

End of year update Thornbury Foodbank January 2024

We have had a busy few months, with Harvest donations soon followed by a 3-day collection at Tesco. We are so grateful to all who supported us through this time including, schools, churches and other local organisations. Tesco customers donated an amazing 1.2tonnes of food and Christmas items between 30 November and 2 December. We are also thankful for the support Tesco staff gave us at that time and continuously through the year. We also benefitted from their recent closure when they gave us bread, fruit and veg which they were unable to sell. All this was at a time, when previously, donations to Foodbanks had reduced as a result of cost-of-living increases.

Because of the generosity of our community, we were able to give every client a bag of Christmas treats together with a voucher to buy some fresh items. We were also given lots of lovely children gifts which we included in family parcels. It was such a pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of the clients when they received the colourful bag of goodies.



The number of clients coming to us continues to remain fairly constant but with high increases in numbers in the weeks before Christmas. From 1 July to 30 December 2023, we fed 403 adults and 287 children. We issued 8.01 tonnes of food and other essentials, and received 8.5 tonnes of donations. Compared with the same period last year, number of adults fed is down by 7 and the number of children fed down by 41 which is always good to see happen. Food and essential items issued is about the same but donations received are up by 2.7tonnes which was reflected in the amazing amount of donations received during Harvest and Christmas. This is so encouraging as we begin another year where the need for Foodbanks continues. Before Harvest we were drawing more donations from the warehouse in North Bristol and will continue to need to do so if donations decrease again. We are also able to supplement these donations by buying in more items, especially fresh food.

We hope that regular donations will continue in the coming months. Every item we receive, in kind or financially, is gratefully received as we seek to show love and care to those in need in our community.



Thornbury Outlet

Your generous financial donations enable us to buy fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese, bread, spread, baby milk and nappies and some essentials when our stocks are low.

We are able to signpost clients to other organisations for further help, in particular to our Citizens Advice support who has been most effective in helping clients with advice and giving them access to local funding. We also refer clients to Warm & Well part of Severn Wye charity who can help with advice and support especially relating to fuel emergencies. We have also had representatives from other organisations coming in to the afternoon session, when clients come in, who are available to discuss issues with clients, should they choose to do so.

We continue to be most grateful for the support we get from local businesses as well as individuals, schools, churches and organisations. We are always happy to come and talk to your organisation about Foodbank. Please contact us if you would like to take this opportunity.

We continue to welcome new members joining our faithful team who continue to work so enthusiastically on Wednesday mornings and Fridays.

In exceptional circumstances where clients are unable to come to the Foodbank due to illness or other reasons, we are able to deliver their parcels. We are grateful for the support of our drivers who come in and help us with this on Fridays. Although these clients are unable to come to Foodbank, we have telephone conversations with them in order to find out if we can help them further.

For those who attend their appointments on a Friday afternoon, our volunteers are able to discuss other ways we, and other organisations, can help them. Hopefully providing them with the means to help get them out of food poverty.

On behalf of all of those benefitting from your kindness, generosity and concern, and always in the hope that one day Foodbanks will no longer be needed, we want to thank you again for making life a little easier for those in need of our help. We couldn't do it without your support.

Wishing you all continued health, peace and hope in the coming days.

Mair Vaughan

On Behalf of Thornbury Foodbank Management Team

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