



The Foodbank
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Dear Donors

Thank you so much for the ongoing donations to the work of the Foodbank here in Wester Hailes. It is very much appreciated.

The Foodbank is wholly funded by donations from the congregation of Holy Trinity Church and by generous financial and food donations from local Churches in the west of Edinburgh, individuals, Trusts and by local supermarkets.

Thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers, and Foodbank supporters, we are helping an increasing number of people in these challenging times. We have developed a range of operating practices that have enabled us to remain open each week during the changing Covid pandemic contexts and regulations.

In 2021 we distributed a total of 2486 basic food parcels to a mix of individuals, couples and families from the area. Some clients only needed support on a few occasions, others required ongoing help due to their particular contexts.

During the year we met a total of 292 individual clients, equating to touching the lives of 824 adults and children through the service we offer. Unfortunately, changes in benefits, cost of living and fuel price increases are resulting in more people needing to access the food bank - and average of approaching 60 clients are served each week at present.

As well as food poverty, many are experiencing fuel poverty with no electricity or gas to heat their homes or cook the food offered to them. In exceptional emergencies, we are able to top up individual's power cards. Volunteers also offer advice and direct people to suitable help which can address some of the issues which led to the crisis. This may be informing them of the Warm Home scheme through energy providers, the work of Christians against Poverty (for debt issues), counselling services or local services that can be useful.



Moving forward, working with the Holy Trinity Bridge Cafe manager and cook we will be offering clients a choice of cafe-prepared frozen take-away meals each week - healthy but popular dishes with vegetarian and halal options available. In addition, we are working with the Cafe manager to explore ways in which food bank clients and others in need in the community can enjoy free snacks and lunches in the Cafe.

We are also looking to increase collaborative working with other groups and agencies in the area, and to expand our links with local schools through providing supplies for distribution to children coming to school with no breakfast or snacks.

Thank you for partnering with us in this vital service. It is so very much appreciated.

Warm regards,

Rita

Rev Dr Rita Welsh

Foodbank coordinator