

Newsletter June 2026

Message From Mike

It is hard to believe it's the end of June already. Once again, it has been an incredible six months for the Foodbank as we continue to provide invaluable support to the most vulnerable people in our community. Congratulations to our volunteers and staff who, day in and day out, provide wonderful support for our clients. Over the last six months we have fed 3,294 clients. Although you are doing a fantastic job, this is also a sad reflection of the hardships and challenges that exist today.



When I started in December, there was a real sense of optimism with Christmas on the horizon and the sheer generosity of people at that time of year. The warehouse was full, we had 9,412 kg of food, including sweet treats. However, over the next few months our stock plummeted, and by the end of April stock levels had reduced by almost half while client numbers remained steady. What was most noticeable was the decrease in staple products like pasta, rice, and even baked beans. It was a sign that the harsh realities of the cost-of-living crisis were really affecting households, and that our donors are struggling too.

Knowing all of that, we are so thankful to our generous donors who continue to give even when times are tough. Without you, we would struggle to support the most vulnerable families in our community. Thank you again for your generosity to the Foodbank. It has also been an absolute privilege and pleasure to be part of such a wonderful Taunton and Wellington Foodbank team. We are so fortunate to have so many fantastic volunteers willing to give their time to support our clients. Thank you once again for the tremendous work you do.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable summer, and I hope you are all able to enjoy the sunshine and a well-deserved break.

God Bless.

Mike Turner, Foodbank Director

Christine's Farewell

A year after Taunton Foodbank was set up, volunteers met to discuss a distribution centre for Wellington, and Christine came forward to be the Lead Volunteer. She had already been supporting families in a similar way through her church and brought this experience to the team of volunteers she worked with over the next thirteen years.



The URC offered their hall as a base and through Christine's vision that, "we could do more to support clients than hand out food", it became a warm and welcoming space where clients were offered coffee, biscuits and signposting to other agencies. What she achieved is recognised by those she has helped and worked with, and we will all miss her.

After many years with the Food Bank Christine has decided that her role is to share her Christian belief with the wider community and is building a team to work with her. We all wish her well.

Important Update: From 29th June 2026, the Wellington Foodbank will only be open on a Thursday 1pm to 3pm

Maureen, Lead Volunteer at Wellington Foodbank

A Donation in Loving Memory of David Hughes

We are very grateful for the continued support and generous donations we receive from Tracey Lynam as she is honouring the memory of her beloved brother David. Tracy said:

"I would love to say what a wonderful kind person David was and how much he appreciated all the hard work you do! He was a kind, honourable man who would do anything for anybody and he would be so proud that me and my family are continuing to support the food bank in his memory."

Tracey Lynam

Mary's Numbers:



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our local community and the hard work of our team, we continued our mission to reduce hunger across Taunton last year. Together, we made a meaningful impact.

We supported **6,359 people** with three-day emergency food parcels, including **2,222 children**. This vital help was only possible because of the kindness shown by those who donated. Our community contributed **over 55 tonnes of food**, valued at nearly **£159,000**. This included more than **35 tonnes** collected through local supermarket donation points and **20 tonnes** generously given by churches, schools, businesses, and community groups.

Our **100 dedicated volunteers** gave their time to collect, weigh, sort, and distribute food, and **82 referral agencies** partnered with us to ensure support reached those who needed it most.

Special Thank You

We are truly touched by the kindness, generosity, and continued support from our local partners and community. From all of us at Taunton Foodbank, Thank You!

Howards Motor Group

A huge thank you to Howards Motor Group for their generous and ongoing support for Taunton Foodbank. They recently carried out essential repairs, allowing us to keep our services running smoothly for the community.



Office Angels

Taunton Foodbank extends its heartfelt gratitude to Office Angels for their continuous support and generous donations. Your continued support means so much to us and every single contribution truly makes a difference.

RSPCA

Thank you very much for supporting Taunton Foodbank by providing pet food for our clients. We are very happy to have such an amazing partner.



Wayfarers Pantomime Society

A huge thank you to the Wayfarers Pantomime Society. Their run of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs raised over £1,000. That generous donation made a real difference for Taunton Foodbank. Thank you to the cast and every single person who donated. Your kindness helps us support local people when they need it most.

Southwest Heritage Trust

Thank you to Southwest Heritage Trust and Somerset Heritage Centre for supporting Taunton Foodbank clients by regularly providing tickets to the museum for families and children.



Massive thank you to all our partners:

Village Agents, Citizen Advice, Referral Agencies, Schools, Churches and all supportive supermarkets such as ASDA, Co-op, Lidl Wellington, Marks & Spencer, One Stop, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and all their customers.

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:

B&M Store, Blake Ward Musgrove Park Hospital, Bradford Players, Branston Ltd, Cadbury, Compass Wellbeing, COOK Taunton, Grab a Cab, Granny Smiths, Kier Group, My Day Care Services, North Curry Cricket Club, Soroptimist International, St James Players, Taunton Brewhouse and all anonymous donors.