

FOOD BANK NEWS

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who have so steadfastly supported the food bank in so many ways since the outset and to all those who gave so generously at the recent Harvest Festival. Special thanks also go to all the cheerful volunteers who turn up each week to do whatever is needed.

We were delighted to welcome our new minister, Reverend Elspeth McKay, who made a surprise visit to the food bank on her first full day on the job! All your support is very much appreciated.

Both Cornerstone and Village food banks have been very busy over recent months. With Cornerstone leading the way, over 1000 food parcels and over 3000 hot meals (provided by Craighalbert Church) have been given out this year.

As winter approaches, preparations are already underway at the food bank for helping those in need in our community during what can be a particularly challenging time. This year, the Cornerstone Christmas event will be held on Thursday December 21st. It will cater for around 150 people, providing them with a festive meal, a food parcel and gifts. There will be a smaller Christmas celebration at the Village Food Bank the next day with carols, treats and fellowship.

Some people can find it hard to share in the joy of Christmas when they feel they have nothing to share, when they feel that they have nothing or are nothing.

Let's remind ourselves that each week our Orders of Service proclaims: *'Cumbernauld Old Parish Church aims to be an inclusive family of God where all are welcome and everyone is valued and involved. We aim to play an active part in the communities we serve reaching out with the love and joy of Jesus Christ.'*

With this in mind, most of us are familiar with the Good Gifts concept and a similar idea was suggested at a recent food bank planning meeting. At Christmas we hope to include fresh items in the food parcels, but this obviously raises issues regarding storage if fresh items are donated ahead of the day. A possible solution is to request cash, as with the Good Gifts method, to provide items, for example, a chicken or sprouts, stuffing or trifle, oranges or cream, etc., which can then be bought on the day and distributed safely.

The congregation and wider community have always been outstanding in their response for help in the past and we hope we can enlist your assistance once more with this appeal so that we can indeed reach out with the love and joy of Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 19 v.17: *'When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back'.*

Romans 15 v.1: *'We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak carry their burdens. We should not please ourselves'.*

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