**Smethwick Foodbank**

**Holy Trinity Church**

**Church Hill Street**

**Smethwick**

**West Midlands**

**B67 7AH**

**2nd October 2020**

Dear **Harvest Festival Co-Ordinator,**

Thank you for agreeing to support our Harvest Appeal!

We hope the materials in this pack will help you organise a successful collection and inspire others to get involved. If you need anything else, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us! We’ll be happy to help however we can.

What to collect

Please find enclosed a PowerPoint about Smethwick Foodbank for you to use in assemblies, a Press Release that you might find useful to include in your school newsletter and a ‘shopping list’ of items that Smethwick Foodbank needs most. This list contains our food bank’s top 10 most needed items. Please feel free to copy and distribute this list to everyone supporting your collection.

Smethwick Foodbank only works with non-perishable food items (tinned and dried goods), which do not spoil or decay. This means that neither the food bank nor the recipient has to worry about storing food in a fridge or freezer, and there is less likelihood of food going to waste. It also means that we can give each person who comes to our food bank a carefully designed food parcel that contains three days’ worth of nutritionally-balanced food.

All items should be unopened, in date and in good condition. We are forbidden by law to give away food which has passed its ‘use by’ date. We have no storage facilities for fresh food so if you collect fresh food, we would prefer you to arrange for it to go elsewhere. If you need any ideas of where to send it, we can help!

We also take non-food items such as toiletries, cleaning and sanitary products, as these are just as essential for the people who use food banks.

Delivery/collection

It would be a great help to us if you could deliver your collection to us at the following address:

Smethwick Foodbank

Holy Trinity Church

Church Hill Street

Smethwick

West Midlands

B67 7AH

Please email me on [foodbank@smethwickcan.org](about:blank) or call us on 0121 517 0141 and we’ll arrange a date and time with you to deliver your donation in a safe, socially-distanced way. Unfortunately, because of COVID restrictions we are unable to collect any donations ourselves this year.

We want to provide the best support possible to people in crisis in our community, and long-term to end the need for food banks in the UK – your support is hugely important to this journey.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Janine Bowers Wild

Foodbank Harvest Appeal

0121 517 0141

foodbank@smethwickcan.org

**Harvest Pack Press Release 2020**

**Could you put an article in your newsletter or magazine to encourage people to donate tinned and dried goods to the foodbank?**

*Here’s some suggested wording you may like to use:*

This harvest we’re asking you to help feed local people in crisis by collecting tinned and dried food for Smethwick foodbank. We are asking everyone to rally round to give items such as breakfast cereals, pasta sauces, tinned veg, tinned tomatoes, tinned meat and fish, rice pudding and sponge pudding, UHT milk, long life fruit juice, tea or coffee, tinned soup and biscuits .

1 in 5 people live in poverty in the UK; many families hit crisis and cannot afford food. Today, people are going hungry in their own homes. The impact of COVID 19, rising food and fuel prices, static incomes, high unemployment and changes to benefits are causing many families to struggle to put food on the table but the good news is that you can be part of the solution.

The foodbank helps local individuals and families in crisis through the provision of emergency food supplies donated by churches, schools, businesses and the general public. The circumstances surrounding a crisis are unique to every individual, so the foodbank partners with frontline care professionals, such as health visitors, social workers and other community-based support workers, who are able to identify and refer people facing hunger to the foodbank. As well as receiving nutritionally-balanced 3 day food parcels, people are listened to and signposted to agencies that are able to help resolve the underlying cause of the problem. Last year the foodbank distributed over 55850 meals to 4781 people, of which 1884 were children.

Since April this year we have provided 81,000 meals to over 9,000 people and expect this to double by the end of the financial year. We cannot do this without your help.

Please join with us by giving food so that local people in need don’t go hungry. Thank you.

NB: Please make sure all food is unopened, non-perishable, in date, and undamaged. Thank you!

*Editor’s note:*

*Please feel free to copy or edit the above text if you wish.*

*Please contact Janine Bowers Wild on* [*foodbank@smethwickcan.org*](about:blank) *for any further information.*