



The Food Bank

Feeding the hungry in Milton Keynes

Dear Sue,

Apologies - resent as incorrect link!

God is good!

I felt I really had to send out this interim news letter to share with you all some of the amazing answers to prayer that we have seen over the last few weeks.

You may remember that I opened our last news letter with my concern that our food stocks were frighteningly low - please read on to hear about our amazing provision!



Thanks to all of you for your continued support - we could not provide the service without your faithful donations of both food and money.

Together we really can make a difference.....

Sue Wall
Project Manager



Food Stocks Were Desperate!

The demand for food parcels has grown beyond our wildest expectations - already this year 2171 food parcels have been given to local families which is an increase of 45% compared with the same period last year!

On the morning of Wednesday June 30th I took this photo which shows just how low our stocks had



In This Issue

Stocks Were Desperate

Bletchley Rotary Club Provision

Tesco Distribution

Bishop of Buckingham's Visit

The Food Bank 1000

Volunteering Opportunities

If you would like to join our mailing list then please email

thefoodbank@mkcc.org.uk or call Sue on 01908 322800

URGENT FOOD SUPPLIES REQUIRED

Please buy one extra item when you are shopping from the list below and donate it to The Food Bank.

The items shown in **red** are currently most urgent:

- Baked Beans
- Long Life Juice
- Long Life Milk
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tea Bags
- Dried Rice & Pasta
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned Rice Pud.
- Biscuits
- Breakfast Cereal
- Pasta Sauce
- Soup
- **Sugar**
- **Jam**

Your donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

9 Hollin Lane, Stacey Bushes

become. My plan was to use this photo in a press release for the local papers, to try and generate a massive influx of stock. Tucked away in the corner was our last tin of baked beans. To put this into context, a single adult pack has 2 tins and a child pack has 3 tins of beans!

We did have stock bags made up to cover the order for St Georges Church who serve on Saturday, however we did not have enough stock to make up the usual amount of bags that we would take to MKCC for serving on Thursday.

We had recently had a £500 donation from Bletchley Rotary Club for use to buy food, so had placed a large order with Sainsbury's which would be ready for us to collect on Monday 5th July.

Sue Adkins, Helen and myself discussed what to do and then prayed. We decided to trust that our Lord would not send more people for food parcels than the stock we had and that all would be OK on Monday 5th when the food order was collected.

Then the phone began to ring.....

Weekday mornings 9.30am - midday (except Thursdays)
Tel: 01908 322800

Milton Keynes Christian Centre,
Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook.
Weekdays 9 - 4pm

Please call 01908 322800 for alternative times if necessary.

Thanks for your help - every item makes a massive difference.

Quick Links

www.mkfoodbank.org.uk

www.justgiving.com/thefoodbank/donate

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/thefoodbank

<http://thefoodbank.easysearch.org.uk>

Bletchley Rotary Club Provision

At about 11.30am I received a telephone call from Bernard Cornwell from the Bletchley Rotary Club saying that he had just finished loading 30 cages of supplies that he would like to deliver to The Food Bank at about 1.30pm the same day. Bernard explained that whilst many of the items were food items from our shopping list, there would be some non-food items as well - did we mind!



As is so often the case at The Food Bank, our volunteers at the warehouse were all ladies who would, under normal circumstances leave at about midday, however Sue Adkins, Helen, Violet all agreed to stay on and help when the delivery came. Another volunteer Liz who arrived to help with some administration was quick to also lend a hand with the sorting and emptying.

We are blessed with great neighbours The Wheelwrights Project and Kev was happy for his lads to come and help unload the lorry which made a real difference.

They were also able to benefit from some of the items being delivered as there was a good quantity of motor oil which The Rotary Club were pleased to let them have.

The 30 cages were unloaded and after a swift cup of tea, Bernard and his colleagues headed back up the motorway to collect a second load of 30 cages of supplies which they would deliver that same afternoon.

In the few hours that they would be travelling, they wanted us to empty as many of the blue plastic totes as we could, so they could be collected when they returned with the next load.



