



the Olive Branch



**Christmas
2015 is
almost here**

Luke 2:11

Today in the town
of David a Saviour
has been born to
you; he is the
Messiah, the Lord



Winter Newsletter 2015

There are many ways in which you can help those who are disadvantaged this Christmas:

1. Donate Hats, scarves, gloves, socks etc. For many who are homeless this is a very difficult time of year and warm clothes are very important.
2. Donate Christmas Luxury food items e.g. Mince Pies, Boxes of Chocolates/Selection Boxes, large tins of Ham, Christmas Pudding or Christmas Cake etc.
3. Donate to the Olive Branch the cash you would normally spend on sending Christmas Cards, this helps us to provide emergency aid.
4. Or fill your own shoe box or basket to give to one of our visitors, see below for further ideas.

**See over for
our MEAT
Appeal**

Can you help us to fill Christmas Hampers?



Christmas is a time when its wonderful to give gifts to family and friends as we remember the gift of Christ that God gave to human-kind. Many of the people who use the Olive Branch for emergency food are unable to either give or receive gifts and have no extra money for the kind of luxury items that most of us take for granted at Christmas time. Please can you fill a shoe box with luxury food items to Bless someone this Christmas. **Might we suggest:** Tin of Ham, Tin of Salmon, Pickles, Sweets, Mince Pies, Tins of Cream, Cake, Puddings, Biscuits etc.

Thank You so much on behalf of every recipient. To receive something that is considered a luxury is very special and this gesture will really touch their hearts.



Fun run at The Priory Church – Lancaster

FUN RUN 2015

For the 2nd year running we would like to thank The Priory Church in Lancaster for organizing a "Fun Run" to raise funds for the Olive Branch. It was a brilliant event And enjoyed by all. Thank you so much to everyone who organized or took part in some way. Thank you too to the Olive Branch volunteers who went out of their way to not only run but to help with registration and marshalling. What a great bunch! There was even a young lady who baked wonderfully sticky and gooey chocolate cake!!



FUN RUN 2015

2015 Harvest Appeal

Meat Appeal—Urgent!

Please consider donating tins of meat products e.g. corned beef, ham, meatballs, spaghetti Bolognese, meat ravioli, tinned pies and sausages etc.

Thank You!



Thanks to all those who

contributed to our

Harvest Appeal!!!

Your generosity is

amazing!!!

A Word from two of our Volunteers

I am a recent volunteer at the Olive Branch. My reasoning for wanting to do this is that I watched a television programme on the variances in incomes for families from a comfortable background compared to those who are living day to day with no extra money for anything other than basic and necessary expenditure and that often even that wasn't sufficient. In

the programme it mentioned how food banks are one of the ways low income families can receive support. I became interested in finding out whether there were any here in Lancaster, which is how I came across the Olive Branch. Looking at their website I noticed that the food bank was only one of the many ways that they help and offer support to individuals

and families in the local community and I knew this was something I wanted to become involved in and so I made enquiries about how I could help. I have been here for several weeks now and am really enjoying being able to help in such a positive way.

VOLUNTEER

HERE!

Friday morning, my 3rd day volunteering for The Olive Branch, and I really don't want to go in. I'm light-headed, a bit nauseous, and there is a dull pain in my back - all symptoms of anxiety for me. I'll be meeting the Friday team today for the first time and (for no real reason) I am absolutely terrified.

I just about manage to get myself into town, and for the first half hour or so I am quiet and self-conscious, worrying about how much I really fit in or if I have the fortitude to do this

work. Then, someone makes me a drink, I settle down to some filing and make up a few food parcels. For the rest of the day I feel completely at home.

Because of my mental health, I've been out of work for a while. I decided I wanted to start volunteering to get back on my feet and connect with my community again. I looked at a few charities, but working at a food bank seemed the best fit with the things I care about. The work the Olive Branch does is urgently needed. I know what it's like to really need a helping

hand. I think we all do at some point, from one source or another.

The challenge of getting myself out into the world again has been made immeasurably easier by the fact that every single member of staff at The Olive Branch has been incredibly kind, friendly and supportive. So for that, I'm very grateful. Thank you all.

...Wow thanks for the toiletries...

What a lot of toiletries we've received.



The **Cathedral Catholic Primary School** in Lancaster put together donations and boxes of toiletries including toilet rolls, nappies and baby wipes etc. for their Harvest Appeal. What a brilliant idea! Life can be difficult without some of these items. Thank

you so much to all of the children, their parents and teachers. **Wonderful!**

Our harvest appeal this year has exceeded all of our expectations. At this time of year this really helps us to build our stocks ready for the busy Christmas period.

the Olive Branch

...to resolve and alleviate their difficulties...

Matthew 12:7 If you had known what these words mean, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," you would not have condemned the innocent.

We manage our food bank responsibly and try to be good stewards of every donation mindful of the generosity of those who support the work we do. It is for this reason, and, as stated in our mission statement, that we try to ensure that in helping with emergency food aid, we try and get to the bottom of people's problems and so encourage them to take positive measures to resolve them and so to alleviate future difficulties. With this in mind each person who would like food aid must have a referral from a 3rd party agency/person to demonstrate their willingness to take constructive action to minimize the likelihood of future difficulties.

Our Mission

To support those suffering distress caused by addiction, broken family relationships, poverty and homelessness, and to enable individuals and families to resolve and alleviate their difficulties

*Christian Hope Reaching
Into Society Today*

We are however realistic and recognise that there are sometimes factors beyond their control and always "err on the side of mercy"

We are grateful to **Farmhouse Biscuits of Nelson**, Lancashire for their generous, ongoing provision. Thank you for hosting our recent visit, we so enjoyed meeting you, seeing the factory at work and the ongoing quality and community aspirations that make your family business so successful after 50 years! Thank you, and we pray for your continued success.



The Olive Branch
1 Westbourne Rd
Lancaster
LA1 5DB
Tel: 01524 555715
www.the-olivebranch.org.uk