Jubilee Foodbank Report May 2025

Churches Together Harborough

Figures for April 2025

Our main Referrals Agencies continue to be : **Renew Wellbeing café / The Children and Family Hub / CAB / Turning Point / Harborough Churches / Cube and Homestart / Schools and other agencies also feature but not quite so regularly.**

Reminder that when referred we offer families food for **7 days including 3 meals a day.**

April has seen over 118 referrals which is an approximate increase of 10% on this time 2024.

This year we have helped 167 Households as well as individual adults and pensioner referrals have risen slightly, which amounts to over **1,000 people** being fed. If all meals are accounted this amounts to over **20,000 meals** donated this year so far.

We are also seeing an increase in the referrals of people who are homeless or in temporary accommodation which have doubled in April from previous months. This is becoming a normal pattern for this time of year, as more itinerant people seem to use Harborough as a base in the warmer months.

We continue to report back to Referral Agencies if families are needing support for longer than we normally offer it.

Shortages

Due to the increased demand for food the store has become extremely depleted. We are struggling for particular food items; these are consistently updated on our website and other social media platforms. This is causing us some concern, and we also worry that recent Government policies regarding social support may cause even more people to fall into food poverty.

We are trying to tackle this by reaching out to new donators, but if any Churches have any ideas for a more reliable source of food donations, we would be grateful.

Special Donations

Lions did a shop as well as a collection from Sibbertoft.
Hallaton Church launched their ‘one ton of food’ initiative and we have gratefully received over 900 tins of food from them.

We were donated Chocolate Eggs from Leicester Grammar school before Easter. A shipment of loo rolls was received from Rural Trading this week.

ALDI Vouchers

In a measure to try to ensure that families have access to some fresh items we have begun to buy Aldi vouchers that can be exchanged for fresh items such as milk, cheese eggs and meat products. These are in addition to the meat and veg vouchers supplied for the town Market stalls.

Trustees

We have recently had a turn around of Board of Trustees with **3 new Trustees** appointed and a change of roles for others. This has given a new lease of life to some areas of our work. Although we are still looking for **2 new Trustees** as we are losing a member temporarily and have room for another, if anyone from CTH is interested in such a role.

Referral Agency

New Referral Agency is VASL, who will also be prepared to act as a food drop off centre when they are in their new premises.

Volunteers

We are currently in need of new volunteers to help with both front-line donations and to join the store teams. If Churches together have any ideas or would like to offer some help here please do contact Jubilee. Obviously these are responsible jobs and would need training and a degree of fitness as there can be lifting involved.

Social Media

Social Media has been stepped up / a newsletter for Referral Agencies has now been well established.

We continue to use social media as an approach to asking for more focused food donations, and during lean times.

New Connections

New connections have been created with businesses in town, **Mercado Lounge** has a food donation basket; and has agreed to donate regularly from their charity Quiz nights, with more support to follow.

Park Run organised a donation day for Jubilee which we were very grateful for, and we hope that this could be more of a regular donation stream.

Events

Volunteer Social at the Village / AGM / Quiz Night at the Mercado.

Market Harborough Building Society have given us the use of their new facilities to hold our AGM.

We would very much like to have a more public face at future Harborough town events, but we are struggling for volunteers to help set up and staff a stall. We were present at Good Friday on the Square. We had previously been offered the Green Street at the Carnival but have no one to run the stall. We are aware that the Vintage Car and other Summer town events are coming up that we would like to be part of.

Recipe Booklet
Jubilee have put together a booklet with recipes that use products found in the food parcels that we supply. This has yet to be printed and trialed, but we hope that it will provide a good service to the people that may need this help.

External Agencies
Independent Food Network, there is no cost to join and they can support our campaign and are nationwide.

Gift Aid
We are still investigating claiming gift aid, and the benefit from monthly giving.

Pet Support

Liz has spoken to Lisa Parrott who runs ‘Dogs Dinners’ and she is happy to give us animal food for the Foodbank on an ad hoc emergency basis.

CTH

Emergency food parcels:- Each Church has been given an emergency food parcel some time ago. Please do let Jubilee know when you need this replenished or replaced. We will ensure that new emergency bags are brought to your Church.