



**Issue 13**  
August 2019

# Food Bank Volunteers

## (Holme Valley)

## WELCOME to our newsletter

Over the last year the number of food bags we are distributing has doubled. From an average rate of 14 bags a week in 2018 so far this year we are distributing around 28 bags per week. There are more details below on this increase in demand. A huge thanks is due to everyone who donates money and food, enabling us currently to respond to these emergencies. Thanks as well to all our volunteers, who do a fantastic job collecting, packing and distributing the bags and raising awareness of what we do. It was agreed at our last meeting that notwithstanding the increase in demand, our policy for giving out bags should remain flexible and open, reinforced by the voucher system that is in place.

### Increasing donations

Food donations have increased this year from Holmfirth Co-op, Holmfirth Library, Scholes Post Office, Sainsbury's Local, Holmfirth Parish Church, Hepworth and Kirkroyds School, Hepworth Church and Holme Valley Scouts. Many food donations come from individuals who follow our weekly needs on social media, which has made a huge impact in increasing awareness of the Food Bank. There have been cash donations from Wooldale Quakers, Kirklees College, Net Church, Holmfirth U3A and Hepworth Ladies Group. One Community Longley Farm Fund once again helped us to distribute 60 extra Christmas bags last year with a donation of £550 and in the Spring we received £1500 from Locala's Community Fund. We simply could not operate without this generosity from the community. Thank you.

### And not just food...

We welcome donations of toiletries and pet food too. Our distribution points maintain small stocks of toiletries and pet food, enabling recipients of food bags to select items as required.

### Increasing demand across the region

According to the Trussell Trust, demand for emergency food bags has increased by 18% across Yorkshire in the last year. 77,679 were distributed by their Yorkshire Food Banks in 2018/19, compared to 65,675 in 2017/18. The Trust attribute this to problems linked to the rolling out of Universal Credit and increases of 'in work' poverty. Demand typically rises by 20% during summer school holidays, with some food banks struggling to meet this increase. Our demand has doubled in a year.

**Locally**, we have formed a relationship with Morrisons and have been offered the chance to do a trolley collection. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this in Autumn.

**A typical food bag contains £15 worth of food. Food donations reduce the cost of this, but each week we spend about £340 to produce 28 bags. A standing order is an ideal way to make a regular donation. Please email for details**

[foodbankvolunteershv@gmail.com](mailto:foodbankvolunteershv@gmail.com)

Thank you.

Food Bank Volunteers aim to help people to fill the gap before proper arrangements can be made to make sure that they have sufficient resources themselves.

Holmfirth Library Saturday 10am to 12noon

Holmfirth Methodist Church on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12.15pm to 1.45pm.

**Sean Moran, one of our volunteers, sadly died earlier this year, and he will be sorely missed.** Every Tuesday, together with Cath Herring, Sean collected around 25 bags from Holme Valley Hospital and transported them to Holmfirth Methodist Church ready for the Tuesday Open Church Session at 12.15. Totally reliable, Sean was a passionate supporter of the Food Bank. His knowledgeable contributions at meetings helped ensure the Food Bank was doing its utmost to serve those in need. We are very fortunate to have known and worked with Sean and we send our condolences to his family.

In Sean's memory, his family are collecting for the Huddersfield Mission. Donations can be made directly to the mission via their website [www.huddersfieldmission.org](http://www.huddersfieldmission.org)

## What's next?

- **Dates for your 2019 Diary:**
  - **AGM and Ordinary Meeting - September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, Holmfirth Methodist Church.**
- **Volunteers** needed for a **trolley collection** at **Morrisons Meltham Store** in **September/October**. A weekday date to be agreed. Likely times 10 'til 3, with a rota system, which can be flexed to suit personal commitments. Two main tasks at Morrisons: (1) manning the trolley in 45 minute slots involving requesting customers to buy one item from a shopping list for donation and (2) ferrying food to Holme Valley Hospital to be unloaded and stored.
- **See us on Social Media**
  - **Facebook** Food Bank Volunteers Holme Valley
  - **Twitter**@HVFoodbank
  - **Instagram**@Holmevalleyfoodbank
  - **Website** <https://holmevalleyfoodbank.com>
- **Phone** **07534 855 332** or
- **Email** [foodbankvolunteershv@gmail.com](mailto:foodbankvolunteershv@gmail.com) to volunteer, request help or donate.

**Hepworth J and I School** collected 200 litres of milk. A big thanks and well done to all of you for working so hard to double the target you set yourselves!



**FBV (HV)** is an inclusive, community-focused organisation. You are most welcome to join us at any of our meetings.

These start at **7.00 pm** at **Holmfirth Methodist Church, School Street, Holmfirth, HD9 7EQ**. Come along, find out more and share your ideas.

Look forward to seeing you there.

**David Davies**  
Vice-Chair

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