



A huge thank you to everyone who has and continues to support our Food Bank with kind donations each week.



### About Us

Since June 2015 New Day Church has operated a weekly home delivery model Food Bank in support of our local community with the ethos of "A hand up not a hand out".

We are a team of part time volunteers who fulfil a range of different roles, such as food collection, food sorting, receiving referrals and food parcel delivery.

We take client referrals from a range of agencies, such as health and social care professionals, support workers, schools, housing associations and citizens advice.

### Impact of Covid-19

We normally rely on regular food donations from supermarkets, local business, community groups, church members and individuals. Although food donations from supermarkets have increased they have become less predictable in recent weeks. In addition, local businesses who kindly acted as food bank collection points have now been required to close. This means we now only have the church building and the Co-op in Lostock Hall as collection points through which people can donate food.

Client demand has been increasing rapidly due to recent events. The new reasons include the impact of people being made redundant, zero hours contracts and some still waiting to receive sick pay or universal credit.

**We have therefore introduced a second delivery day each week now.**

Normally our delivery teams have been keen to chat to clients and signpost them to other sources of help. However to abide by the social distancing rules we can no longer enter a client's home or talk for long. In addition we have had to restructure how we allocate our delivery teams to cars.

### Website and Facebook

We have a page on the church website and launched a Facebook page in December. Both have proved to be immensely helpful for engaging with our supporters and referral agencies. We are also using these sites to publicise the food items on which we are low each week.

**Please follow us if you don't already.**

[newdaychurch.uk/serving-our-community/food-bank](http://newdaychurch.uk/serving-our-community/food-bank)

Facebook @newdaychurchfoodbank

They have also led to some great publicity through articles by the Lancashire Evening Post and we were interviewed on Radio Leyland on 2 April.

The Facebook page also enabled us to share our Lent Collection initiative - a novel approach to Lent whereby rather than give something up, a supporter gave an item of food each day.



### Grants and Financial Donations

In response to Covid-19 some organisations have offered grants to voluntary community groups. Although some supermarkets have increased their donations for Covid-19 provisions, we have still been required to start purchasing additional food items. We have therefore submitted a range of applications and are awaiting their response. We also hope to establish an on-line mechanism for individual donations, but can provide our bank details if requested in the interim.

### Impact of Covid-19 Story

On Saturday 21 March the day began with a local pub contacting us to say they were closing and invited us to empty their cold store. In order to store all this food we went to a local electrical superstore who donated the fridge and freezer from their staff room - amazing! A church member then also kindly donated the money for us to buy a further fridge freezer.

### Our Statistics

We're finding that the clients we support reflect the national statistics. In the last 12 months we made 495 deliveries comprising a total of 795 food parcel bags – that is an average of 10 deliveries per week. These helped 94 families and 36 individuals in the local area.

However in the last week of March due to the increase in demand we delivered food parcels to 41 families that week.

It is encouraging to receive the feedback from clients as to how the support offered really helps them.

### National Statistics

For your interest here are some national statistics on the reasons why people need to turn to food banks for help.

- Benefits and support issues (Delays, changes) 18%
- Employment issues. 17%
- Health problems (Physical, mental, addictions) 16%
- Housing issues. 15%
- Living cost issues (Rent levels, utility bills) 10%
- Relationship breakdown (Partner / family) 8%
- Support to migrants / refugees. 6%
- Domestic abuse. 4%
- Bereavement and other adverse life events. 6%

