collect more.

Items required

Although we have a lot of fantastic donation we are running very low on the following items:- Jam, Hot Dogs, Tinned meat, Tinned Ravioli, Packet rice meal and cooked packet rice. These items can be bought to us at Christ Church Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday from 12-2 or please contact us to arrange a collection.