



# Newsletter

April 2022

## Spring in the Foodbank

These last few months have brought new challenges and new opportunities. There is no doubt that we are seeing an increasing need for the Foodbank. The number of people using the foodbank in Feb/March continues to increase and this looks unlikely to change any time soon and we are looking at how we can support people to the best of our abilities. In the midst of pretty dire headlines and incredibly challenging financial situations we have an opportunity to support people and build community for those who need it most. In 2022 it's not ok that people across our town are struggling to put food on the table and provide gas and electricity to their homes.

We are continuing to offer Fuelbank vouchers for those on pre-payment meters and the need for this has increased hugely as we partner with other organisations across the town. We have also begun running a Life Skills course in partnership with CAP. It has been great having an opportunity to get to know people a bit better and something we will be looking to develop in the future.

We recently hosted training for our volunteers, wonderfully lead by our regional manager, Phil, which was a great opportunity to think about what we're doing and where we can improve.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

We have a date booked for **JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2022** to celebrate 10 years of Cheltenham Foodbank. Save the date and more details will follow!!

If you have any queries or need to speak to someone in the Foodbank Sarah and Rebecca are available throughout the week and you get hold of us on: 01242 570080 or [foodbank@cheltenhamelim.org](mailto:foodbank@cheltenhamelim.org).

## Donations

We are so grateful for all the donations we receive; it really is a team effort. We could not operate without the support and generosity from those who live in Cheltenham. We have seen a drop in donations which wasn't unexpected as finances become tighter for many people at the moment, if you do want to donate please check the products we are most needing so that we can ensure we are providing the best parcels we can.

*“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

### Washing up liquid

Long life milk

Long life fruit juice

Sponge puddings

Packet desserts

Men's Deodorant

Tinned tomatoes

Mayonnaise

Adult toothbrushes

## Looking Forward...

We would love to be in a place of saying that it looks like we phase out the need for foodbanks, however we're currently a very long way from that place and its evident that the need for foodbanks and emergency support is increasing. We are seeing the numbers of people needing the foodbank increasing and many having to come to us for the first time. We are aware that while we can help meet an immediate need with a food parcel there is so much more that needs to be done. With this in mind we are exploring how we develop services that provide further support for people at the point at which we meet them and not just referring people on. To help facilitate some of this we have also been able to furnish a new room to provide a space for people to have more individual support. Watch this space for more information... 😊



## A community allotment

We have been given the opportunity to have a community allotment which will enable us to begin to look at growing fresh produce but also give people who come to the Foodbank something to get involved in. We are still in the early planning stages but if you are interested in getting involved or have gardening equipment that you could donate then please get in touch with Rebecca asap on [foodbank@cheltenhamelim.org](mailto:foodbank@cheltenhamelim.org).

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

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