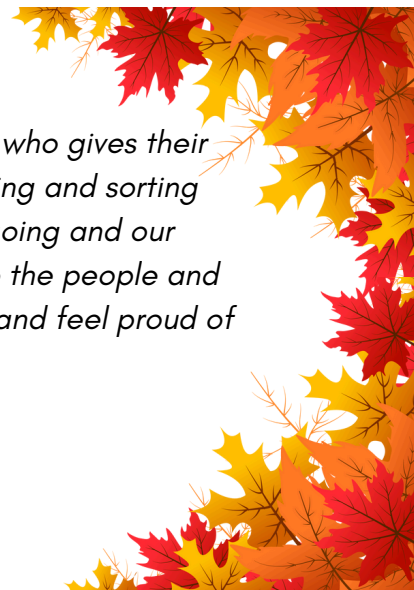


## **Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!**

*As the seasons change, we want to say a genuine thank you to everyone who gives their time, energy, or donations to Dunstable Foodbank. From volunteers packing and sorting parcels to donors helping families in need, your support keeps our work going and our community connected. In this newsletter, you'll find stories that celebrate the people and moments that make our foodbank what it is. We hope you enjoy reading and feel proud of all that you help make possible.*

Michele McCalla  
Operations Manager  
Dunstable Foodbank.



## **COM CHURCH**

COM Church Celebrates 40 Years by Supporting Dunstable Foodbank



This year, COM Church celebrated an incredible 40 years of ministry in Dunstable. To mark the milestone, they generously donated to Dunstable Foodbank, helping us keep food and essentials moving to local families and individuals in need.

Every donation makes a difference, and COM Church's gift is a welcome boost for our community. Congratulations to the church on an amazing 40 years, and for choosing to celebrate by giving to others, and for helping us keep food and hope flowing in our town.



## **Plumbcity Dunstable BBQ Boosts Foodbank.**

A big thank you to Plumbcity Dunstable for raising funds for Dunstable Foodbank!

Luke, Harry, Terri, and the team hosted a fun-filled BBQ with a raffle, competitions, and trade stalls, welcoming our trustee, Jason Hodges along.

The branch is aiming to raise over £1,000 this year, with hopes of having it matched by their head office.

We're so grateful for everyone's effort — events like this make a real difference to local people when they need it most!



## Meet Our New Trustee: Katie Owen.

Hello, I'm Katie Owen, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as a new trustee for Dunstable Foodbank.

By day, I work in a middle school, supporting children with special educational needs and those who are most vulnerable. Helping others has always been a passion of mine, and I'm excited to bring that same dedication to the foodbank.

In my free time, you'll often find me exploring the beauty of our country in my camper van. It's a perfect way to recharge and appreciate the world around us.

I'm committed to supporting the vital work of the foodbank and ensuring that everyone in our community has access to the food they need. I'm really looking forward to working alongside you all to make a difference.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Clare Perry.

This autumn, we shine the spotlight on Clare Perry, our dedicated Volunteer Warehouse Manager.

Clare began volunteering with Dunstable Foodbank during COVID at the New Life Church distribution centre. Taking on the warehouse role has allowed her to see food donations journey from supermarket collections to the hands of clients – something she finds deeply rewarding.

A lifelong Houghton Regis resident, Clare is married with four children. Formerly a midwife, she later became a stay-at-home mum, then took on family-friendly roles such as gymnastics coach and exam invigilator, while continuing to support her church community. She enjoys gardening, Christian music, and Queen, and her favourite TV show is Call the Midwife. Clare's message to fellow volunteers:

"Be proud of yourself every time you put on your foodbank shirt. You are doing something special."



## Harvest 2025 – A Season of Generosity and Community.

This Harvest season has been filled with generosity, gratitude, and community spirit. Schools, churches, and supermarkets across Dunstable have once again shown incredible kindness, helping families and individuals facing hardship.

We've also had the privilege of taking part in wonderful Harvest celebration assemblies at local schools and sharing about the work of the Foodbank during church services. A true reminder of how much our community cares.

From hand-written messages of hope included with donations to pupils helping weigh and sort food at the warehouse, every gesture has mattered. So far, we've collected an amazing 3,552.93 kg of donations and counting!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has given, collected, spoken, or volunteered. Your continued support helps bring hope to those who need it most as we move into the busy winter months.

Thank you for being part of the Dunstable Foodbank community.



## Celebrating Our Volunteers

Our Trustees recently hosted a wonderful celebration at the warehouse, giving visitors, including MP Alex Mayer, a guided tour while trustees served refreshments. Stories were shared, laughter filled the room, and the sense of community was tangible.

We were also joined by Louise O’Riordan, former Town Mayor, and Sharon Warboys from Don’t Let Dunstable Die, adding to the day’s warmth and camaraderie.

One volunteer said, “The celebration was a good chance to meet others and show a bit of what goes on behind the scenes every week.”

It was a joyful reminder of the passion and care our volunteers bring every day, and an important chance to thank them all for keeping our community supported and connected.



## A Trip up the Amazon

Visitors to Dunstable Foodbank often marvel at our warehouse. In a space roughly the size of an Olympic swimming pool, volunteers sort, stack, and pack donations with impressive efficiency – usually like a well-oiled machine. Just across Boscombe Road, Amazon’s LTN4 fulfilment centre dwarfs our operation. Covering four and a half football pitches, it uses advanced robotics and computerised systems that our foodbank can only dream of. Fun fact: Amazon fulfilment centres are named after the nearest airport code LTN4 sits beneath Luton Airport flight paths!



Our Thursday van crew regularly collects generous donations from Amazon, and recently, drivers Nigel and David joined a one-hour guided tour. Seventeen intrigued visitors were each given a headset and microphone to listen to and talk with the guide. Safety was paramount, and we were instructed to stay within clearly marked walkways.

The real action takes place behind huge cages, where humans rarely tread. Here, Amazon’s Dunstable brigade of robots handles the bulk of operations – part of a global army that recently reached its millionth deployed robot in a warehouse in Japan. From our volunteer-run warehouse to this high-tech giant, the visit was a fascinating glimpse into the scale, precision, and teamwork that keep modern logistics moving.

To book a tour, go to [www.amazontours.com](http://www.amazontours.com) and click on ‘reserve your spot’ to find the Dunstable facility.

### Dunstable Foodbank Key Contacts

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**HELPING LOCAL**  
**PEOPLE IN CRISIS**