



Exmouth Community Larder : summer - June / July 2018

The world has become a difficult and dangerous place. East Devon seems relatively calm, but here too there are individuals and families facing problems. The 40,000 people in our area mostly live quite well but a few have serious difficulties - some even run out of food and find the Community Larder. A little while back Pope Francis addressed a gathering of those helping the homeless and dispossessed

"God will not ask if you expressed righteous indignation, God will ask what you did"

Most of us can't actually do much about problems in the wider world, but we can address the issues on our own doorsteps. So THANK YOU to those who work in the support services giving advice, counsel and help to people in trouble. Finding a safe place and a sympathetic ear can be vital to improving an apparently overwhelming situation. Having enough to eat helps too - so THANK YOU to those who contribute provisions or money to help "the Ministry of the Larder" - to help us to help others.

In nearly six years in The Community Larder we have seen all extremes of problems. We see people whose prolonged difficulties have made them brazen, assertively asking for help and describing their apparent situation clearly. We see others, shy and embarrassed at needing help, not knowing how to ask. A little exploration reveals that the actual needs are not so different, but situations and personalities vary. Some need help, some need HELP and others need....H E L P !!

Our volunteers are the backbone of what we do. Over 6 years The Larder has evolved into a Monday team and a Friday team. Both have a group of experienced volunteers who take turns staffing the welcome desk, most with relevant experience and training in their professional past. At the other end, the stockroom is preparing packages to go out. Some less defined roles can be even more important to our visitors, talking informally to them as they wait for attention. Meanwhile the basics of checking dates on donations and marking with bold felt pen continue - currently at a steady pace, but manic when Harvest Festival donations arrive - which we rely on.

So have a good summer. We continue working around the breaks we all take. Quite why demand fluctuates up and down we cannot understand, but the rounded average remains about the same since we got going. Meanwhile, a few volunteers leave and a few newcomers join the team - anyone thinking of joining us should simply come when we are open to see how it works.

In fact anyone just interested is welcome - Monday 2-3.30, Friday 1.30-3pm

And, of course, THANK YOU to all who contribute in making The Larder work.

Exmouth Community Larder
www.exmouthlarder.co.uk