

Christmas 2021



**The Trussell Trust asks:** What happens when you can't afford the basics? When you have to choose between staying warm and buying food? With rising living costs, energy prices at record highs and a cut in the Universal Credit payment, this winter looks deeply uncertain for many. People across the UK are going hungry and skipping meals in order to pay the bills. **This has to stop !**

In 2020 95% of people referred to Trussell Trust's 450 foodbanks were classed as "destitute", meaning they could not afford essentials like heating and food.

**The BBC Panorama programme:** On 1st December the programme predicted that in the coming year household bills for a family of two adults and two children will rise by approximately £1700. This will include about £550 increase in energy costs, substantial increases in transport costs and higher prices for food.

**Editor notes:** In April 2022 the National Living wage will increase by 59 pence per hour giving an annual rise of £1136. However low income families lost the £20 per week when the temporary increase in Universal Credit was withdrawn leaving working families with a gross increase of just £102 per annum. We are helping with food and we can refer folk to the CEP scheme for help with energy bills. (info from. [www.Gov.uk](http://www.Gov.uk) and BBC Panorama)



**Truro Foodbank:** Our manager Simon reports that there seems little likelihood of this reducing the need for our emergency food parcels - 3500 this year - as the current top reason folk are coming for help is still **Low Income**.

At the end of November **TESCO** again invited us, and Trussell Trust Foodbanks nationwide, to hold an in-store collection. Our staff were supported by 29 volunteers over three days and an amazing 2150 Kg of food was donated. We are constantly humbled and encouraged by this demonstration of the generosity of local people. Also we are moved by the thoughtfulness of so many as we see special gifts of Christmas cake, puddings, mince pies and boxes of chocolates. Several under 20's donating food told us that they had been helped by the

Foodbank when they were in need and now wanted to give something back. Our picture shows another person who was helped in the past and donated a trolley full of food as a THANK YOU! And Thank You TESCO Truro !

**Truro Foodbank  
Opening times:**

**Monday:** 3pm to 5pm , Truro Methodist Church (TMC)  
**Wednesday:** 10 am to 12 noon, Truro Methodist Church (TMC)  
**Friday:** 10am to 12.noon. All Saints Church, Highertown. (ASH))

*Roseland and Perranporth service available via phone or web site*

**HUNGER  
FREE  
FUTURE**



We are always thankful for the many people who support us financially. Your kindness often astonishes us and recently we received the envelope shown in our picture from **Evelyn**. Her school Harvest was given to Truro Foodbank but Evelyn also saved her pocket money and gave it to us. So a big Thank You to her and so many other folk. Without your support we could not continue



**Staff changes:** Bob Girvan, who was our first member of staff, joined us in 2010 as our manager and retires at the end of the year. Bob has been hugely important to the Foodbank for both his boundless energy and his creativity in continually improving our efficiency. In addition Bob has arranged many “Out of Hours” events including barbecues for volunteers and friends,



speaking at local school assemblies, captaining the Foodbank team in the Community Pancake races on the Piazza, helping erect our 1000 piece Store and his amazing walk of 115 miles from Land’s End to Launceston pushing a Tesco trolley in 2013 and raising over £2000. Bob was fully committed to the ethos of the Foodbank, which is to show God’s love and care for our neighbours, especially when they are in need. This was vividly demonstrated when one morning Doreen’s purse was stolen by a customer. While Doreen phoned the police Bob set off in pursuit, caught up with the man and brought him back. The police gave the man a “good talking to” and Doreen refused to bring any charges. She and Bob then packed a food parcel for the man and sent him on his way.

**Bob writes:** “In some ways I am sad to be ending my time at Truro Foodbank. I have never seen it as a job, I have seen it as a service to people in our community who need help. I have been proud to be part of a wonderful team and I leave with fond memories of the work we have undertaken together”. In the New Year we are planning an event for volunteers and friends to celebrate Bob’s work. - details to follow.

**Nick Gibbins** joined the team in mid October as Warehouse Coordinator and Bob is overlapping for a short time to ensure a smooth transition. More about Nick in

**Finally Thanks to our fantastic volunteers !**

We are so grateful for the way you have worked to maintain the service to our community during the difficulties caused by Covid. Happy Christmas to you all and may you know peace and joy as we celebrate birth of Jesus.



**Job Vacancy:** Janet Whitson-Fay is also leaving us at the end of the year (more about Janet in our next Newsletter). This means we are advertising for a Customer Services Coordinator a role Janet has been filling since Covid lockdown. began The job will be for 16 core hours, plus some overtime. Closing date 20/12/2021. Details from: [trurofoodbanksecretary@gmail.com](mailto:trurofoodbanksecretary@gmail.com)

