

Community Pantry

What is a Community Pantry?

- It is an area where non-perishable foods and items (e.g some toiletries) are stored in plastic boxes which are accessible for anyone in need to help themselves.
- It is not a larder where perishable items are kept
- There is no need to be 'referred' by a 'professional' (as is required for Foodbank), people can help themselves at any time, day or night.
- It is kept stocked by local donations, be that from church members or members of the community
- It is free with no questions asked.
- It is not 'staffed' at certain times so that people can come and go anonymously. The only staffing would be for volunteers to check stock on a regular basis.



Location

It is located in an accessible place, to the right hand side of the main church doors.

Community pantry

Partnership

The Pantry is run as a partnership between the Methodist Church and Kate Turner. Kate is very much involved and committed to the Midsomer Norton Community. She is very active on Facebook and coordinates the Free and Eco Community MSN page. She works with others on a voluntary basis to respond to the needs of individuals and families in the area both short term and long term.

The difference between the Pantry and the Foodbank

For someone to get food from the Foodbank they have to be referred by a professional and cannot go more than 3 times. They also become 'known' which can cause embarrassment to them; The Pantry is open to anyone 24/7 with no referrals necessary and no limit on how often they can use it. It is anonymous so there is no potential embarrassment for the user.

Fro further information or offers of donations, please contact Rev Stephen Robinson 01761 410574 msnminister@btinternet.com