

Christmas Newsletter 2025

Hello From Mike

We are delighted to welcome Mike as the new Director of Taunton Foodbank. His arrival marks an important milestone in our journey and opens an exciting new chapter for our whole team. We're pleased to share a few words from him below.



My name is Mike Turner and I am the new Director of the Foodbank. This is an exciting opportunity and I am thrilled to be part of such a great team. Having only been in the post for just over a week I am already amazed at the hard work of our volunteers and the fantastic generosity of the people from Taunton and Wellington. I look forward to continuing the great work of Sue and the team as we continue to provide support to the families and individuals who have fallen on tough times.

Originally from New Zealand, I have lived in Taunton for 25 years with my wife and family. In that time I have worked in education across several schools within Somerset. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in education but felt it was time for a new challenge and therefore have taken on this new role as Director of the Foodbank. I am looking forward to contributing to this wonderful Charity which supports the most vulnerable in our community and to work with all the fantastic volunteers and donors who support us.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and donors for your hard work and generosity in 2025. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless
Best wishes
Mike



Message From Phil

As 2025 draws to a close, it gives an opportunity to look back at the year and highlight any trends the Foodbank has witnessed. The figures show an ongoing demand for our food parcels, with Clients fed being at a constant high in excess of 500 people per month, which is the average for the year. We have helped so many families in need and should be proud of this, but with the ongoing cost of living crisis and changes to benefits, on top of the hardship and ongoing struggles so many people face today, our demand just keeps on coming.

However, we are constantly surprised by the generosity of our donors. Be it stock or cash, we are regularly presented with collections of food or monetary donations from our wonderful supporters. We received nearly 4.5 tonnes of food over Harvest, particularly from schools and churches and the enthusiasm of the children was a joy to see.

Just recently we organised a Winter Food Drive at Tesco, which returned almost 1.1 tonnes in just 2 days, plus many cash donations.

Whatever we receive, from large food collections, to each tin of beans, regular donors to the one off collection for the charity, we are so grateful and clearly have an ongoing need within the communities we serve, in Taunton, Wellington and Wiveliscombe.

Obviously, the Foodbank can only continue with the support and dedication of our wonderful volunteers. All the food donations have to be collected and loaded bank to the warehouse, weighed in, sorted and stored, then packed into the food parcels we distribute each day. The continual hard work from our volunteers is incredible, in all departments and we are so very grateful for this. We have naturally lost some volunteers this year and found some new, but there are always opportunities for new people, be it van drivers, warehouse and packing teams, or distribution room, the work of the volunteers is invaluable.

So with Christmas just upon us, we wish you the happiest of times, but also our grateful thanks for all you do.

Best wishes
Phil

Taunton Mayor visits Foodbank

We were truly happy to welcome Martin Straus, Mayor of Taunton in our local food bank on 4th December. On the behalf of the community we are truly grateful to the Mayor for presenting a generous cheque. This kind donation will support many local families this Festive Season and will strengthen our mission to ensure that no child is hungry this Christmas.



Harvest 2025



We are truly touched and inspired by the overwhelming kindness and generosity of the local churches and schools who donated to this year's harvest. We are very grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring community.

Taunton Foodbank received a total of 4,373 kg of food items. We are extremely grateful for their contributions, which have made a tremendous difference to local communities.





Celebrating Our Incredible Volunteers

A huge Thank You to our amazing volunteers! We are truly honoured and blessed for having such an amazing, hardworking, dedicated and selfless team. You are the heart of Taunton and Wellington Foodbank and heroes of the local community. Your love, kindness, and compassion shines through your volunteering work, it touches many lives and brings hope and joy to people in crisis. You are the essence of the Foodbank, and we are profoundly grateful for everything you do. We say this every time but we could not do it without you.

Please take this moment to also remember those volunteers who have moved on or are sadly no longer with us. You are always in our hearts and prayers.

Office Angels

A heartfelt Thank You to Office Angels for their ongoing support and generous donations each Festive Season. Their wonderful team always bring sweets and treats that brighten Christmas for children in need and put smiles on their faces. Your kindness and dedication inspire us all, and we are deeply grateful.



Branston

A huge Thank You to Branston Ltd for their ongoing support for Taunton foodbank and local communities by providing fresh potatoes for our food boxes.

Compass Wellbeing

We are deeply thankful to our dedicated and hardworking neighbours at Compass Wellbeing for their friendship, partnership and ongoing support.

My Day Care Services

A massive Thank You to My Day Care Services. Their ongoing support and kindness for local communities and Taunton Foodbank is truly amazing.

Musgrove - Blake Ward

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the amazing and hardworking team at Blake Ward, Musgrove Park Hospital for their continues support and generous donations.

Kier Group

Heartfelt gratitude for the generous support from Kier Group. Their gift to the Taunton Foodbank is never forgotten and all team is enjoying new kitchen everyday.

Village Agents and Citizen Advice

A sincere Thank You for their hard work and support for local communities and people in need. We are very grateful for the friendship and partnership.

Supportive supermarkets

A massive Thank You to all our supportive supermarkets and such as Asda, Co-op, Lidl Wellington, Marks and Spencer, One Stop, Sainsbury, Tesco, Waitrose and all their customers. We are very grateful for your ongoing support of the local communities.

Packers United

Christmas period is without a doubt the busiest time at the Taunton Foodbank and our amazing team of volunteers in packing room are under the enormous pressure to get properly packed and prepared Christmas food boxes for people in need each day. Please read a few words of experience from working in a busy and demanding team shared by our packers at Taunton Foodbank:

No two days are the same and each session can be unpredictable. Not knowing which boxes will be needed or who will turn up from the community to generously donate to the food bank. Sometimes it feels we are chasing our tails but we all work in supportive teams and we all find it very rewarding.

Jenny, Julia and Lesley



Cadbury

We extends our gratitude to Cadbury UK for their generous Christmas donation and support. Your generosity makes a real difference, bringing joy and hope to those in need this Festive Season.



Massive Thank You

North Curry Cricket Club for their generous support, Taunton Brewhouse for amazing initiative and donation of theatre tickets, Soroptimist International Taunton for ongoing support, Howards Motor Group, Granny Smiths, A C Mole Accountants, Moorhaven and many more for their continued support.

We would like to thank all our donors including many individuals that would like to remain anonymous for their ongoing support. With your help, we can support lots of people and make a positive impact in our community.

