

Absolutely Vantastic!

Dunstable Foodbank can proudly maintain its reputation as a driving force for good, following the purchase of a new van with which to undertake the collection and delivery duties that represent a core part of our operation.

A white Renault Master, barely five years old and with less than 30,000 miles on the clock, replaces the venerable silver Ford Transit that had undertaken such sterling service, but which was beginning to become expensive to run and maintain.

Like the Ford, our Renault will become a familiar sight around Dunstable, Houghton Regis, and the surrounding areas, as dedicated teams of drivers and their crews make collections from local supermarkets, churches, and schools, and deliver orders of food and other items to our distribution centres. The Renault is the same size as the Transit, and it comes well-equipped with a dashcam, reversing camera, comfortable cab, and a panelled loading area. It is already pounding the streets, although it will briefly take an off-road respite while signwriting is applied to the sides and the rear doors.



Ready to hit the roads (and potholes!) of Bedfordshire

Diane is our new diamond

Meet Diane Ravilious (right), the new Operations Manager for Dunstable Foodbank.

Many volunteers will have already come across Diane, who had been working for us on a part-time basis, and will have noted not just her bubbly personality, but also her excellent organisational skills and a special ability to 'get things done'.

Diane's arrival follows the departure of Michele McCalla, whose dedication to the Foodbank was saluted by Stuart Douglas, chair of Trustees. Stuart said: "We would like to thank Michele for her time and contribution, and we wish her all the very best for the future. I am very pleased to share that Diane, who many of you will know has been working with us for several months on a part-time basis,



has agreed to step into the role of Operations Manager. Diane has been doing a fantastic job keeping things moving while Michele has been off."

Celebration for our volunteers



Dunstable Foodbank Trustees added an extra ray of sunshine to summer by inviting the volunteers from all the branches of the organisation - warehouse, van crew, distribution centres - to a BBQ generously hosted by Mike and Helen Pittam at their wonderful home in Studham. There was plenty of food and refreshments to go around. But more importantly, the afternoon offered a chance for friends to meet and chat in a relaxed setting away from the sometimes frenetic business of the foodbank. A great time was enjoyed by all!

Vital donations from Frost's and ASDA help to keep our warehouse stocked

With demand going up, and weekly donations going down, the foodbank's shelves have received vital boosts from a spectacular effort by Frost's Estate Agents, and a special event at ASDA supermarket.

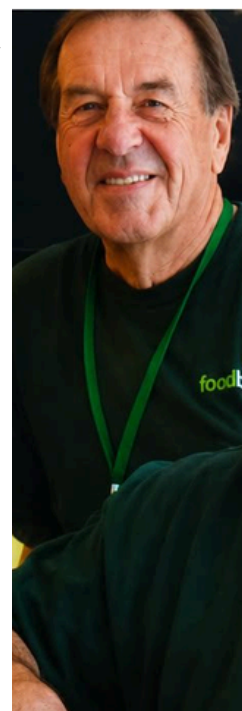
Frost's dropped off 4,000 bags at local homes, and their desire to make a difference in the community was rewarded with nearly 800kg of food donations.

Frost's staff member Julia Wheatley, whose late father Graham Wilson (photo right) was a volunteer at our Christ Church centre, told us:

"It was something very important to him. I know he would be very happy that Frost's Dunstable chose to support this important cause."

The two-day collection at ASDA produced over 40 crates of food, plus £340 in monetary donations.

Operations Manager, Diane Ravilious praised those volunteers who took part, saying: "Your dedication, commitment and persistence made a huge difference to the people we serve. "I think you're all amazing!"



Dunstable Foodbank Key Contacts information:

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Donations gratefully recieved at:
[Dunstable Foodbank](#)
[HSBC](#)

Sort code: 40 - 19 - 30 A/c no: 91749064

Our Ricky becomes Team Rector

Congratulations to Revd Ricky Turner, a former trustee who remains as safeguarding lead for Dunstable Foodbank, has been appointed as Team Rector of the Dunstable Team Ministry. Ricky said: "I'm thankful for the encouragement shown to me across the parish."