



STATE OF HUNGER



A new report commissioned by The Trussell Trust entitled STATE OF HUNGER has been released about who in the UK is affected by hunger, what the causes are and how it can be alleviated.

The results are truly shocking!

State of Hunger research found that people who are referred to a foodbank

have an **average weekly income after housing costs of just £50**

have problems with the benefits system with **over two-thirds reporting issues with the system in the last year**

54% of people at foodbanks live in households affected by a mental health problem cannot afford to buy the absolute essentials that we all need to eat, stay warm and dry, and keep clean - with 94% facing real destitution

are very likely to have health issues, with **nearly 75% reporting at least one health issue are very likely to be facing long-term crisis**

have a household income that is about **the same as their housing costs**

THIS IS NOT RIGHT

THIS CAN CHANGE

The Trussell Trust is calling for three key changes as a priority to protect people from hunger, this is what we need the next government to do

as an urgent priority, end the five week wait for Universal Credit

funding for councils to provide local crisis support should be ring-fenced and increased

we need the Department for Work & Pensions to be a responsible lender, not forcing people to pay back money they can't afford to do without

we must challenge parliamentary candidates about this national crisis
the election is not just about Brexit

for more information about the STATE OF HUNGER report go to trusselltrust.org



We don't mention all donations to the foodbank as it would fill the entire newsletter, but here are just a few. Two whopping Harvest donations were delivered to our Aston distribution centre at the Salvation Army. A big massive thank you to staff, parents and pupils at **Nechells Primary School** and **St**



Clement's C of E School, Nechells for supporting our foodbank.

A food donation was recently received from **St. Basil's in Grosvenor Court, Aston** weighing 64kg. ANFB have helped many tenants of St. Basil's over the years and it is wonderful to see how much has been raised to give back to others!

Well Done Everyone!

Meet Kerry!



When thinking about what to write for this article, I first revisited my initial emails to the foodbank and was somewhat surprised to see I reached out almost exactly 2 years ago now; time really does fly. Having visited a conference at Newcastle's St James' Park on the topic of how football fans can support their local foodbanks in October 2017, I was inspired and determined that the Midlands teams should follow in the footsteps of the North. The week following I got in touch with as many Midlands clubs as possible, from the giants to the locals, with varying levels of response.

Being a huge Aston Villa fan myself it was frustrating that actually they were the least forthcoming in terms of setting up some sort of collection point, citing security concerns. However I really wanted to forge a relationship between the club I love and the community in need surrounding Villa Park. So I got in touch with ANFB directly, and was kindly invited to one of their sessions at the Salvation Army where their wonderful volunteers and warm welcome

meant I left feeling even more driven to lend a hand. I sent a very bold email over to Shabana Mahmood's office; as the MP for the area I thought she could be a good starting point to get the ball rolling. Much to my delight she was keen and she visited the foodbank distribution session in December of that year.

From then on things began to happen. With the help of the former club chaplain Rev Philip Nott, we have hosted many pre match collections at both Aston Parish Church and Birchfield Gospel Hall, collecting many kilos of food and a fair amount of cash to fund the gap between supplies and demand. In March of this year I was co-opted to the CAN DO 4.13 board (ANFB overseeing charity) as a director - an absolute honour.

With my day job experience I have been able to refresh the charity's annual report, whilst my active social media profiles have led to an interview on BBC Radio WM and articles in the Birmingham Mail. I have really driven up support for the foodbank, including a successful quiz night this September. In the future I hope that we begin to see a declining use of foodbanks; however, whilst the opposite continues to happen I hope I can further grow the relationship between the club and the foodbank. With sell-out crowds week in and week out, just a tin or £1 from every fan would be phenomenal.

THANK YOU GEOFF

One of our founder members, who has been hugely involved in every aspect of our Foodbank work since the beginning, is not around at present - but for a good reason.

Geoff Miller is a man of many talents, and definitely someone to call on if there is ever a practical problem of some kind. Not only does he always have a solution to suggest, he usually has the tools and the ability to carry it out himself!



He has been a key committee member, acting as treasurer, warehouse manager, and session leader at our Friday distributions - all tasks which require a great deal of commitment and energy. He has been an example to us all, and for another nine months his responsibilities are being carried out by about four different people ...

Geoff has decided to give himself a year's "sabbatical", to celebrate the fact that he has been a Christian for fifty years: a very creative idea, and maybe an example which others might follow (though preferably not all at the same time!). We all wish him well, and at the same time we hope that he will rejoin us in September 2020 with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

**Tesco have a National Foodbank
Collection over three days.**

Thursday November 21st

Friday November 22nd

Saturday November 23rd

We anticipate a greater need for our service over coming weeks and months and heavily rely on the generosity of Tesco shoppers at this time, but we do need volunteers to cover the three-day period.

If you could help for a couple of hours, handing out our shopping list particularly on the Thursday and Saturday please contact Hilary Miller hilmill@gmail.com

THANK YOU

WHERE ARE WE?

ANFB distribution centres are in Nechells, Ward End and Aston.

St Matthew's Church, Wardlow Road, Nechells, B7 4JH

every **Monday**
from 12.00 to 2.30pm

Unity Hubb, St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Ward End, B8

2BA every **Wednesday**
from 1.00 to 3.00pm

The Salvation Army, Gladstone Street, Aston, B6 7NY

every **Friday**
from 12.30 to 2.30pm

ANFB Warehouse is now located at St Matthew's Church, 63 Wardlow Rd Nechells B7 4JH and is open for deliveries from **10am to 12noon**

every Tuesday.

Mission verse

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me...."

Matthew 25: 35-36

Since 1st April 2019

ANFB have helped

2,303

people

**donating food?
this is what we
need**

- coffee
- packet soups (not tinned)
- tinned fish
- tinned carrots
- long life milk
- juice
- tinned meat
- squash
- rice
- cereals
- tinned fruit
- biscuits
- steamed puddings (not rice pudding)
- toilet rolls
- toiletries

Fund-raising updates

A recent Quiz Night at the Aston Tavern raised

£361

Volunteers at Aston Parish Church and Birchfield Gospel Hall encouraged fans to donate food and cash prior to the Villa game on 28 September.

The weight of food was

96kg

and financial donations amounted to

£825.17

Thanks to all the volunteers that made these events so successful!

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, send a message to info@astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject, or text our mobile telephone number 07384213621 with "unsubscribe" and your name. Thank you.



contact us

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join us

We love to welcome new volunteers to the Foodbank Team. If you want to know more about how you can be involved please contact Aston and Nechells Foodbank on

0121 359 0801 or 07384 213621

Leave your details and a member of our admin team will get back to you.

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