



April/May 2021

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest news from Cheltenham Foodbank.

VOLUNTEERS

Since our last addition we have welcomed to our fabulous team of volunteers some new members. We have also welcomed back some returning members. Each of our volunteers bring something special to our team and we would like to celebrate and honour that by introducing a new feature called "Meet the Team" which you will find later in the newsletter.

DONATIONS

We are always extremely grateful for your donations. Every gift, large or small, will have a positive impact on the lives of local people that are struggling to make ends meet. We are currently in need of the following items: Instant mash potato, long life fruit juice, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, tinned fruit, toothpaste, shampoo and washing up liquid. Donations can be delivered to us at Cheltenham Elim Church on a Thursday between 11am and 3pm. If you would like to make a donation and you cannot make it to us, we have various collection points in Cheltenham, these are located at: Tesco on Colletts Drive, Asda on Hatherley Lane, Waitrose on Honeybourne Way, Co-op on Windyridge Road, Co-op on London Road and finally Sainsbury's Local on Cheltenham High Street.

A huge thank you to all of the above businesses for their incredible support.

If you would like to host your own food collection please contact us at foodbank@cheltenhamelim.org. To make a monetary donation as either a one off or a regular payment you can do so here at <https://cheltenham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

REFERRAL AGENCIES

Thank you to all of our referral agencies for the incredible work that you do and for your referrals. If you work with people who you think need food support, but you do not know how to refer them to us, please contact us at foodbankagencies@cheltenhamelim.org. We can provide information about becoming a referral agency or making contact with a referral agency with which you can work.

PARTNERSHIPS

In Partnership with The Fuel Bank Foundation, Gloucestershire County Council and Cheltenham Borough Council we continue to provide the additional support of domestic fuel vouchers to clients. Fuel vouchers are being issued alongside and independently of food parcels. To access a voucher for a prepaid gas or electricity meter please contact us on 01242 570080 or by email at foodbank@cheltenhamelim.org.

A huge thank you to the Sneaky Carrot for their continued support. We are most grateful to all involved in the making of these nutritious frozen ready meals that we have the pleasure of passing on to our clients.



Magnificent Mac 'n' Cheese, Chunky Beef Chilli, Saucy Spaghetti & Meatballs and Chicken & Sweet Potato Curry.

If you would like further information about partnering with us or fundraising for Cheltenham Foodbank or if you would like to host your own food collection please contact us at foodbank@cheltenhamelim.org.

FOOD PARCEL COLLECTIONS

We are delighted to announce that from Wednesday 27th May, after over a year we shall be welcoming clients inside the Cheltenham Elim Church building once again. Clients will enter through the main doors at the front of the building and no longer around the back.

Distribution of food parcels will take place within our newly renovated community space. This will give us more opportunity to provide helpful services and support as well as enabling us to more easily signpost foodbank clients to other means of support and advice where necessary.



ALL FOOD PARCEL COLLECTION OPENING DAYS AND TIMES

LOCATION	DAY	TIME
Salvation Army Church	Monday	11am - 3pm
Elim Church	Wednesday	11am - 3pm
C3 Church	Friday	10am - Midday
St Pauls Church	Friday	11am - 3pm

Please see our website www.cheltenhamfoodbank.org for maps and full location details.

LOOKING AHEAD

Salvation Army distribution centre will be closed on Monday 31st May due to the bank holiday.

MEET THE TEAM: PAUL MURPHY



Paul is a new and cheerful member of our team. He drives our foodbank van to collect donations and works in our warehouse at our main site at Cheltenham Elim Church

Hello Paul, Tell us a little about yourself.

“Hello I’m Paul Murphy, I was born and grew up in a small coal mining village in South Wales. My early years seemed to centre around school and rugby. I continued to college in Leicester where two things of significance happened on the rugby field: I had two trials for Leicester (the premier club of that decade), funnily enough they didn’t invite me back for a third — boo, I met my future wife on Beeston fields in Nottingham playing rugby — at least I was, she was supporting another team, hooray! I came to this area having joined Hambro Life in Swindon (now part of the Zurich) in 1971. I spent the rest of my working life in a number of different financial organisations, including three years in Eagle Star in Bishops Cleeve. I enjoy reading, cycling, walking and mountain trekking. I have had the good fortune to visit the Himalayas several times, and equally fortunate to see an albino yak high up on one of the mountains, a very rare occurrence.”

Wonderful to get to know you a little better. Do you have any future goals or ambitions?

“My main ambition is to learn to play the guitar like Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton.”

Can you tell us a little about what has brought you to Cheltenham Foodbank and your experience so far of volunteering?

“Volunteering for me fulfils several requirements: I get to contribute to a worthwhile cause, I really enjoy driving and it is active so it provides me with free exercise. Although I have only been here a short time, I have found that volunteering for the Foodbank satisfies all of these. However it has one further ingredient, people who work here are genuinely committed to providing a service to people in need to make their lives better.”

Welcome to the team Paul It is great to have you on board and thank you for being our first team member to contribute to our new feature.

Finally, a wholehearted thank you to every one of our supporters. We are so grateful for all of you and all you do for the service of Cheltenham Foodbank.

Cheltenham Foodbank Team.