

NEWS

EASTER 2024 - STOKE-ON-TRENT FOODBANK UPDATE COMMUNITY CARING & SHARING



Update from our
Director of Services, Corrine Boden MBE:




“We knew that it was going to be another challenging winter with many people coming to us for emergency food support, unable to afford the essentials.

From October until now, as a year ago, the average number of people that we supported was 2,000 people per month.

Each foodbank is unique, and has been developed by our volunteers to best meet the needs of their local community. We are about more than food!




2024
40% children
Many Working
Many people are using a foodbank for the first time



We've been able to support people through another winter of harsh decisions facing people having to choose between heating or eating, unable to afford the essentials - but we've been able to do this thanks to Stoke-on-Trent's sense of community and caring.”



Pathfinder Lead Stoke-on-Trent Food Bank, Nicola Shaw:

“We do this through 16 two-hour sessions in our volunteered manned church-based centres throughout the area.

Our partners, Money Matters attend most foodbank sessions helping people with money, debt advice and support, as well as benefit checks



Our voucher referral system is designed so referrals are made via a frontline professional, who will also support and signpost the person for help with other aspects of their crisis.

We believe that everyone should be able to afford food and not face hunger, so we work in a way that reduces the need. On average guests attend the foodbank 1.43 times which is in line with emergency food.”

#Together4Change

WHO USES A FOODBANK?

"I think that people would be surprised sometimes, at the people that need help from a foodbank.. you know you get people who are ill who aren't getting sick pay, there's no one kind of person, ... all sorts of situations."

Denise
warehouse & foodbank
centre volunteer



Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank is based on the values of Compassion, Justice, Dignity and Community. An example of COMMUNITY can be seen at our Swanbank church centre...



From Ruth Jeffries, Minister at SwanBank,

"When you come to the foodbank at SwanBank you receive so much more than just food!

When you arrive you'll receive a smile and a welcome, and maybe the offer of a cup of tea.



AND when you're waiting for food there's the offer of help, maybe to do with money, or maybe to do with housing, or anything else that you might need help with

You see coming to the foodbank is not just about food. It reminds me of a story from the Bible. Jesus said 'What is God's Kingdom like...

... What story can I use to explain it? It is like when a mustard seed is planted in the ground, it is the smallest seed in all the world, but once it is planted it grows larger than any garden plant, it even puts out branches that are big enough for birds to nest in its shade! This story reminds me that this one tins of beans that I might give to the foodbank, might seem very small; it reminds me that sharing a smile just as we walk past somebody may seem very small, even offering a cup of tea or a bit of help, here there or around may seem very small, actually what happens when it is planted in God is AMAZING!

You see that mustard seed is tiny but it grows into an amazing and big tree because it is planted in God's Earth. That tiny seed has a big impact, not just because it creates more mustard seeds but because it becomes a home for birds.



Each one of us can do our tiny little part.. you see our foodbank here is not just about the food that we offer, the food that we are able to share ... those tiny little things that we can do for one another

I remember hearing this quote a long time ago...and it stuck with me... Have you ever thought that you might be too small to make a difference? Well then you clearly have never spent a night in a room with a mosquito!

You see a mosquito is a really tiny insect but it can have a really big impact.. but maybe not a particularly nice one!

You see small things can make a difference, and not just to us but to all those around us... I'm sure that the birds that nestle in the branches of the mustard tree are very grateful for the one that planted the seed in the first place.

So maybe, today, tomorrow, in the days to come, you will do your 'tiny little thing' and see what God can do with it!

Our **EASTER 2024 VIDEO & RESOURCES** can be found on our website at:



<https://stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk/news>
This includes an AdLent Calendar for food.

