



CLECKHEATON  
FOOD BANK



ANNUAL REPORT  
2022/23

Registered Charity (CIO) 1198915



# About Us

Cleckheaton foodbank was set up in April 2020 during the first days of the pandemic by the local Churches Together group. This was in response to an already identified need because other foodbanks were difficult for many local people to access and the nearest one actually closed during the pandemic. Initially we did a lot of shopping for those shielding as well as providing food parcels for those struggling financially.

We have evolved and developed since that time, and now we are an emergency service providing temporary help in the shape of food parcels while longer term solutions are put in place or the recipient's crisis passes. We take self-referrals as well as those from agencies and we are able to respond to urgent need very quickly without the need for complicated form filling or intrusive detailed questioning.

We have always provided a delivery service rather than a collection service which we have found works well for us and for our clients, some of whom would struggle to get to the food bank or if they could get there would not be able to carry as much food home as we are able to deliver. We provide enough food in each parcel to just about last a week.

We are entirely volunteer run, and we operate from Cleckheaton Methodist Church 3 days a week, delivering parcels to people's homes in the BD19, WF15 & WF16 postcodes as well as the small part of BD12 that lies within Kirklees.

We became a registered charity (CIO) in May 2022 – a major development and this is our first full year since registration.

## Our Purpose

To help prevent or relieve poverty and hardship among people living in Cleckheaton and surrounding area.

We do this by providing emergency parcels of food and other necessary consumer goods required by individuals and families in need.

## Our values

Respect, dignity, empathy, being non-judgemental, understanding, compassion, confidentiality

## Trustees and changes

Brunel James, Vicar of Cleckheaton, was our Chair but he has now moved onto another job and away from the area so existing trustee Josie Pugsley took over in January 2023.

Treasurer Alan Littlewood was with us from the beginning and got us onto a sound footing but handed over the reins to current Treasurer Steve Dinsmore at our last AGM in September 2022.

The other current Trustees are Sally Wallace-Jones, vicar of Scholes, Hartshead, Roberttown & Hightown and Marian Olsen, Superintendent Minister for North Kirklees & Morley Methodist Circuit.



# Message From Our Chair

Reflecting on 2022/3 I realise it has been a busy year for us, we finally got our Charity Commission registration, we raised a lot of money and we gave out a lot of food! All of this was only possible by the work of our wonderful volunteers! Demand for services in 2022/23 has remained steady, with us delivering an average of just over 30 parcels a week. In the last year the cost of food has increased, and the number of food donations has decreased, increasing our reliance on successful grant applications. Looking ahead to 2023/24 we see no let up in demand for our services, or decreases in cost, which will create more pressure on our funding, meaning we will be kept busy applying for grants and support!

Our volunteer community continues to be our main strength, without all our lovely volunteers we would not be here at all. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers. Whether its delivering a few parcels a week, collecting donations, running a small team, or helping with fundraising/ community outreach, if you would like to get involved please get in touch ([cleckheatonfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:cleckheatonfoodbank@gmail.com))

Finally a big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped and supported us in this last year.

Josie Pugsley  
Chair of Trustees

## Summary Financial Report

Our total income for the year from 01 April 2022 until 31 March 2023 was £53,781

Our total expenditure was £30,688.

Our balance at the year end was therefore £23,093

We received £41,850 in grants which was therefore our largest source of income representing 78% of the total, but local people, groups and businesses were very generous, not only with cash but also with gifts of food and other items without which our expenditure would have been much higher. The total money raised from the community was £11,931, or 22% of our income.

We were spending an average of £500 per week on food at the beginning of the year but due to increased costs and reduced donations of food that has now increased to an average of £600 per week.

