

November 2021

## Harvest time

Harvest has happened and we are so grateful to all the places that have given so generously. It's always really special to receive so many donations from the schools and to see children be a part of supporting those around them, including producing some beautifully decorated bags and boxes for their donations. A group of children from one of the local primary schools was able to come and have a look around and see how their donations are



used once they get here. One thing that we have been blown away by throughout the last 18 months has been the incredible generosity of those in this town. Thank you, we genuinely couldn't do it without you all.

## Christmas Opening Times

We will be open as normal until 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.

24<sup>th</sup> Dec (until 1pm) – **St. Paul's and C3**

**All branches will be closed until 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

## Christmas...

With Christmas fast approaching we are getting increasingly busy. We want to be as generous as we can given the incredible generosity people have shown in donating. We will be adding Christmas bags of goodies to the normal parcels. There is also the continuing option for people to receive fuel vouchers and we are working with agencies across the town to deliver this where needed.

*“Volunteering is so rewarding”*

## Opening Times for collection

**Monday 11am – 3pm** (Salvation Army, 39 Bath Road)

**Wednesday 11am -3pm** (Cheltenham Elim Church, 115 St. George's Road)

**Friday 10am – 12** (C3, The Pavilion, Up Hatherley)

**Friday 11am-3pm** (St. Paul's Church, St. Paul's Road)

## Donation times

**Thursday 11am – 3pm** (Cheltenham Elim, 115 St. George's Road)

## Most needed items

Cold Meat

Juice

Hot Chocolate

Washing up Liquid

UHT Milk

Coffee

Stuffing

Gravy

Christmas Biscuits and Chocolates

Savoury Crackers

## What next?

There is no doubt that the recent drop of the £20 uplift given during the pandemic has had a heavy impact on many of our clients. Trussell Trust ran a campaign to keep it maintained and following the end of that they said that although it hadn't been successful it highlighted just how important it is for us as foodbanks to be forward thinking, to be looking at how we can best support those who come to us.

One of the things we will be looking to start in the New Year is to offer a Life Skills course in partnership with CAP, which will explore things like budgeting, wellbeing, cooking etc. As an introduction to this one of the team from the Life Skills programme will be coming into the Cheltenham Foodbank Centre on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December to do a rolling demonstration of a simple one pot soup that can be made. (And clients will be able to try it!)

## Depot round up....

### St. Paul's

We have steadily been getting busier over the last few months & have been blessed with such a reliable & hard-working team. Some of our highlights have been conversations we've been able to have with people and see them find glimpses of hope in life. We are finding that people are struggling so much and are very open to talk. We are finding the work challenging at times and yet so rewarding and we feel so blessed that we can give out just a tiny bit of all that we have received.

### Salvation Army

It has been an honour to join the Foodbank Distribution Network this year and provide another presence in Cheltenham to be able to reach out in times of need. Since restrictions have allowed us to be able to invite clients in and offer them a drink we have had

much more opportunity to talk and share with clients recognising there is so much more need than just food. I thank my team for their willingness and availability to get involved and offer hope in these unprecedented days.

### C3

C3 continues to grow and serve local families and the community. We have had new contact with one of the local primary schools, looking to be set up as a referral agency.