

Larkfield & East Malling Methodist Church – Harvest 2020

Supporting Maidstone Homeless Care

Until the arrival of the pandemic, Homeless Care's core activities were providing a Day Centre for those unfortunate enough to find themselves homeless and running a food bank for the homeless and others in need.

Our day centre was closed throughout lockdown but has now re-opened with limited services. The majority of our previous rough sleepers have been housed in temporary accommodation during the pandemic and so the need for our traditional day centre services has been reduced for the present.

However, the number of families and individuals needing help from Food for Thought has greatly increased for multiple reasons. In response, Homeless Care has focused its efforts on coping with this extra demand. **We were providing around 60 parcels a month before the advent of Covid 19, either for individuals or families. In recent months this has risen to around 100.** The parcels provide enough food and other basic necessities for the appropriate number in the household. We also continue to provide "pack-ups" for our homeless clients.

It is very difficult for people to acknowledge that help is needed and to ask for it, so the not uncommon attitude that prevails within some parts of society that it is easy to get free food is a myth. It 'costs' most people to have to ask for help.

We continue to be grateful for the donation of non perishable foodstuffs as they are obviously the easiest to manage but there is often a need for fresh goods and that means Homeless Care buying in perishable goods like dairy products and fresh meat so donations of money are also very welcome, especially now, as social distancing has meant fewer people in the shops and has seen our fund raising activities severely restricted, although our regular supporters have kindly continued to provide us with goods.

Our fundraising has also historically funded our incidental costs such as running a van that enables us to collect donations from supermarkets and businesses in the town and deliver food parcels to children's centres and other institutions.

Any support towards any of our Food for Thought work would be most appreciated. If you would like to make a financial donation the details are:

CAF Bank, account name Homeless Care, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00023904.

Thank you for your support of the work of Homeless Care.