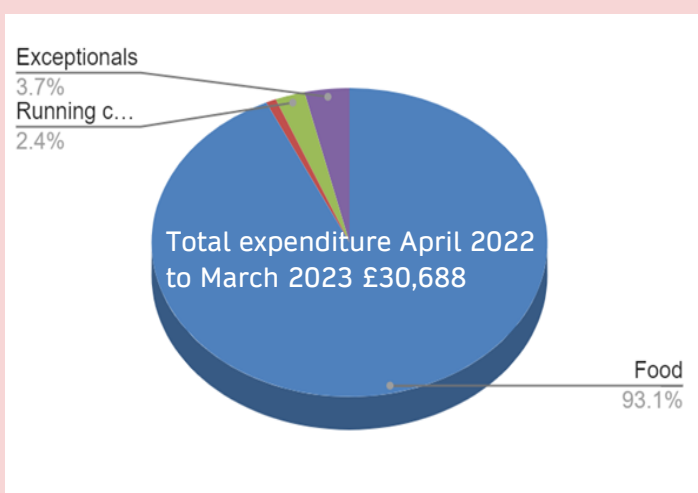
Our full accounts have been independently examined and approved by Adam Driver ACMA CGMA

**“I AM VERY HAPPY WITH THE FOOD PARCEL YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME. IT MEANS I CAN OFFER MY CHILDREN A CHOICE FOR TEA.”**

**“THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE FOOD PARCEL TODAY. I WAS DELIGHTED TO DISCOVER IT INCLUDED SWEETS FOR THE KIDS AND BOTTLES OF JUICE.”**

**“I HAVE NOW GOT A JOB WITH THE PAINT FACTORY AND I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU AND DONATE BACK. YOUR HELP MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE & I AM VERY GRATEFUL.”**

**VOLUNTEERS RAN OVER 150 FOOD BANK SESSIONS DURING THE YEAR**





# Operating this year

## General

We have run food bank sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday all through the year and have delivered an average of around 30 parcels every week, though numbers have fluctuated considerably. We took a decision in July 2022 to restrict the number of parcels per household as we see ourselves as an emergency, short term service. We do not ask to see proof of hardship and take people's requests for help on trust, but expect them to seek longer term help from other agencies who can offer longer term support and advice if they need more than this.

Since then, numbers of parcels per week have remained fairly steady whereas they were increasing with the potential to become more than we could manage. On the other hand, costs have risen so that we now spend more each week on food than we did a year ago.

We provide an information pack for each new parcel recipient with contact details of agencies in the area who can help with issues such as debt, benefits, housing etc. and this information is updated on a regular basis to ensure that it is as current as possible.

We continue to receive new requests for help each week, with an average of 5 new referrals per week.

We invested in a new freezer and a new fridge during the summer of 2022 and this has enabled us to continue to provide frozen food in parcels, and to store items such as bread for defrosting at home.

We purchase much of our food but throughout the year we have been blessed by the kindness and thoughtfulness of many local people and groups who regularly bring donations to the foodbank or contribute to one of our collection points. There has been a slight drop in the amount donated in this way since last year, but we know that this is due to the pressure that we are all under due to the increase in the cost of living. At harvest time and Christmas in particular we received bountiful donations from local schools and churches for which we are extremely grateful.

**OVER 1,700 PARCELS  
WERE DISTRIBUTED  
DURING THE YEAR**







## Christmas and Easter

We have been fortunate that local people, groups and businesses have supported us by donating seasonal treats so that we have been able to include these in parcels meaning that households who would otherwise miss out on these special occasions get a little bit of extra cheer.

## Weekly Shops

When the food bank was set up during the pandemic, quite a large part of our work was shopping for people who were shielding. We no longer offer this service, but we still do regular shops for two local residents who are unable to get out. Three of our volunteers have befriended the clients, and are now part of their regular social contacts as well as delivering shopping.

## Volunteer Events

Our wonderful volunteers work hard for us all through the year, but many do not get the opportunity to meet others who are not part of their particular team. Also food bank sessions can be busy and sometimes we are working so hard we don't get the chance to chat, so we arrange occasional get-togethers where people can relax and get to know each other

better. We have held barbecues, pub evenings and garden parties during the year.

## Community Fundraising Events

This year, as last, Spenborough Chamber of Commerce supported us to hold a Halloween event for local children during which they made small donations of items needed for our stock.

In early December we held an art auction at The Surf Shack at which works of art donated by local artist Carol Curtis were auctioned and the proceeds were added to our funds.

