

A note from the Chairman

Well, here we are in 2022 where we will face new possibilities and challenges. As I look back on last year, we, as a Foodbank, were able to feed a total of 4165 people throughout 2021. This was an amazing provision, which was made possible by the wonderful volunteers who give their time so tirelessly. I have no doubt that our ministry to families in need will be in greater demand with the reduction in Universal Credit and the volatility in the fuel market putting greater strain on family budgets. But I am confident that we will rise to this challenge.

In recent weeks, we have strengthened our management structure by appointing Angela Dunford as Deputy Warehouse Manager and Sue Nicholls as Operations Assistant; I know you will welcome them both into our Foodbank family! We are also seeking to bring on new members to the Board of Trustees in the coming weeks following the news that both Mick Freeman (Treasurer) and Lorraine Nuttall (Secretary) will be moving on from these roles after many years of commitment and dedication.

I pray that God will bless all teams across our organisation as we continue to support families in need in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and surrounding villages.

Clive Cook

Chairman of Dunstable Foodbank

This Christmas

Over the Christmas period, Dunstable Foodbank received a flood of generous donations including all the main essentials for our food parcels; Christmas treats, toys and gift hampers; cash donations to aid our operations; along with vouchers for local businesses (such as Snakes & Ladders play centre) so that families could enjoy some extra blessings this Christmas. One pupil, in the reception class at St Christopher's school, asked for toys that he could donate to Dunstable Foodbank instead of asking for birthday presents. Our Warehouse even had a visit from the Dunstable Elf! We're incredibly grateful to

everyone who has donated, in whatever capacity, helping us to feed families in crisis this Winter.



Our Distribution Centres

It's been great to see new volunteers joining our teams at some of our Distribution Centres (DCs). Over the last few weeks, our DC volunteers have been responding to the ever-changing regulations due to Covid-19, giving out serious amounts of mince pies and offering Supermarket vouchers (provided by funding from Central Beds Council) to clients along with food parcels and signposting advice. Our DCs are based in 3 locations: Christ Church, New Life & St Augustine's and our partnership with local churches means that we have a place to welcome visitors in. Our ministry at Dunstable Foodbank is not only to feed the hungry, but to share the love of Jesus with every visitor who comes through our doors; our volunteers do just that week in, week out! Clients receive food as well as the opportunity to get plugged in - from coffee mornings to Kick Start courses... A chance to get connected and find community.

Making a real difference

I dropped the food off yesterday and Mum said she would be able to heat and light the house this week as a result.

- Feedback from a Social Worker working with a family in need in Jan 2022

Meet the Trustees



Clive has lived in Houghton Regis for over fifty years and has been a Trustee for Dunstable Foodbank since it started back in 2012. Before retirement, he worked for a Christian Housing Association who provided specially designed homes for wheelchair users. Clive is also on the board of a local church and is the Chairman of Dunstable Street Pastors.

Stephen Brevitt

Steve and his wife, Lindsay, have three children and moved from Poole, Dorset to Dunstable in July 2017 to take on the role of commanding officers at The Salvation Army in Dunstable. Steve has been on the Board of Trustees since then, recently stepping in to the position of Vice Chair. He enjoys reading, walking, visiting coffee shops and is a keen musician.



Ricky Turner



Ricky is the vicar at St Augustine's Church and has helped at the Foodbank Distribution Centre there since moving to the area five years ago. He joined the Board of Trustees in 2019 and is now the Safeguarding Officer. Ricky is a member of the Iona Community, used to be a secondary school music teacher and enjoys baking bread and playing chess!

Mick Freeman Stuart Douglas

Born in Dunstable, Mick has lived in the local area all his life and worked in accountancy for several years. Mick has volunteered with Dunstable Foodbank since its inception in 2012 - as Treasurer and as a member of the Steering Committee prior to that. In the coming months, Mick will be stepping down from the role of Treasurer after 10 years! We thank him for all the great work he has done and wish him all the best in the future!



Stuart has lived in Dunstable for over 30 years. Prior to his retirement, he worked for 34 years in the medical sales industry, selling into Eye and Ear Nose and Throat units. Stuart has been a Trustee for the Foodbank since March 2021 and also volunteers with Barnardo's Children's services, providing transportation for contact visits between children and their parents.

Supermarket partners



Throughout the year, our Warehouse volunteers make weekly pick ups from Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Waitrose as well as from several other retailers in our community who collect donations on our behalf from their customers. These generous donations along with the support of the Community Champions in each store, play a big part in helping us to continue providing food for those in need in our community.

What's more, weights from all donations collected from our Permanent Collection Points (PCPs) at several of these stores are reported back to the Trussell Trust who send us a 'top up' cash donation based on the weight of donations received, to further support the work that we do as a Foodbank!

November 2021 saw the return of the Tesco Winter Collection (with some changes due to Covid restrictions). The event was a huge success thanks to a great team effort from more than twenty Foodbank volunteers - greeting customers and collecting donations on the stand; shuttling donations back to the Warehouse to be weighed; sorting and dating the incredible 1.6 tonnes of donations received over the three-day event! Thank you to Karen and the staff team at Tesco for their support, as well as pupils from local schools who helped to decorate the stand!



