

## The Easter Team

# A Harvest Hamper

## Whatever happens to all the harvest donations?

### Prayer Points

- Thank God for the food we have received this harvest
- Thank God for all the schools and churches that have donated their harvest to the Easter Team
- Thank God for all those who volunteer to help with the work of the Easter Team
- We need more people to help with Saturday meals. Ask that people will come forward to help
- Thank God for all those who serve in the Easter Team
- Thank God for St. John's Church

Every year we receive the harvest donations from schools and churches and this year is no different. We have received harvest produce from all over Crawley and from some place as far afield as Ardingly. And this is vital to our work. Without it we would be hard pushed to provide the food parcels that regularly go out to those who most need them. But have you ever wondered what happens to the food we receive? Where does it go? And how does it get to the people who need it?

When we get a call from a

school or church to say they have a harvest for us, the first thing we have to do is collect it. Sometimes the school or church will deliver it to us. We are also grateful to people like Dave Jordan who runs the Lighthouse Project. He takes assemblies in many schools and will often bring us the harvest of a school where the team have taken the harvest assembly.

The food then goes to one of two places—it either comes to my garage or to Veronica's garage. Here it is sorted! And what a job that can be!! It takes a lot of time and a



"Come, you thankful people come."

keen eye (some of the "best before" dates are almost impossible to see!). Sometimes a magnifying glass is needed.

## Food, glorious food...all has to be sorted!

The food is sorted into plastic boxes of like food i.e. tins of beans in one box, vegetables in another. In my garage there are 16 categories and a box for things we will give out at Christmas e.g. tins of ham, specialty packs of bis-

cuits. That sounds nice and easy! Well it would be except...we date check everything! People don't mean to, but they give us food that is way past its "best before", or "use by" date. So far this

year the most out of date tin we have had was "best before" June 2001! This food gets thrown away as we feel it would be wrong to give it away. Fresh produce is taken to the Open House in Crawley.

The Orchard  
1-2 Gleneagles Court  
Brighton Road  
Crawley

Phone: 01293 657140  
www.easterteam.org

## Christian Caring in Crisis

### *How do schools and churches find out about the Easter Team?*

*Early in September every year a letter is written to schools and churches to invite them to donate their harvest produce to the Easter Team. Our publicity Officer, Ted, does a great job of sending out these letters and we are very grateful to him for doing this. Each school and church will receive a "Thank You" letter—usually a certificate. Actually I'm just about to start printing off the certificates for this year's harvest!*

**We're on the web:  
[www.easterteam.org](http://www.easterteam.org)**



## How out of date does it get?

So...date checked and sorted. That must be the end of it...surely. Well not quite. In order that the food we have sorted doesn't go out of date before we can give it away, it is sorted into date order—roughly!! We try to make sure that the food we need to give away first is in the boxes on the top of the pile! Now it is ready to be packed into food parcels. Parcels will vary in content according to how many people it is for, but we try to put into each a balance of the food we have, so that

a meal can be eaten. The parcels are packed and stored in...guess what? Boxes! They are packed regularly throughout the year simply because they go regularly during the year. We keep the food parcels in our garage and when we need more food, Veronica brings some from her garage. The office team come and collect parcels as they need them and other team members will do so if they hear of a need.

I want to say a huge "Thank You!" to

Veronica and David, Tony, Rosemarie, Lisa and Helen, and to the Small Groups that come and help occasionally, who all do a fantastic job in this process and who work tirelessly to make it all go as smoothly as it does.

So now you know. Please pray for those who do this and thank God for their willingness and hard work—especially at Harvest time.

Ian Phillips—Chairman

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