## Match Funding

In September we were successful in a bid to One Community for a 'Match It' Funding grant which meant that any donations made between October and January were doubled, up to the value of £10,000. So we launched an appeal, expecting to raise maybe a couple of thousand pounds and have that matched. We were absolutely blown away by the response - individual people, businesses and local groups kept giving and giving, so that we smashed

the target of £10,000 raising £14,663.49 including Gift Aid which was then matched by One Community meaning that the final total was £24,663.49



**OVER 300  
HOUSEHOLDS WERE  
SUPPORTED  
DURING THE YEAR,  
RECEIVING AN  
AVERAGE OF 4 TO  
5 PARCELS EACH**



# A bit about our volunteers

We have about 50 volunteers who make the food bank work between them, operating in small teams. All live locally and we are very much part of our community. We have the support of one local business in particular, National Floor Coverings of Heckmondwike who provide a vehicle and a couple of their staff members each Wednesday to deliver parcels for us.

## The teams

**Delivery** – includes packing parcels and delivering them in volunteers own vehicles to people's doorsteps, co-ordinated and supervised by a session leader

**Phone (client liaison)** – taking requests for help, giving advice on other sources of help and creating the list for the delivery team

**Collection** – collecting the short life items from the local co-op and delivering it to the foodbank the following day

**Admin & finance** – includes maintaining our records and compiling statistics, posting on Facebook, maintaining and updating our website, grant fundraising and reporting, looking after our finances

**Stock management** – checking and ordering our weekly stock from Sainsburys, receiving and shelving the stock on a Sunday.

## Spotlight - the Sunday team

We purchase much of our food by placing a weekly order with Sainsburys and this is delivered each Sunday afternoon. We have a small team of people who come to the food bank every week to receive the delivery from the van and get it all shelved neatly, as well as giving the food bank a general clean up ready for the week ahead. This task can take up to 50 minutes and requires fast working when offloading the van, as well as a degree of physical fitness and agility and organisational skills. This team, which often includes Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers from local schools goes unseen, but boy would we notice if they stopped doing it.



**VOLUNTEERS GIVE OVER 60 HOURS PER WEEK TO THE FOODBANK**





# Local support and Food Donations

We have collection points at several local businesses and at Cleckheaton Library, where items can be dropped off and will be collected when the box is full. Many local churches have always been fabulous supporters with continuous collections of items which they bring down regularly. In addition local primary schools have been extremely generous with Harvest and Christmas collections for us as well as at the end of the summer term.

One young lad called Blake Lazenby deserves a special mention because even though he is still at Primary school he has organised fundraising efforts for us such as last Christmas when he held a raffle of Kevin the Carrot toys that he got his mum to buy. He raised £261 with this and the family bought food to this value and brought it to the foodbank.

The local Co-op store at Millbridge continues to donate their short life stock for each of our sessions so that we have been able to regularly provide fresh fruit and vegetables in our parcels. We are very grateful for their continuing support in this.

Our local Tesco store has been very supportive throughout the year by running a second hand book shelf where people donate their books and the proceeds from their sale is spent on food for us in store.

Morrisons in Heckmondwike has supported us by collecting items in small packs from their shoppers and this has really boosted our stock but unfortunately their Community Champion work has been scaled back of late and they have not been able to continue this on a regular basis.

Cleckheaton Methodist Church in whose premises we operate has been unstintingly generous. They allow us the use of our space free of charge and support us with friendship always.



*Part of the regular donation of food from the Millbridge Co-op*

## Development and vision for 2023-2024

Our plan is to continue to do more of the same. We would love to reach a position where our service is no longer needed. However, while food security continues to be a challenge for people in our community we will aim to continue to provide help and support.

We will continue to engage with our local community, through interactions with local businesses, groups and organisations.

We will also continue to hold volunteer thank you and engagement events.

**“I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR GETTING ME THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD AFTER LOSING MY PARTNER AND MY JOB. I HAVE A NEW JOB AND IT IS GOING WELL. I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.”**

To find out more about us, make a referral, or a donation:

Call / text: 07955732598

Email: [cleckheatonfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:cleckheatonfoodbank@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cleckheatonfoodbank/>

Visit: <https://cleckheatonfoodbank.weebly.com/>

Cleckheaton Methodist Church, Mortimer Street, Cleckheaton, BD19 5AR

## Our Donors

We are very grateful to all the organisations and businesses that have made donations and grants during the year.



Many thanks to Roger V Moody for all the professional photos in this report