

2025 Produce Stall Report.

Jan/Feb £462 sent to Warm welcome Campaign.

March/April £580 sent to Christian Aid.

May/June £440 sent to Christian Aid.

July/Aug £77.50 sent to Medecins Sans Frontières via Colin Bird

Sept- Dec £700 in aid of flood relief in Pakistan sent through Tear Fund

Total received for Year2025 £2,259.50

A huge “thank you” to everyone for their support throughout the year. This result has only been possible because of you!

The Produce Stall was started by me and my husband John in 1993 when serious roof repairs were being undertaken and the PCC asked each bit of the congregation to do something to raise funds for this purpose. Having an orchard and some produce, we started the stall as coffee was served after morning service. At that time this was in the Hall, not in the church, as it is now.

We have sold soft fruits in season; raspberries, currants and gooseberries, then top fruit-plums, pears and apples. In recent years we have also been selling apple juice made from our organically grown fruit, and this is juiced and bottled professionally by Drovers Hill Farm.

We also sell jams and chutneys made from home grown fruits, and honey made from Ro Cropley's bees. His hives spend the spring and summer in our orchard, the bees pollinating our trees and plants, feeding on their nectar and that of the wildflowers and brambles growing there. Marmalade is made from Seville oranges-which I must buy in!

It is a great help to have Roy's bees in the organic orchard because so many of our native bumble bees and other pollinating insects have crashed in numbers in recent years. This can be attributed to the careless overuse of pesticides and other poisons as well as air and light pollution. Insects are attracted to light at night and fly around it until they drop dead. Car headlights and windscreens used to be covered in a mass of insects, but there are many fewer nowadays.

We have had wwoofers here to help with the garden and orchard work for about 25 years-WWOOF= World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. The majority are students, but we have had all ages from 17 to 70, from around the world (currently from Taiwan and France. They live "as family", full board, and work 5-6 hours a day, 5 days a week. No money changes hands. You may have seen them at Soundbite concerts or Greenwatch talks or helping at the plant sale in May. A few come to church services.

So- by supporting the Produce Stall and organically grown goods, you are supporting the planet as well as the charities named above. A big 2Thank you" to you all.

Fiona Earle.