

Food donated (tonnes)	76
Single boxes	1237
Double boxes	748
Family boxes	1446
Limited cooking	245
Welcome packs	56
Toiletry sets	1208
Cleaning packs	1041
Nappies/baby	231
Duvets/linen	25
Easter eggs	2000
Summer bags	149
Gift boxes	1154
Christmas hampers	968
Market vouchers	3934

In 2023 Andover foodbank distributed 6051 food packages including 1875 children, giving families and individuals valuable breathing space to address longer term issues without the worry of feeding their families or themselves.

Between January and December, more than 71 tonnes of food was donated together with just under 5 tonnes of toiletries, cleaning and household items. We distributed 71.8 tonnes of food and 6.1 tonnes of toiletries, cleaning and household items via boxes and local partnerships, resulting in a deficit of around 2 tonnes. We are grateful to Abel and Cole who donated fresh fruit and veg every week and to Sainsburys and Co Op for continuing to support us through Neighbourly, as well as supermarkets who enabled food collections and donations at their permanent collection points. In addition, we are grateful for the donations from many individuals, companies, local community groups, schools and churches all of whom helped to make our operation possible.



Reason for crisis

The rising cost of essentials is the main reason for a referral (13%) with an ongoing health condition causing financial issues (5%) and priority debt (4%). Other issues such as non-priority debt, increase in dependents, delay in benefits, insecurely housed and domestic abuse were also reasons that clients needed support.

68% of clients were receiving benefits with no other income. 15% were in work and having their wages topped up with benefits. 5% were earning and not receiving benefits.

Location

There has been a decrease in the number of people supported within St Mary's ward compared to previous years but overall, the wards with the highest level of deprivation have the highest level of need.

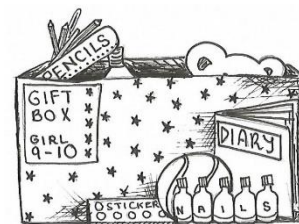
Andover Harroway	17%
Andover St Mary's	16%
Andover Romans	15%
No fixed abode	9%

We continue to partner with over 60 agencies, across the region. Citizens Advice are our largest referral agency making 26% of all referrals. TVBC

Housing team, King Arthurs Hall and Castle Practice in Ludgershall, also work closely with us, supporting many of those in crisis. Our in-house partnership with Citizens Advice has proved very successful with our co-funded advisor at the foodbank holding 266 appointments resulting in many successful case studies. We are currently working to expand the service offered.

Christmas celebrations

The community donated an amazing supply of filled gift boxes and donations and 1154 gift boxes were distributed in time for Christmas. We also ran our 12 Days of Christmas Campaign and combined with an amazing number of collections from churches, businesses and individuals, 968 households received Christmas hampers.



Summer support

A bag of summer treats including ice pops, popcorn and cake mix was given to households collecting a Family Box over the summer holiday period. We gave out 149 bags in total.

In 2024, we will be working with schools to provide a summer hamper which will concentrate on providing lunch items to replace the free school meal that children receive in term time.



Market vouchers

We have continued to run the market voucher scheme, where by £5 vouchers are issued for the fruit and veg, or bread, cheese and bacon stalls adding some additional nutrition and choice to the food boxes. 3934 vouchers were distributed in 2023.

Fuel Bank

We continued to work with the Fuel Bank Foundation, issuing vouchers for emergency fuel. In 2023 we completed 36 referrals worth a total of £1532. Although the foodbank has £5000 in funds ringfenced for this purpose, we have yet to spend any of this due to other funding given to the Fuelbank Foundation.

Other news

We welcomed two new members of staff in 2023; Chloe Roberts as Head Of Foodbank and Lucy Williams as Volunteer Manager. Together, they join Warehouse Manager Becki Watkins and look forward to working together.

For more information about Andover foodbank, please get in touch.

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