



Information update – December 2015

The last couple of months have continued to be very busy at Food For Thought. Hopefully you will find this information helpful. Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like to become involved in some way.

Harvest donations

A huge thankyou to everyone who donated over Harvest time. In addition to the Team Churches we received donations from a further 15 organisations/schools locally. It has been amazing to the generosity of people in Wythenshawe. Some members of the ministry Team took part in school assemblies and special services which were great fun. There was a group of volunteers “behind the scenes” who also helped with collecting donations and sorting them out for distribution too. We continue to receive donations of bread to give out too.

Christmas preparations

We are aiming to provide some luxury items during Christmas week for people who use our food bank provision. There is a list available on the website if you would like to make a contribution. Grateful thanks for the generous donations we have received towards this.

Christmas opening times - During the Christmas and New Year Period the opening times will be as follows –

Tuesday 22nd December – 4.00-600pm – Christmas extras will be given out today

Monday 28th December – 4.30-5.30pm

Tuesday 29th December – 4.30-5.30pm

Saturday 2nd January 10.00-11.00am

We will be giving out information to let people know and there will be notices up on the doors of the premises.

Ongoing partnership work with Unit 20

Unit 20 is aiming to be open by the end of January 2016. There have been some trial distributions where we have been offered a small number of tinned goods and some fresh food too. We will be asked to sign a partnership agreement soon – this will be circulated via Team Council and reps will feed back through PCC's. As part of this agreement we will be asked to channel all our donations through Unit 20. Some people have expressed understandable concern about this. We currently have enough tinned food to provide a reasonable bag to approximately the end of January. After that we will be struggling.

By being part of Unit 20 we have more certainty about what we can provide. For example, we might get a dozen or so items donated one week but with an average of 8 items per bag we would need a lot more. Unit 20 would provide us with everything we need in exchange for the items we give to them. We will also need to make some changes to how we monitor who uses our provision. At the moment we trust that anyone who comes to us is in need. Some people have been coming to us for a long time and we need to re-assess what else we can do to help them become less dependent and move on. There will be more information about this in the next update.

Volunteer opportunities

There are going to be more opportunities to volunteer in the New Year – either at Food for Thought or Unit 20. We will be able to access all of the training offered by Trussell Trust at Unit 20. Help is welcome, big or small – we often get last minute calls to collect things that need a car. You could help as little or as often as you like, marking the register, welcoming people etc. We will be running more information/education sessions in the New Year and we would like to offer a simple community meal in February. All of this is reliant on volunteers. On **Monday 21st December** we will be sorting out Christmas bags between 11 and 3. This would be a great way of finding out more about who we are and what we do. Drop in if you can!

And finally...

Mary Preston feels unable to continue in her volunteer role co-ordinating our food bank facility. Mary has highlighted some concerns which have helped us to identify gaps in volunteer training and skills which we are addressing as part of the new centralised approach in the New Year. We would like to say a huge thankyou to Mary and her family who have been instrumental in getting us to this point, leading on fundraising, recruiting new volunteers and supporters and developing a supportive approach for local people.

For more information about anything in this update please contact the Wythenshawe Church of England on 07476305947 or email – wyth_anglicandevlopment@yahoo.com

The next update will be in February 2016

www.wythenshawe-anglican.org/food-for-thought

