

FEBRUARY 2022 – STOKE-ON-TRENT FOODBANK UPDATE – EASTER, A MESSAGE OF COMPASSION



2022

This year we mark 10 years since Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank was established by Churches Together to meet the needs of those locally in food poverty. At the time **child poverty** was reported at 29%, **now** it is **43.2%** after housing costs are met, which means that many families may be facing uncertainty about where the next meal will come from.

Thanks to the amazingly generosity of local people we have been able to feed locally **over 115,000** people in food poverty, **in 10 years.**



We give out roughly 10 tonnes of food per month. About a third of the people that we help are working, but through current circumstances cannot afford or access the basics.

In 2020/21 we fed nearly 17,000 and January '22 1,604 through our voucher system; up on the same time a year ago. Low incomes are being squeezed by rising food and energy prices.

HOW WE DO IT...



Our church centres are well placed across the city of SoT and outlying areas,

supported by volunteers, they are open for 16 sessions to receive guests for a few hours each on a rotating basis to cover 5 days a week and offer a **warm Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank welcome**, along with three-days' emergency food parcels.

We are privileged to have been supported by our volunteers who have selflessly given their time over the years; and another team have stepped forward enabling us to open a **new centre** this year!



Our voucher-based system and network of professional referral organisations, such as health centres, family support workers, housing charities, Citizen Advice, schools, Mental Health teams and charities works to ensure that those in real need can access our services.

IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN FOOD...

... we ask questions to assess the persons situation so that we can sign post them on to organisations that can help tackle their food and money crisis – Money Matters, Energy Advice, job access, etc.

It's about Compassion, taking action so that people can access help with the crisis that brought them to us.

Trussell Trust Foodbanks have been **proven to make a difference** helping combat family breakdown, housing loss, and mental health problems.

People who have been helped during these years, tell us that it is not only the food that they are grateful for, but also the thoughtful kindness of a stranger donating that food for them.

#TogetherWeCan

EASTER – A MESSAGE OF COMPASSION

From our Chair of Trustees Keith Stubbs:

Like Advent is a preparing for Christmas Lent in the Christian Calendar is a special time of reflection and faith in preparation for Easter. Some observe Lent with pray and the act of giving something up. Many look to Jesus' example, how he wants His followers to live.

EASTER – a message of COMPASSION - caring love in action An illustration of how our foodbank does this...



Compassion, originates from compati – suffer with. PASSION- wanting to take action. It's active, not passive.

We read in the Bible of Jesus's love for the crowd, people and the word compassion is used – he had compassion for them.

Constantly he met with people and knowing what they needed, **took action**, and **made a difference** to their lives. Whether it was the feeding of the large crowd after they'd been listening to him for a long day, whether it was welcoming and healing an ill outcast woman or leper or many other social We are told to do likewise in Matthew 25,v35 & 41 **As a foodbank we have seen amazing compassion shown by local people from all sectors of society taking action, supporting us to reach people in food crisis for a wide variety of reasons**

THANKS

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing generous support that we have receive from local people and valued prayer.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

From our Operations Manager, Corrine Boden, MBE:

It's about compassion – love in action.

We want to see the end of people needing to use foodbanks, we are working towards this, although we don't think that this is going to happen in the near future.

Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank is a Lead Pathfinder Foodbank.



Over a 5 year period we're working on putting things in place so that people don't need to come to a food bank. We are working with a network of organisations, including Money Matters.

this shouldn't be happening in the 6th richest country in the world.

We will be here for as long as people need us.

#Together4Change

ADLENT 2022

Following on from our popular Reverse Advent calendar we have our Easter 2022 Adlent Calendars – ONE for **food** collection **OR** ONE for a **money** donations for the 40 days of Lent

40 for 40 - 40p each day for the 40 days of lent - £16.00 total – which could be used to fund the transportation, storage, and admin in support of our volunteer manned church centres OR pay to top food or toiletries. See our website for more details <https://stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk/news>

