

Tuesday 5th April 2022

Acts 6:3, 4 "Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

We support the running of food banks even if we deplore the reasons for their need. It is a source of shame that there are families making agonising decisions between keeping warm and feeding their children.

It was ever thus. The Church in Jerusalem had a system for distributing food to widows who with the death of their husbands would have had no means of supporting themselves or their children. Sadly there were disputes between different branches of Jews as to the equity of the sharing process. Even in our time there are those who deny the need for these 'free' handouts.

It's all based on inequality and greed and it needs wise and righteous individuals to ensure impartiality and fairness. This is what the Apostles did by appointing seven men from among their followers to administer the food schemes. This left them free to spread the word of God.

Lord, help us to give not take, to share not hoard and to love not despise.