



I'd like to thank those of you who were able to support our Harvest Appeal. You might like to know that the schools and churches in West Berks donated a massive 10.9 tonnes of food and toiletries to the Foodbank. This equates to the weight of two African Elephants and helped us enormously in distributing a total of 11.9 tonnes in October to families and individuals in need.



As we approach Christmas, the demand we are seeing remains extremely high. The ongoing Coronavirus and lockdown restrictions continue to make life difficult for many and we are anticipating an increase in the number of those who will be needing our help over the festive season. The donations we receive over the Christmas period are vital every year in replenishing our stock levels but particularly so this year.

It would be lovely if you could help us support the local community this Christmas but appreciate that it is very difficult at the moment when churches are unable to hold their normal services and may only be open at certain times for private prayer. Hopefully, this situation will change in early December. We have a couple of suggestions though. The first is to take part in our Reverse Advent Calendar campaign. You may already have seen this campaign on social media.



The idea is quite simple.

With a traditional advent calendar, you open a window every day and receive a chocolate, toy or gift. With a reverse advent calendar the idea is that instead of receiving a gift, you donate a gift of essential food items or toiletries. This is an ideal way to follow Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive". Attached is a reverse advent calendar poster that you could circulate to your parishioners.

A list of the items that the Foodbank are particularly looking for currently is attached. You will see that there are also some luxury items on the list - these make a real difference at Christmas.

Whatever you can do, we are incredibly grateful. All that we ask is that we receive your donations by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December to give the team enough time to organise and distribute your items to those that need them in time for Christmas.

With all best wishes,

Sheila

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