



Dear All,

Kingsdown & Creekside parish have been collecting food for this charity for some time now, using the boxes placed in our churches and other community minded outlets, such as Doddington Service Station. The food has been well received by the charity, and much of each week's collection is shipped down to the depot by Rev Richard Birch, for which I give thanks.

I know that food banks are still felt by some to be a controversial matter, or to some a "necessary evil", depending on your personal politics. But when poverty strikes, it is no judge of one's stance, it just happens and often swiftly and with quite devastating effects. Redundancy is often a cause of instant financial challenge, and the immediate loss of income can take some while to adjust to and work out the ramifications of its impact. It is times like this when the food bank does its work, and it is a vital source of sustenance to those families that receive the welcome box of food.

During this year alone, for the months of April, May & June we distributed 442 food boxes across our network. This just shows the need is there, as the people in receipt have to fulfil certain criteria to receive a box, they are not just doled out. This figure represents a rise of 6.5% in demand compared to the same period in 2015. The evil of poverty in Kent is not going away, it is getting worse! In April and May this year we totalled 2.76 tonnes of food received as donations, an increase of 16% in the same period in 2015. However, I recognise that the level of donation from our parish has begun to diminish, which is a shame. I know folk become "tired" of giving when they don't necessarily see the outcome, but let me assure you, and let these few figures attest to, the need and the impact of your generosity. Please, do continue to give, and I would want to especially thank those of you who do so weekly. Even if you don't wish to give food (the type and nature of the food is listed on the box in your church) then monetary donations too are welcome, as there are costs to maintaining this charity, although be it very small as it is supported by Fare Share Kent (a sister charity run by Children & Families). Do look at our websites to see what excellent work is being done in Kent to support folk who find themselves in difficulties.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to seeing our work grow!

Alan

<http://www.familyfoodbank.org.uk>

<http://www.faresharekent.org.uk>

<http://www.children-families.org>