This was a mammoth task, as there were at least 250 totes and

some were quite heavy. We also rapidly ran out of boxes to put the contents in and knew that we had to create space for the next load to arrive. The picture to the right shows the first load emptied into boxes and piled outside my office - luckily there are two doors!



The second load came in at about 6.30pm and again it was great to have help from Mark, Mitchell and Ian - this time all the totes just got piled on any empty shelf we could find!

In just 6 hours The Food Bank had gone from a desperate stock situation to being almost overwhelmed with produce - what an answer to prayer!

The Rotary Club have since made further smaller deliveries of predominantly food items and I believe that there may be more to come at a later stage. A massive "Thank you" to Bernard, Robert, Jonathan and Derek who did all the delivering!

Tesco Distribution - Fenny Stratford

The second phone call I received that morning was from Danny at Tesco's Distribution Centre at Fenny Stratford. Danny mentioned that they had some items they were unable to sell, that might be of use to us - were we interested in receiving them - ABSOLUTELY!

Danny & Gary came and delivered a tote full of slightly damaged items but almost 90% of them were entirely ok and ideal for our stock.

Gary has since been back and made two further deliveries to us - the last one was approx 45 totes of produce! This is another great local connection which we hope will continue.

The Bishop of Buckingham visits The Food Bank

The Rt Revd Alan Wilson - Bishop of Buckingham visited The Food Bank on Wednesday to learn more about the work that we do.

Bishop Alan is a very interesting character and stayed with us for almost 3 hours. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce him to some of our great volunteers, share our plans for the future and then pray together - a really special day.

Check out Bishop Alans blog about his visit <http://bishopalan.blogspot.com/>



The FOOD BANK 1000



Will you spare just **£3 per month?**

The Food Bank needs 1000 people to donate just **10p per day** to ensure its sustainability.

So why not sign up now and see the difference your **£3** can make to our local community.

<http://www.justgiving.com/thefoodbank/donate>

Together we really can make a difference.....

Volunteering Opportunities & Events

Now that The Food Bank has moved into it's new home and is looking to expand it's services, we have new opportunities for volunteers to come on board:

Weekday Mornings (Except Thursdays) 10am - Midday.

Come along and join our team who work at the warehouse doing a variety of tasks including, sorting stock, splitting bags of rice, pasta, sugar etc into smaller quantities, making up food parcels etc.

Thursday Mornings 10:45am - 12:15pm

Come and help at our serving session which takes place at Milton Keynes Christian Centre. duties are varied, but could include serving our clients as they come and collect their food parcels, chatting to them and making them feel welcome. Making tea / coffee etc.

Food Bank Vision Team

The Food Bank has many plans and ideas of how to better serve our community but these ideas need enthusiastic, motivated people to bring them to life.



An example of this is our proposed event next March called the BIG little Give where we aim to get every household to donate one item and drop it off locally. To make this happen I need people who are willing to do a little ""leg work" to help us find venues in each estate that would be willing to be a Food Bank Collection Point for 1 week.

I am now looking to bring together a team of up to 12 volunteers.

We will meet in the evening every 4/6 weeks and use everyones ideas and skills to achieve our vision.

Saturday 7th / Sunday 8th August - Supermarket Collection at Woburn Sands Co-op. Please come along between 10am - 3.30pm and donate an item of food.

Friday October 1st & Saturday October 2nd- MK Food Collection Campaign - volunteers required to man a stand in Midsummer Place from 9 - 5pm on both days. This event is being arranged for The Food Bank by Mercedes-Benz UK who will also have volunteers on site. There will be an advertising campaign in the local papers and local radio to encourage people to bring food to donate to fill our van which will take pride of place on the stand. This will be a great opportunity for The Food Bank so if you want to be part of something momentous, then sign up for a couple of hours NOW!

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities please give Sue a call on 01908 322800 or e-mail thefoodbank@mkcc.org.uk

I hope you enjoyed this interim newsletter, please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you have any feedback on this edition then please e-mail me at the following address: thefoodbank@mkcc.org.uk

Please do get involved in our work, either as a volunteer or donator as we really do need you on board as together we really can make a difference.....

Best wishes

Sue
01908 322800