



## **Larder report : February 2019**

Charity is the greatest of the "three things that last: faith, hope and charity", taken from recent Bible readings in churches using the Lectionary. Charity is often translated better as "love"; both words convey a variety of ideas, but taken together they focus on giving and on caring for others.

In The Larder we certainly rely on our donors care and concern in what is given for people in need. But "HOPE" should not be overlooked. The Open Door Centre, CAB (Citizens' Advice Bureau) and others help to get people to a better footing in life - which gives Hope. In fact we insist that clients do get support for their underlying problems.

EDDC (East Devon District Council) also give very positive help. The EDDC offices in Exmouth Town Hall are open 5 days per week which saves travel to the Exeter Job Centre. Staff are not just looking at benefit issues but also discretionary housing payments, money advice, identifying if clients qualify for any other benefits and also making links with other services. The Exeter Job Centre went live with Universal Credit in September 2018 and there is an EDDC Officer on the spot to help local clients.

It is brilliant to report that our local council and its staff can be numbered amongst those who are giving HOPE - possible light at the end of the tunnel for people who are hungry and worrying about how to feed the children.

The Christmas and winter months are always busy so it is too early to say we have an increase in demand, but we are certainly very busy at the moment.

Reports of Anthony's full retirement are premature, management of the Community Larder now falls to a Leadership Team, with Noel as team leader on Monday and Ian on Friday. At the recent annual gathering Anthony received a presentation for his 6 years as manager, but also a hard hat to symbolise the role of Warehouse Manager!

The reality is a hard working team of dedicated volunteers, all working together to make it work; acting as intermediaries between the generosity of the community and the needs of people who are in a hole.

The Mayor was also at the gathering, receiving Larder thanks for the generosity of the community and also expressing appreciation for what The Community Larder does.

The truth is that we are fulfilling different roles, but we are all in it together, giving charity, love and caring to people who badly need hope!