

Gloucester Foodbank Newsletter

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Thank You

Matthew C25v40. "The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Firstly the Manager, volunteers and trustees of Gloucester Foodbank want to say thank you.

- ◆ **Thank you for your prayers. We know the Lord is looking over us and our clients.**
- ◆ **Many of our regular volunteers are self isolating because of age or medical conditions—thank you to those who have stepped into the breach especially Adie Jones from Gloucester City Mission**
- ◆ **Thank you to all who have been donating food**
- ◆ **Thank you to people who have just dropped in to give us money. People have been incredibly generous.**



Volunteers packing parcels for home deliveries

Please do continue to support our work. If you are shopping in supermarkets—items of which we are particularly short are highlighted overleaf

Our manager Anneliese Sterry tells us how the lockdown has affected Gloucester Foodbank

Up until a few weeks ago we had a mixture of seeing a few clients coming to the Foodbank and a few referral agencies collecting on behalf of their clients. From 9th April with the offer of a volunteer from Gloucester City Mission and their van we were able to deliver some parcels to clients. We still saw some clients face to face. However, since Monday 27th April we have enlisted more volunteers to help with deliveries using their private vehicles. From that date we began doing deliveries only and not seeing clients face to face. This enables us to provide 7 day emergency parcels which are substantially heavier to carry home instead of the usual 3 day parcels. This additional provision will give people in crisis extra breathing space until their situation is hopefully resolved. Below is an idea of how demand has increased in recent weeks"

April saw a large increase in demand
2019– 295 referrals, 571 people inc.193 children
2020—380 referrals, 824 people inc. 303 children
29% more referrals, 44% more people,
57% more children

Thoughts from our Chairman, Dave Walker

I would like to highlight how churches can pray for the foodbank. I ask them to pray for all of us connected with the foodbank to have strength, humility, perseverance, and wisdom as we go about the business of feeding those who cannot afford to feed themselves.

In these frightening times I am comforted by:-
Deuteronomy (31.8)

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid do not be discouraged.

Proverbs (19.17)

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and he will reward them for what they have done.

Verse 20

Listen to advice and accept discipline and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Apt I think Stay at Home Protect the NHS
Save lives

IF YOU ARE VISITING A SUPERMARKET AND WOULD LIKE TO DONATE SOME FOOD ETC—THESE ARE THE ITEMS WE PARTICULARLY NEED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- ⇒ **LONG LIFE MILK (NOT CHILLED)**
- ⇒ **TINNED FRUIT**
- ⇒ **TINNED VEGETABLES**
- ⇒ **TINNED COLD MEAT (E.G.HAM/CORNERED BEEF)**
- ⇒ **TINNED TOMATOES**
- ⇒ **TINNED RICE PUDDING**
- ⇒ **CEREAL (NOT PORRIDGE)**
- ⇒ **TINNED BAKED BEANS**
- ⇒ **PACKET DRY PASTA**
- ⇒ **TINNED MEAT PIES (FRAY BENTOS)**
- ⇒ **JACKET MASH**
- ⇒ **BARS OF SOAP**



God is there for us all the time

There are many things that Gloucester Foodbank needs but one of them is money. During this crisis we have needed money to pay for extra storage space, to take on a temporary extra member of staff, for transport costs and for boxes



in which to deliver food. Much of this has come from grants from trusts etc but we want to relate one story of how the Lord knows and meets our needs.

When it became obvious that home delivery was the way we needed to work, our Manager found a supplier who could supply 500 boxes for £400. The trustees decided to take a leap of faith and order the boxes. Just after the order had been placed, Dave Walker (our Chairman) heard the back door bell ring. On opening the door he met a man who was not known to the Foodbank. This gentleman said he had felt called to donate money to the Foodbank. He handed over a cheque for £400.

We don't know if he is a Christian but we do have faith the God works through people even when they don't realise he does.

Other people have just walked up and given money. Some have given cheques or cash, and other people have donated through our website using Virgin Giving or Just Giving.

If you can help—thank you