



# Pontefract Foodbank

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PONTEFRACT FOODBANK

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, will be a date to remember in the history of Pontefract Foodbank. After being closed for 6 months due to the Covid pandemic, a group of volunteers serving as warehouse parcel packers and driver/buddy teams met with masks and quantities of hand sanitizer to restart the provision of emergency food parcels to local people. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped that day and since to make this vital support available to local people.

Thanks, as well to all our supporters: firms, local businesses, churches, community groups and private individuals. Your donations of funds

and food and expressions of support for the Foodbank's work are what make the Foodbank tick.

The Foodbank now faces a challenging winter: energy costs are rising; food prices are likely to increase, and the £20 reduction in Universal Credit will seriously affect the ability of some families to meet essential bills and food costs. We expect very many more local people are likely to need Foodbank help. We would be so grateful if you could continue to support us to enable the Foodbank to support local people.

### OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS' COFFEE MORNING

Pontefract Foodbank was delighted to receive a visit recently from Laura Chalmers, Area Manager with Trussell Trust, the organisation to which the Foodbank is affiliated.

The visit was a welcome opportunity for volunteers, past and current, to listen to the Trussell Trust's ideas for the future of foodbanks it links with and to chat over coffee to support each other. Thank you to all who attended.



Children of St. Giles' School,  
Pontefract with their kind donations

### SCHOOLS' HARVEST GIFTS

This October has been a special time for the Foodbank with many local schools organising Harvest Collections.

It has been both a privilege and a joy for our volunteers to be invited into schools to collect these donations: the Foodbank is incredibly grateful for the extra time and care which schools have given to make these collections possible and for the generosity of parents and children in providing these gifts.

# The Pandemic: A Foodbank Perspective

*Most people would say that the last year or so has been a difficult one to get through. As individuals, and as a town, we have battled with Covid.*

*For the Foodbank, the initial period of lockdown was particularly challenging as our trustees had to take the painful decision to temporarily close the Foodbank.*

*Our first concern needed to be the safety of our volunteers and mindful of the Government's requirements for social distancing etc. at the time, it was felt not possible to continue to operate, due to the space constraints of the warehouse.*

*A heartfelt thank you to St Mary's Community Centre for the food deliveries they were able to make in Pontefract while the Foodbank was closed.*

## Tesco In-Store Collection Day

18th-20th  
November

The Foodbank is delighted to be working in partnership again with Tesco to organise an in-store food collection on these dates with our volunteers present.

Please call in to the store to support us.

Every tin donated will contribute to a meal for local people.



Left to Right: Children at Bell Lane School with their kind donation; volunteers in the warehouse following the Tesco collection; and Georgia and Eliza with their kind donation

## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FOODBANK?

Whether it's a query about how to donate food or funds, a volunteering inquiry, how to get help from Pontefract Foodbank or that question you have often asked yourself about how foodbanks work, we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Please feel free to get in touch by:**

**Telephone:** 07935 530 583

**Email:** [info@pontefract.foodbank.org](mailto:info@pontefract.foodbank.org)

Contacting us via **Facebook**...

We have permanent collection sites at both Santander and Tesco (Tesco products only) and donations can be made at the Central Methodist Church, by appointment. Monetary donations also gratefully received. All the latest information can be found on our website:

[www.pontefract.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.pontefract.foodbank.org.uk)

## OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED

We are currently seeking to increase the number of Trustees to support the running and development of our Foodbank.

Being a trustee involves more of the behind-the-scenes governance and administration but on occasion can involve some hands-on work.

Responsibilities include ensuring our charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit; comply with our charity's governing document and the law and managing our resources responsibly.

For more information, please contact our Chair, Mary @ [maryjford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maryjford@hotmail.co.uk)