

Ealing Foodbank News



Christmas 2021

Hello, and Happy Christmas to you!

As we approach the end of another turbulent year, we are so grateful for the support we have received from our Christian friends over the years; your prayers and donations have enabled us to work with those who are struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families.

During the past 2 years, even before the pandemic hit so dramatically in March 2020, we were seeing more and more people coming to us - this hasn't stopped yet

In January 2021, a record number of 999 people were fed in just one week, and by November 2021 we passed 100,000 3-day meal parcels given away since we opened in 2013. The numbers gradually declined over the summer to just under 450 a week, but last week they reached 835 again. We're expecting a busy week this week, as we approach Christmas.

By September, we had managed to reopen most of our centres, and now serve people 6 days a week, in 7 centres, so a special thank you goes to our host churches.

Donations have allowed us to keep up with food needs (we only shop when there's a gap on the shelves, and donations have been wonderful during harvest and Advent), but also to plan 'what else' we can do.

At the beginning of this year, the Trustees agreed to fund a debt advice service, and we now work with Crosslight Advice and have drop-in centres at Hanwell on Wednesdays, Greenford on Mondays and soon Southall on Thursdays. As they increase their capacity and as our Acton centre becomes busier, we hope that it will be possible to have a drop-in on Fridays as well... So far, the 'wins' to those being supported is over £73,000!

We also fund a form filling service which is provided by our Help through Crisis partners, West London Equality Centre. This helps people get better results, first time round when applying for a range of different benefits and other services. They are nearly at capacity, so the Trustees will be looking to see if there is anything further we can do to increase this service.

Please continue to pray for us, as we look to an uncertain and rather bleak New Year, and I would love to come to speak at the church to tell you more of our vision for the future. Please contact me, Janet Fletcher by email janet@ealing.foodbank.org.uk if you would like to arrange a talk to a small group, or during a church service.

I pray you and your church have a peaceful, blessed and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Janet Fletcher
Ealing Foodbank