

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Thank you for all your support



Christmas 2023 Update

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our St Albans & District Foodbank newsletter

Reflecting on the past year, 2023 has marked our busiest period to date. We are now open 6 days a week in our 8 Foodbank centres across the district.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of over 130 volunteers who dedicate their time to collecting, sorting, packing, delivering, and distributing our emergency food parcels. Their efforts have allowed us to assist over 1100 households in need, creating a safe and welcoming space for our clients. As one client aptly put it, "it's the best cup of tea of the week."

While we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting those in need, it's challenging news that we are now assisting three times as many households as before COVID. Moreover, across the Trussell Trust network, we anticipate this Winter to be the most demanding ever for foodbank services.

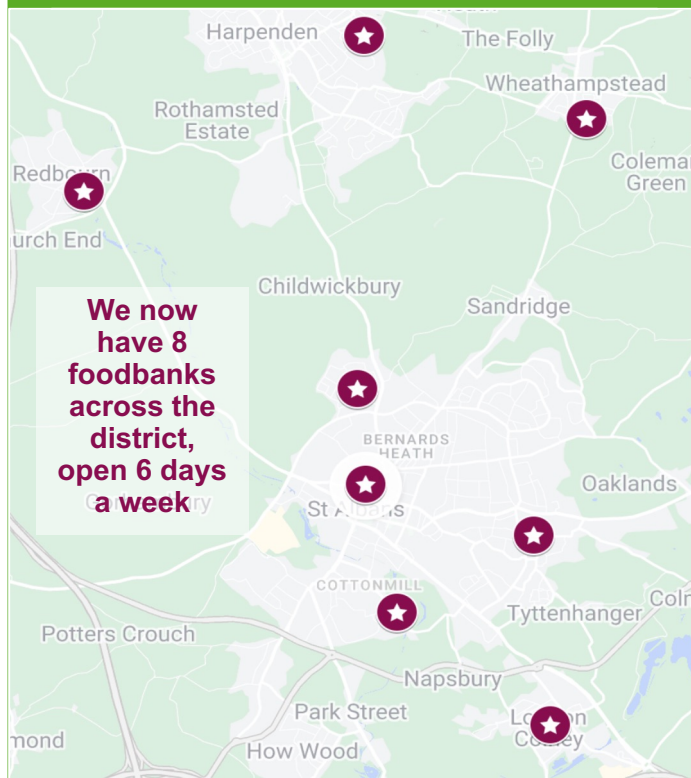
In response to this growing demand, we've implemented significant changes to the operation of the foodbank, aimed at adapting to the challenges we face. More details about these changes will be shared in the rest of this newsletter.

Amidst the challenges, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the overwhelming support we've received throughout the year. Whether through donations, sleep-outs, or the thousands of volunteer hours contributed weekly. Leading this charity is a true privilege, so thank you again.

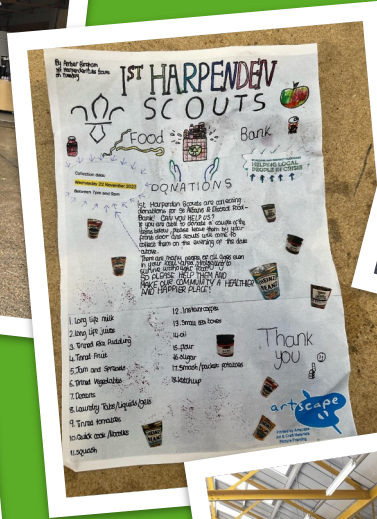
Wishing you a joyous and a hopeful end to 2023!

Rukia

Rukia Augustine,
Chief Executive



A huge thank you to all our donors & supporters...here are just a few of the highlights



A special thank you!

Earlier this year, the St Albans & District Foodbank was delighted to receive a donation of over £60,000 of food from **Vestey Foods UK**. The food donated has been used to support our clients, community groups and other foodbanks in our network.

Chris O'Sullivan, Vestey's Chief Operating Officer, said...

"We are proud to assist the St Albans & District Foodbank and the Trussell Trust by donating food to this vital community project. As a longstanding family business, Vestey Foods cultivates strong community links by donating to local charities which support vulnerable people."

The St Albans & District Foodbank would also like to thank KAS Paper Systems in Dunstable and their Director, Adrian Hampstead, who kindly stored the food from Vestey Foods while it was being distributed across our network.

We receive help from many individuals and companies throughout the year but an extra loud shout out must go to E S Hulse & Sons who each week donate fresh vegetables for distribution throughout our hubs. Clients truly appreciate being able to select fresh produce and we are so grateful to all at Hulse for their generosity.



Our 2023 in numbers

8 Foodbanks
a week, **7** with
Citizens Advice
advisors

£47k

Spent on food in
the last 12
months

130

Amazing
volunteers

2

Wellbeing
Support
Coordinators,
working across
our foodbanks

12%

Increase in
households
using us for
the first time

£18.4k

Spent on energy
vouchers in the
last 12 months

11k +

Emergency
food parcels
distributed

9% Fall

in donations
in the last 6
months



This year we have given out:

55 slow cookers

28 shopping trolleys

100 hot water bottles



We are moving!

Our Redbourn and Dagnall Street Distribution Centres are relocating



Our Redbourn Distribution Centre
is moving to:

**Redbourn Parish Centre
The Park, Redbourn, AL3 7LR**

From Monday 8th January 2024

Dagnall Street Distribution Centre is
moving to:

**The Jubilee Centre
10-12 Catherine Street, St Albans,
AL3 5BU**

From Saturday 13th January 2024

It will open at the *new time of*
10am to 12pm every Saturday



With demand for emergency food growing, we recognise that we can and should do more.