Delivery partners

We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

Thank you to... your staff team, your volunteers, past and present for your commitment to serve the most vulnerable members of our communities. The sacrifices you have all made, your strength, courage and dedication has meant that our communities are better because you have all been part of it.

**Susan Goodchild, Central
Bedfordshire
Councillor, Houghton Hall Ward**

At the start of the pandemic, a delivery team was set up to help clients who were otherwise unable to reach one of our Centres and to help reduce footfall in our Distribution Centres. Our delivery volunteers made deliveries far and wide across LU5 and LU6 areas (and, at times, beyond!).

In December, *Good Neighbours* groups in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Eaton Bray, along with *Helping Hands* and *Carers* groups in other surrounding villages, began to support Foodbank clients with this service. We are so thankful to our volunteer team who picked up and delivered food parcels for clients over the last two years and we are also grateful for the partnership of other local volunteer schemes who are helping to support those who are struggling to afford the essentials and who can not reach one of our centres. As they say, *team work makes the dream work.*



How to get a voucher

Dunstable foodbank works using a voucher referral system. We know that anyone can find themselves at crisis point for a number of different reasons and in order to provide the most appropriate help for the client's circumstances, we work with local agencies who are well-placed to offer help, advice and support beyond food provision. These agencies issue a Foodbank voucher that can then be redeemed for a food parcel at one of our Distribution Centres – either a red paper voucher, or through our new E-Referral system which creates an online voucher that is sent directly to our online 'dashboard'.

Our Foodbank works with a number of different agencies across Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Toddington and other surrounding villages, such as Citizens Advice, The Salvation Army, Children's Centres, schools and various teams within Central Bedfordshire Council as well as many more. If you know of someone in need of emergency food assistance, encourage them to contact one of the agencies above that are local to them or pass on the number for the Foodbank Adviser at Citizens Advice: 07367 457834 where they can receive specialist advice and support along with a foodbank voucher if required. To find out more about our referral partners, visit the 'Get Help' page

on our website: www.dunstable.foodbank.org.uk

What's in the Warehouse?

Thanks to lots of generous donations over the Christmas period, the Warehouse is well-stocked with all essential items. At present, the current stock levels weigh equivalent to 1900 emergency parcels (3 day supply for a single person household).

We're well-stocked with: **We're in need of:**

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| • Baked beans | • Tinned meat |
| • Pasta | • Tinned fish |
| • Soup | • Breakfast cereal bars |
| • Cereal | • Small bags of sugar (500g) |

In December 2021 alone, Dunstable Foodbank fed 526 people.

44% of these were children.

1 in 5 households we supported over the period were single-parent families.

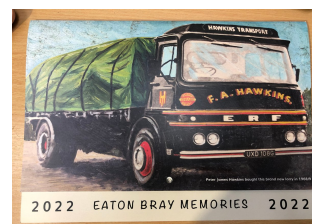
Tea, anyone?

At the end of January, the Trustees held an Afternoon Tea event for all of our volunteers to say **thank you** for all their hard work and efforts over the previous year helping to feed those most in need in our community. Held at The Way Coffee House, around 50 volunteers from across every team of the charity came together for a wonderful spread provided by Anne and the Team at The Way. It was great to see so many there, and those who came enjoyed the opportunity to meet volunteers from other teams. To those who weren't able to join us, you were greatly missed – we hope to see you soon!

Eaton Bray Memories Calendar

Dunstable Foodbank are very grateful to Kathy Ellison, a resident of Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, who has donated £530 to the Foodbank from the sales of her Eaton Bray Memories calendar. The calendar captures memories of Eaton Bray village showcasing historic photographs portraying village life through the 20th Century.

Thank you, Kathy!



Other ways to get involved

• Interested in becoming a Trustee?

The Trustees are looking for someone to step into the roles of Treasurer and Secretary. For more information or to register interest, please contact Clive Cook, Chairman on the email below.

• Voucher administrator at New Life

Volunteer needed to support the team at New Life DC on Mondays (1:30-4pm) and/or Wednesdays (9:30am-12pm). The role includes talking with Foodbank clients about their circumstances and processing vouchers using our online system. Training will be provided. Contact Jemma if you or someone you know is interested in this role.

• Dates for your diary

Tesco Summer Collection: Thurs 30th June, Fri 1st July and Sat 2nd July 2022. Volunteers needed to greet customers and accept donations at Tesco Extra on Skimpott Road. Please hold the date(s)! More details to follow.

Level Trust Poverty & Education Conference:

Thurs 26th May 2022. Volunteers needed on the stand to talk with delegates about the work of our Foodbank.

• Join our Facebook group – search for 'Dunstable Food Bank & Surrounding Villages'

and join the page to receive updates. Share the page with friends, family and neighbours to spread the word about who we are and what we do!



Dunstable Foodbank Key Contacts

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Mick Freeman, Treasurer

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Mick Hodsdon, Warehouse Manager

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Ricky Turner / Stephen Brevitt, Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Lead

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DUNSTABLE FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS