

## Home and Overseas Paper - June 2022

***“I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me” (Matthew 25:35-36)***

I know many of you support food banks by donating food and other essential items via your congregations. It is quite likely that the food bank you support is run by the Trussell Trust, although there are other organisations running food banks. The Trussell Trust is one of the projects which MWA will be supporting by fund raising during the following twelve months.

The Trussell Trust was founded in 1997 by Carol and Paddy Henson. Initially it was founded to focus on improving conditions for the many children who were sleeping rough in the Central Railway Station in Bulgaria. In 2000, Paddy received a phone call from a mother in Salisbury who was struggling to afford food for her and her family. Paddy set up the first food bank in his shed. The food bank model spread through church networks until today there are more than 1,200 food banks in UK. The aim is to supply emergency food and support to people and to campaign for change. Their vision is a UK without the need for foodbanks. The driving force behind their work is following the Biblical imperative as recorded in Matthew's Gospel and written above.

It seems astonishing that in our country when shops and supermarkets are stuffed with things to eat that there are people who are hungry but unfortunately, there are. From April 2021 to March 2022, 2.1 million emergency food parcels were distributed by the Trussell Trust. 830,000 were for children.

I'm sure that you have all noticed prices going up so it seems likely that more families and individuals are going to find themselves in a situation where they cannot afford food. This is why MWA Central Committee decided to support the Trussell Trust. I know you will all demonstrate your usual hard work and generosity.

In the meantime, if your church supports a food bank, please give what you are able.

Sr Janet Cooper