

Newsletter July 2025

A Final Word From Sue



As I step down from my role as Manager of the Foodbank, I find myself reflecting on what has been more than 10 years of change, growth, challenge, and above all, community.

Over the years, we've seen a growing need for our support, but alongside that, we've also seen a growth in generosity—more volunteers stepping forward, more days opened to serve, and donations, both financial and in food, arriving just when they were needed most. Not once did we face a day without enough—enough food, enough funds, or enough good-hearted teamwork.

One of the most remarkable things for me has been the team itself. There was never a day when people didn't show up with a kind word, a readiness to step up, or a shared laugh—even on the hardest days. There were tears at times, especially during the challenges of COVID, and we missed one another deeply during those isolating months. But even then, the spirit of this place never faded.

It has been an absolute joy to lead this team. Every single person who's been part of the foodbank—whether you stocked shelves, welcomed guests, made tea, filled bags, gave a donation, or simply shared a smile—you've all played a vital role. You were never just helpers; you were the heart of it.

Thank you for letting me walk alongside you all these years. I leave with deep gratitude, full confidence in the team, and a heart full of good memories.

Sue Weightman

Mary's Numbers: Where Need Meets Compassion

Taunton Foodbank continues to be a pillar of support, thanks to the kindness and generosity of our community. But the data tells us a sobering truth: need is rising fast, and it's changing how we respond.

Over recent months, food stocks have dropped. People are finding it harder to support the foodbank with food donations and our stocks have reduced significantly over the last few months. However, with our financial donations we are now purchasing food to fill the gaps to continue to provide for the people in need in our community.



4,287



Food parcels
provided to adults

2,379



Food parcels
provided to children

We received 3,182 fulfilled referrals, every one representing a request for emergency support. We fed over 6,600 people of whom 4,287 (64%) were adults and 2,379 36% were children.

We reached 1,464 different households, each facing its own challenge and story.

Hello From Phil

Hello! I would like to introduce myself, Phil White, the new Operations Supervisor at Taunton Foodbank. I have recently joined with responsibility of overseeing operations in the foodbank on a daily basis and I have to admit, it has been a real eye opener as to how it all operates!



I have been so impressed with the willingness and the hard work of all the volunteers, from van drivers, warehouse team, packers and of course distribution room. I just have to try and remember everybody's name. I am gradually coming to terms with how everything works, but there is always something unexpected and a new challenge. The biggest challenge at the moment appears to be the dwindling donations coming into the Foodbank and the ever-increasing demand from clients.

Hopefully this is something we can work on and improve over the coming weeks and months. We are also planning upcoming tasks such as an annual stocktake, food drives and Harvest.

I have previously worked as a Licensing Officer with the background of 20 years in hospitality, stocktaking and auditing across pubs, restaurants, hotels and holiday parks. At least, now I work part time I am enjoying the extra time I have for dog walks in the afternoons! The Foodbank operates with such a fantastic team of dedicated volunteers, please keep up the invaluable work.

Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to join our teams in distribution, driving, warehouse, and shopping support. If you would like to support us, please email us on info@taunton.foodbank.org.uk



Special Thank You Kier Group

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Kier Group** for their incredible generosity in gifting a brand-new kitchen to **Taunton Foodbank**. Their kindness didn't stop there; they also refreshed our waiting room and toilets.

Before



We would like to extend our special thank you to all Kier staff that put so much effort and hard work into this difficult task. This is a truly amazing gift for our dedicated volunteers. This thoughtful contribution means the world to us. We feel blessed, and our volunteers are absolutely thrilled with their beautiful new kitchen.

After



Thank You's

We are overwhelmed by the ongoing generosity from various companies, organisations and individuals who support us with food and financial donations. Heartfelt Thank You to Branston Ltd, Bradford Players and their audience, COOK Taunton, My Day, Office Angels, Soroptimist International Taunton and many others. Thank you all.

