

# Winter Newsletter

December  
2025

## A Note From Our CEO

### A Year of Partnership and Quiet Wins

As 2025 draws to a close, I'm humbled by what our community has achieved together. Nine hubs, six days a week, with Citizens Advice on site five days and our Wellbeing/Advocacy team alongside every session. Across the year we've provided around 14,000 emergency food and hygiene parcels, many for children. We've seen wonderful periods of generosity, but donations overall decline, while need stays high.

We continue to grow our partnerships, with the objective of supporting people who need us. With the St Albans Citizens Advice beside us, people can get help with benefits, debt and housing at the same time as receiving food. We've piloted mini-hub days with specialist agencies, strengthened links with schools, health teams, faith groups and employers, and next year we're launching Community Ambassadors to support our fundraising initiatives. Our aim is simple: every parcel should come with a practical route to longer-term support.

### What More Than a Foodbank means for us:

- food that fits the reality for people (no-cook, world-food and dietary options),
- handovers to advice and mental health support in one visit,
- hands-on help from our Wellbeing Team
- fewer hurdles, more dignity, and a clearer next step.

Behind the scenes, our amazing volunteers keep us going. Your support and commitment has been remarkable. Your countless hours, gentle welcomes and careful packing keep the wheels turning. Thank you. We also welcomed new Trustees, adding HR and communications experience to guide the next phase.

In 2026 we'll keep building partnerships, grow regular giving and corporate support, and pursue multi-year grants so hubs stay open, and people get joined-up help that prevents repeat crisis.

Leading this charity is a privilege. Thank you to every donor, partner and volunteer who stood with us this year. Together, we'll meet 2026 with resolve and hope.

*Rukia Augustine*

## Latest Stats

**10,590+ Volunteer Hours in 2025**

**395+ Foodbank Sessions in 2025**

**~40% of Parcels to Children**

## Christmas Foodbanks

Foodbank sessions will run as normal on **22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December.**

New Greens Foodbank will be open on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December.**

Normal hours will resume from **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.**

## Looking Ahead to 2026

Thank you to everyone that has supported and worked with us this year. Together, we have not only provided emergency food, but also holistic support to help people move out of crisis.

Demand for our foodbanks remains high. To work towards a future where nobody needs to use a foodbank, we continue to need your help. Here are some of the ways you can work with us, but we're always open to new ideas!



**Make us your Charity of the Year**



**Take part in some Corporate Volunteering**



**Arrange a food collection**



**Fundraise for us**



**Share our social media posts – spread the word!**

To assist us with our efforts, we are also recruiting for **Volunteer Community Ambassadors**. This is a fun and varied role, where people can help with the areas they enjoy – Social Media, Fundraising, Events or Community Engagement.

For more information, please get in touch with Rukia, Kath or Mark D – **[info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)**

Thank you for helping us ensure local people are supported with dignity and care.

## Hearty Helpings at Wheathampstead on “Hot Food Thursdays”

The wonderful Tania and Maria, from *The Community Kitchen*, have gone above and beyond to make sure our foodbank users have a warm and nourishing meal every month.

They serve up a delicious hot meal to enjoy during the foodbank, as well as a meal to take home for later.

Our foodbank users are always thrilled to see what's on the menu, and give such lovely feedback about the dishes *The Community Kitchen* serve.

But that's not all! They also provide a monthly three-course meal at The Chapel Gym, and a hearty soup and sandwich lunch (pay what you can afford).

So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you to *The Community Kitchen*, for everything you do.

You are absolutely amazing.



## Support Us

Donate Food



Donate Money



## Contact Info

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@StAlbansDistrictFB



@st\_a\_and\_dist\_foodbank



## Introducing our two new Trustees!



Kate Wright

A HR leader with over 20 years' experience, including as People Director at Ocado, I bring expertise in people strategy and governance gained from leading large, diverse workforces and championing wellbeing, fairness and inclusion. Passionate about tackling food insecurity and supporting local communities, I am committed to using my skills to help the Foodbank strengthen its impact and ensure everyone has access to nutritious food and support in times of need.



Torsten de Riese

Torsten is a senior media, data and civic-tech leader with a long track record of delivering major digital transformation across organisations including the Guardian, Financial Times and NBC News. He currently works as an Independent Board Advisor and Director and holds the position of Chair at the Democracy Club.



Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. We'd like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and we look forward to working together in 2026 to support the community of St Albans & District.