



Bethany Food Bank Support Newsletter: 14th May



**This week's special buy requests:
Hand Wash; Tissues; & Jars of Coffee (inc. Decaf)**

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH YET AGAIN!

Donations have continued to come in, in abundance for this fourth week of the Bethany Food Bank support project! We had a great variety of foods and necessities again, which is just what the Food Bank needs. So please keep them coming! There is always more that we can do & give – and every little bit counts!



Following the government's outlining of plans this week for gradually withdrawing from the lockdown situation, we now know that things are going to be very difficult for a long time yet. For the most needy, this is causing feelings of despair, desperation, and isolation. We need to be their source of hope – reassured in the knowledge that they're not alone, that there are people out there who care, and who will help. So our Food Bank support project can't just be a 'quick fix' source of help. We'll need to find ways to constantly renew and sustain our commitment to donating for a much longer term than perhaps any of us were expecting. We are asking you to help us to spread the word, to network as much as you can and try to encourage others that you know to support and donate. Social media is a really easy and powerful way of doing this! There is plenty of everything to go around for everybody, if we can just care enough, be generous enough, and share a little of our time and what we have with others.

**A little
Inspiration
to keep us
giving.....**

"Not all of us can do Great things. But we can all do small things with Great Love" – Mother Teresa

"Kindness is a wonderful way to let another struggling soul know that there is still love in this world"

"Do things for others, not because of who they are, or what they do in return, but because of who YOU are..."



Working to involve the wider community...



So....just what (or who) is the SVP?

The SVP is a faith-in-action society within the Catholic church. Its members are people whose primary aim is to help others in a practical way. The SVP take their inspiration from St Vincent di Paul, a 19th century saint who dedicated his life to looking after the poor, sick and vulnerable in his community. Today's SVP members work in parish groups to care for anyone in need who comes to their attention – including by visiting the elderly; providing befriending, transport and social activities for them; visiting those in hospital and supporting their families; supporting those recently bereaved; accessing clothing, furniture and food for struggling families; distributing food to those in need and the organisations supporting them, including food banks, homelessness shelters & hostels, asylum seekers' centres & women's refuges; supporting those with mental illness; offering friendship to the lonely or isolated; and supporting members of poor parishes and the schools attached to them. Apart from a once fortnightly briefing & feedback meeting, there is no set amount of time commitment that members give – they do what they are able to, according to their own commitments. As much of their work is of a confidential nature, and the dignity of each individual they work with is carefully respected, the SVP do most of their work unnoticed behind the scenes of their parishes, and with little publicity. However, many parishes have an SVP group. If you believe that living out your faith should include helping others in a practical way, why not find out if your parish has an SVP group that you could get involved with?



When the SVP society sent out our plea to St G & T school families, asking for porch volunteers to help the SVP to continue to collect donations for the Bethany Food Bank despite the lockdown, we ended up with 14 local area collectors – many of whom were either having to continue to work from home, or have been furloughed from their usual day jobs. Nearly all have also been having to get used to home schooling their children. Despite all this, they have thrown themselves into being part of the Food Bank team – promoting, collecting, sorting and delivering food each week, often involving their whole families as they do. Many have put the skills and talents they would use in their 'normal' jobs to maximise the success of the project. For some, it has almost become a new lockdown career in itself!



These photos show Moushumi, and the great work she and her family have been doing, to promote the project around local retailers. We need to say a very big 'thank you' to Tesco Dickens Heath, the new Lidl in Shirley, Morrisons in Solihull and Waitrose, Solihull – all of whom have made very generous contributions of food to our weekly collections – and to Moushumi for all her enthusiasm and determination to make good things happen!



Lizzie is going out to vulnerable elderly people in the community and to hotels who are housing homeless people as part of Morrisons Covid-19 community response.

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>> <image0.jpeg>

>> <image1.jpeg>

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>> I have re-distributed all the perishable goods of apples, potatoes and carrots to the Helping Hands charity at the Renewal Centre in Solihull. Their sorting today is Friday!

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>> A conversation with Pastor Justin there brought home the huge positive impact of all donations.

>> The vulnerable in our society, over 70s, those on the government shielding list, those on universal credit who suffer from financial hardship will need support on an ongoing basis.

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>> We are very grateful to you for raiding your cupboards once again and adding a few items to your weekly food shop. Be assured that these are going to those in real need.

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>> Sent from my iPhone

