

# Gloucester Foodbank Newsletter

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## Latest news on the Foodbank from our Manager Anneliese Sterry



Since the first lockdown on 23rd March 2020 life at Gloucester Foodbank has changed.

From having clients come to the centre to collect food to delivering parcels to people referred to us for food parcels. As restrictions have eased, we have begun the transition from delivery only to include collection of parcels as well as delivery. On September 16<sup>th</sup> we opened a Gloucester Foodbank Hub at Elim Church in Gloucester. The Hub is open every Thursday from 10:30am until 12:30pm where some of our experienced volunteers and new ones are happy to meet and chat with the clients face to face while their parcel is packed.

The support we have received since March last year has been phenomenal in terms of funds and food. Every tin or packet donated enabled us to provide enough food for 150,000 meals during the year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and a further 74,500 since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. The generosity of the local community has been appreciated not only by the staff and volunteers of Gloucester Foodbank but most of all by the local people in need of our support.

**Finally we wish you a happy and Christ filled Christmas**

## Volunteering for Gloucester Foodbank—Always rewarding

One of our volunteer drivers, Phil McLellan tells us what it is like delivering food to our clients. “I and my wife have been delivering food to clients for around six months. We normally do a morning round, arriving at the Foodbank around 11am. Chris, our normal co-ordinator supplies us with a delivery list, often of around half a dozen households. We load the boxes in our car and organise a route. Nearly all the clients we meet are very grateful and we sometimes get the chance for a quick chat.

There are occasional frustrations come when clients are not in or once or twice when they have moved, but on the whole, it is great to know, that we along with all the other Foodbank volunteers are really making a difference to people’s lives.

We have many other volunteering opportunities such as:-

Packing boxes of food—up to 12kg

Making up flat packed boxes for delivery to clients

Sorting products and lifting crates

Office work including being confident with using a computer

We provide training and support for volunteers. We are a friendly bunch who work well as a team. You just need to be willing to help—a good sense of humour will help!



**We especially need extra one off help in the run up to Christmas, including helping at our Tesco collections on 18, 19 and 20 November**

**To learn more and see if volunteering with us is for you, check out our website [gloucester.foodbank.org.uk](http://gloucester.foodbank.org.uk) or email [admin@gloucester.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:admin@gloucester.foodbank.org.uk) or give us a call on 01452309683**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE SOME FOOD ETC—  
THESE ARE THE ITEMS WE PARTICULARLY NEED.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**FRUIT JUICE**

**COFFEE**

**TINNED FRUIT**

**LONG LIFE MILK**

**PASTA SAUCE**

**TINNED POTATOES**

**POWDERED MASH**

**TINNED CUSTARD**



### **Promoting Gloucester Foodbank**

During the pandemic Foodbanks and other groups providing similar support have been high profile. Gloucester Foodbank has always tried to be open and show how we help people. We recently had a stall at Gloucester Day.

We are always happy to and talk (either via Zoom or in person) at church services or to linked groups about



our work. If you feel this would be helpful please do contact us by emailing

**info@gloucester.foodbank.org.uk or**

**phoning on 01452309683**

### **How you can help Gloucester Foodbank**

**Please pray for our  
clients, staff, trustees and  
volunteers**

- \* **Donate food and toiletries at your local supermarket**
- \* **Become a regular supporter via our 200 club, Or regularly give £3 a month via **FEED107B** to **70085** or one off **FEED107A** to **70085****
- \* **Do your online shopping via Give As You Live (it costs you nothing)**
- \* **Drop in old inkjet cartridges to us (we can claim back £1 a cartridge)**