



## **Larder Lent report : March 2018**

"Lent" derives from the old Anglo-Saxon word for spring; it is a good time to review and renew, just as buds and new life spring from the cold of winter.

The Exmouth Community Larder has now run for just over 5 years; which is also a good time to review how we work and set our direction for the future.

The original group from Christians Together that set the Community Larder in motion have met and agreed to remain under the umbrella of the Salvation Army - which is no surprise! The Larder Leadership Team, drawn from key working volunteers, will be augmented by some members of this group, so combining practical operation with an overall direction; internal workings with outside perception and experience.

A more orderly organisation is being put in place so that the Larder is not dependent on any one individual - formalising what has already evolved. We already have emails to our "help" address circulating to several of our key volunteers to avoid dependency on any one person.

By November, Anthony will have been Manager for six years which is long enough! So in the next months various tasks will be allocated ready to propose a clear job description before advertising for a new manager, whether from amongst our present volunteers or from outside.

Beyond the visible work on Monday and Friday afternoons, we have back-room tasks sorting and storing the reserve stock off site, purchasing to fill the gaps on shelves with cash so generously donated, writing a monthly update which is printed in many church magazines, maintaining the website and many other routine tasks.

**MEANWHILE ..... the work continues .....**

On "Frigid Friday", 2nd March, we did open as usual - three of us trudged through the snow to provide a skeleton service to the half dozen people who came in need - also trudging through the snow without cars or buses. The following Monday was very busy as we thought it would be. We didn't run out of bread or milk!!

February was another very busy month, exceeding the previous February average but the record is still held by 2016. We will see how March progresses.

There is a saying: "don't let the organisation get in the way of "the work"....."

We all firmly enjoy being part of a team in which everyone rallies round to provide to people in need, and in which everyone supports everyone else. The plan is that a more formal organisation should not reduce the sense of team spirit.

As ever - **THANK YOU** for all that you do - this report is just how we go about connecting the generosity of the community with the real needs that also exist.

*Exmouth Community Larder  
www.exmouthlarder.co.uk  
March 2018*