

Newsletter



December 2022

More Donations Please

A huge THANK YOU for all the donations we have received this year. Together we can keep making a difference to people in financial hardship. Thanks to our recent *Harvest Festival* collections we received over **2 tonnes** of donations (enough to feed 230 people). Although both Christmas and Harvest give the Foodbank the chance to restock, current supply levels are dwindling. The level of need in our community has resulted in the Foodbank continuing to give out more food than we are taking in. Like foodbanks nationwide, Droitwich is seeing a rise in the numbers of clients, and significantly, in people coming for the first time. Every donation is very welcome, particularly for those who are struggling to meet the additional costs of rising energy bills and increasing inflationary pressures. Our social media pages contain a regularly updated foodbank wishlist.

In 2022 you helped support

nearly **4000** people
Including around **1500** children

18% more than in 2021

Our community donated over
25 tonnes of food and toiletries



The start of the donation journey, at the collection points in Morrisons, Waitrose, Specsavers, Sainsburys and other locations listed on the foodbank website.



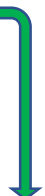
Food donations arrive at our warehouse where volunteers date and sort it into the different types of stock. It is then stored until it is needed to be packed into boxes ready to go to the centre.



Donations are delivered to the foodbank where volunteers help to unload the boxes.



The foodbank is located at Droitwich Baptist Church and is open on Tuesdays (12:30-14:30) and Fridays (14:00-16:00).



Donations boxes, categorized by size of household, are ready to be opened by volunteers. Each parcel contains three days of emergency food.

THE JOURNEY OF YOUR DONATION



Whilst the food is being packed our clients are invited to chat with our Signposting Team who can give contact details for local agencies and organisations in areas including clothing, health, energy bills, counselling and debt.

Our volunteers pack the box contents into bags, and where required also add toiletries, pet food, baby food and nappies.



Our clients arrive at the Foodbank with a voucher (issued by agencies, including GPs, schools, Housing Associations) and wait in the public seating area for their food to be packed.

This typical food box contains a variety of dried, tinned and packet items. The Trussell Trust works with dietitians to provide lists of food that offer the optimum nutritional balance.



www.facebook.com/droitwichspafoodbank



www.instagram.com/droitwich_spa_foodbank/



<https://twitter.com/Dwichfoodbank>

New Initiatives

Aldi Vouchers

Thanks to our generous financial donors the Foodbank has been able to provide clients with Aldi vouchers in addition to their food parcels. The vouchers mean that clients can choose items to top-up on what the Foodbank can provide (vouchers cannot be used to purchase alcohol, cigarettes or scratchcards).

Recipe Suggestion Cards

Food parcels now contain a Recipe Suggestion Card. The recipes can be put together using the ingredients in the box, and have so far included Fish Pie and Spaghetti Bolognese.

Collaboration with Citizens Advice

In the New Year, the Foodbank will be partnering with Citizens Advice. The partnership will ensure that during Foodbank opening hours there will be a Citizens Advice staff member present who will be available to provide clients with any further support that they may need. This will be in addition to the Signposting provision already offered by our volunteers.

A BIG Thank You

We would like to say an enormous thank you to **Worcestershire Ambassadors** who have been raising funds to support foodbanks throughout Worcestershire.



Droitwich Spa will be receiving a proportion of this which will be invaluable in helping people in our community.

Changes and Opportunities

We have noticed an interesting trend in the make-up of our team of volunteers since the end of the pandemic. Many older team members who had to shield or look after family members during COVID were unable to volunteer, at least in person. Two years on, the foodbank has a more diverse age range of those helping in person, as well as in remote roles. This is consistent with nationwide trends. For many volunteering at the foodbank gives them a chance to re-build confidence (after children and/or a career break), and for younger people, an opportunity to build their skill-set and engage with the community.

Christmas is Coming

Our foodbank parcels for December will contain some festive goodies for everyone – advent calendars, mince pies, cakes and chocolates – courtesy of the kind donations made.



Countdown to Christmas

The Droitwich Spa Foodbank **Countdown to Christmas Calendar** contains items used in every foodbank box. It can be viewed on our social media pages and is distributed around the town. As part of our ongoing drive to increase stocks for 2023 the calendar suggests a much-needed food item for each day of the run-up to Christmas Day that the public can donate.



Donations can be placed in collection boxes around the town or taken directly to the Foodbank Centre at Droitwich Baptist Church during opening hours. We are aiming to exceed the 3 tonnes donated through this initiative in 2021.

We want to see a future where food banks aren't needed and we know that together, we can make that happen.

Find out more about our work by visiting our website:

Droitwich Spa Foodbank

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