In 2024 we will maintain our existing foodbank provision & focus on *ending the need for foodbanks in our local community*. We have identified the following 3 areas as key to working towards this:



Improve our service provision

...including...

- 2 Wellbeing Co-ordinators
- Increasing our opening hours
- MIND advisors joining our Foodbanks in 2024
- Being warm spaces for homeless & other clients
- Support for those being rehoused

Expand our partnerships

...including...

- Partnering with the Redbourn Community Group, Harpenden Trust, Citizens Advice, Wheathampstead Community Group, Emmaus, MIND and others to 'join up' support for those in need

Campaign to raise awareness

...including...

- Exploring & understanding the experiences that bring people to need foodbank support
- Building an anti-poverty alliance with the foodbank's partners
- Campaigning with clients on local drivers of poverty



And as we work towards ending the need for emergency food, we are delighted to welcome new team members who bring a wealth of expertise to increase the impact of our work

Our Leadership & Operational Team



Rukia Augustine
Chief Executive

Rukia's role is to lead the strategic development of the Foodbank in association with Board of Trustees as well as the operational management of the foodbank distribution centres.



Danielle Imbert
Wellbeing Coordinator

Danielle is part of our new wellbeing team. This team offer additional help to those clients coming to our distribution centres requiring support.



Oliver Harris
Assistant Manager

Oli's role is to support the Foodbank with management of the warehouse, the recruitment and management of volunteers, working with corporate partners and building awareness of the assistance available.



Sam Morriss
Wellbeing Coordinator

Sam is part of our new wellbeing team. This team offer additional help to those clients coming to our distribution centres requiring support.



Hannah Nutley
Local Campaigns Manager

Hannah's role is to work with the Trussell Trust & local partners to raise awareness of the issues affecting our clients, campaigning to make the changes needed to support the local community.



Sian Butterfield
Administrative Support

Sian supports the leadership & operational team. She organises home deliveries, energy vouchers, data capture and organisation of the Foodbank Hub and Assemble platform. Sian began as a volunteer at the Foodbank warehouse.

Our Board of Trustees

We could not do the work we do without the invaluable support of our Board of Trustees. They ensure we meet our charitable, financial, legal, governance & fundraising responsibilities.



Mark Pontin - Chair

Mark leads the Board of Trustees and works closely with Rukia. He ensures the Board of Trustees fulfil their responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity. He became a trustee in 2020 and was appointed Chair in September 2021.



Maireed McKeever - Governance

Mairead is Board Secretary and leads on Governance. She is responsible for ensuring we comply with charity regulations. She has been a Trustee since June 2022 and brings over 30 years of charity sector experience to the role.



Rachel Hampstead - Legal

Rachel has volunteered at the Foodbank for 5 years, working in both the warehouse & now in London Colney Foodbank. She became a Trustee in November 2021. As General Counsel to a small upstream energy company, Rachel provides general legal support for the Board.



Robert Smalley - Deputy Chair

Robert started volunteering in the warehouse in 2015 and became a Trustee the following year. With extensive HR expertise, Robert supports across all areas of HR including health and safety, recruitment and employment matters.



Haydar Shawkat - Treasurer

Haydar began volunteering in 2019, firstly in the warehouse and more recently as a van driver collecting supermarket & school donations, also delivering food parcels to the foodbanks. He is a Chartered Accountant & became a Trustee in June 2022. He's responsible for finance.



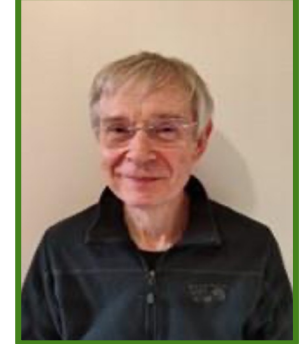
Shalni Soodi – Fundraising & Communications

Shalni joined as a Trustee in September. She has extensive experience of being a trustee & is Director of Philanthropy for the Royal Society for Blind Children. She will lead on fundraising and communications for the Foodbank along with Andrea.



Andrea van Sittart - Fundraising & Communications

Andrea joined as a Trustee in September. She is Head of Community Outreach Development for the Royal Horticultural Society. Andrea will develop fundraising strategies & support the identification of strategic projects & partnerships for the Foodbank.



John Mulholland – Aide to the Trustees

John founded the Foodbank in 2014 and was a Trustee until September this year. Although he recently stepped down as a Trustee he continues to be actively involved in the work of the Foodbank, leading the management of the warehouse.

Christmas Opening Times

Date and Time	Venue
Saturday 23 December 1.30pm – 3.30pm	St Albans and District Foodbank Dagnall Baptist Church Dagnall Street AL3 5EE
Monday 25 th December 12 – 4pm Christmas lunch, booking essential	St Albans and District Foodbank The Vineyard Church 7 Brick Knoll Park, AL1 5UG
Wednesday 27 th December 10am – 12pm	St Albans and District Foodbank The Vineyard Church 7 Brick Knoll Park, AL1 5UG
1pm – 3pm	Cottonmill Community Centre Old Oak, Cottonmill Lane AL1 2EF
Thursday 28 th December 12.30pm – 2.30pm	St Albans and District Foodbank Hillydye Community Centre 17 Hillydye Road AL4 8TU
Friday 29 th December 10am – 12pm	St Albans and District Foodbank Caledon Community Centre Coledon Road, London Colney AL2 1 PU
1pm – 3pm	St Albans and District Foodbank Crabtree Church 139 Crabtree Lane Harpenden AL5 5RD