

No 9

STOCKPORT FOODBANK



**citizens
advice**

**CITIZENS
ADVICE ARE
HERE TODAY**

Record demand at all Stockport Foodbank centres

The last few years have been truly challenging for everyone and Stockport Foodbank has had its share of opportunities and difficulties too.

Whilst our centres are now back to 'normal' and agencies are regularly visiting and referring clients to our foodbank centres, the needs of our clients are as acute as they ever have been. We are only too aware of the inflationary pressures that everyone is facing

– the increases in food costs, the rise in heating bills as well as the price rises on many everyday essentials. Almost 40% of those coming to Stockport Foodbank are new clients being referred for the very first time, an indication if one were needed, that the cost of living pressures are affecting every part of our community.

We have also seen a significant increase in the use of our centres by clients from parts of

Europe, and beyond, who are now living in the Stockport area. Our food parcels have been adjusted to meet their dietary preferences and we are grateful for the food and financial donation that have made this possible.

Looking ahead our volunteer teams are now back to full strength, CAB advisors are in place and signposting to other supporting agencies is in full swing. So we are right ready to help.

Every week we meet people who are facing 'tough times' due to benefit issues, increasing or unexpected household bills, debt and many other financial difficulties. In response, Stockport Foodbank now employs Citizens Advice advisors at each centre to talk directly to clients and offer help and guidance. Already, through the advice being offered, we have we have seen a number of people move towards a stronger financial position and no longer needing our services.

Phone: 07483 115349 (office hours only)

Email: foodbank@stockportfoodbank.org.uk



CARING FOR CLIENTS ONE BY ONE

If you've not read the story of the boy and the starfish, may we invite you to read it on our web site – it simply encapsulates our mission and the passion we have to help our clients.

<https://stockport.foodbank.org.uk/about/about-our-foodbank/>



HOLIDAY FOOD PARCELS

In recent times we have made every effort to support families during school holidays as we know how expensive the holiday periods can be. Our aim has been, in conjunction with local schools, to ensure that a weekly food parcel is available to all those who obtain free school meals as well as those who do not qualify for this benefit, but are finding times equally difficult. Thanks to the generosity of our donors this support is set to continue across all school holidays.



St Mark's Bredbury where Gina volunteers

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Gina Flattley, St Mark's Bredbury

"I have volunteered at St Mark's since 2014, having started shortly after retiring from teaching. There has always been a brilliant team and everyone is made to feel welcome. Covid had a big impact on us, however things are now back to normal. My role has changed from helping in the storeroom to more front of house, involved in collecting codes and entering them onto the system as we go along. I really enjoy my time on Tuesdays as I feel I'm helping to make a difference to people's lives. Some of the stories we hear are heartbreaking and I always thank God we are able to offer real help to those facing tough times."

'There has always been a brilliant team and everyone is made to feel welcome.'



New foodbank in Tiviot Dale

For some time we have been looking to open a Foodbank centre in the centre of Stockport to cater for the needs of people in that part of our town.

Tiviot Dale Methodist Church, located just a short distance from Stockport Precinct, is now open once a week to provide a Foodbank centre for clients in that area. Judging by the feedback, it is ideal for local residents.



A helping hand with school uniforms

We all know how expensive school uniforms can be, and so as a result of a specific grant to Stockport Foodbank, we have been able to offer our 'foodbank families', an Asda voucher as a way of helping with this expense.

To date we have helped with vouchers for winter requirements such as coats and shoes plus early summer help for PE kits and summer term uniform. As the funding for this project has been renewed, we are delighted to announce that these schemes will be continued, bringing much needed help and support to families across our town.



"I do skip meals. The kids don't, but I do. Now with the foodbank help no one goes without."



THANKS TO OUR BRILLIANT DONORS

Ever since the outbreak of Covid we have been humbled by the flow of donations, both of food and finance. Without the commitment of local shoppers, organisations, trusts, choirs, charities and private individuals, we would not be able to meet the need for emergency food parcels and so, on behalf of the recipients of the food parcels, can we extend a massive thank you to everyone who donates in any way at all. Every donation really does make a difference especially when donations from tax payers can attract Gift aid, which adds a further 25% to the donation at no cost to the donor.



Corporate volunteering

Throughout the year we are indebted to many companies who donate staff time to the Foodbank. It has been of immense help to have folk come alongside us and date tins, move stock around, load vehicles and much more. Our grateful thanks goes to all of our 'corporates' – your help is really appreciated.

YOUR DONATIONS HAVE FUNDED A NEW FOODBANK VAN

As the work of the Foodbank has increased, so have the physical sizes of our collections and deliveries. Having served us well for many years, our previous vehicle was becoming too small for our needs. Due entirely to the generosity of our donors, we have bought a larger and newer vehicle which suits our needs admirably. Thank you.



Social media

We have been building our presence on social media to update our supporters on projects and other news. If you haven't done so already, why not follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter to keep up to date.



There's a Stockport Foodbank centre near you

Stockport Foodbank is open 6 days a week as below:

- Monday** Hazel Grove Baptist Church
St Martin's, Heaton Norris
- Tuesday** St Mark's, Bredbury
Salvation Army, Cheadle Heath
- Wednesday** Hazel Grove Baptist Church
Tiviot Dale Methodist Church
- Thursday** Bairstow Centre, Reddish
St Philip's, Offerton
St Martin's, Heaton Norris
- Friday** Trinity Church, Cheadle
Hazel Grove Baptist Church
Salvation Army, Cheadle Heath
- Saturday** Bairstow Centre, Reddish

For local maps and opening times please visit:
www.stockport.foodbank.org.uk/locations

HOW TO CONTACT STOCKPORT FOODBANK

Our website:

www.stockport.foodbank.org.uk

LIKE our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StockportFoodbank

twitter @Skptfoodbank

LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/stockport-foodbank

