



Still here and still helping in these difficult times

“As we enter a second lockdown foodbanks are expecting to give out an emergency food parcel every 9 seconds”

This is the frightening scenario forecast by the Trussell Trust, the UK’s largest foodbank network. They have launched a new campaign to address the ever growing state of hunger and destitution in our country, HUNGER FREE FUTURE.

100,000 people needed foodbanks for the first time at the start of the pandemic; 670,000 more people could fall into poverty and become unable to afford the essentials in life. Please sign up online to add your support to this movement aimed at addressing the devastating conditions of poverty in our communities. #HUNGERFREEFUTURE



Over 50% of people using foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network at the start of the pandemic had never needed one before

72% of people at foodbanks this winter live with someone who is experiencing a mental health issue



Families have been the hardest hit, accounting for nearly two in five households needing to use a foodbank.

Our national Tesco collection in July looked somewhat different this year as no human ANFB volunteers were allowed to participate. However we appreciated the support of Tesco staff particularly Hatem who along with a slightly wooden stand-in, Norman, managed to attract lots of attention and total food donations of 480.6kg were greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Tesco shoppers.



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

Congratulations!



Congratulations to our very own Rosemary Cripps receiving a well deserved honour from the Aston Villa Foundation for her services to the Aston community, Rosemary is now a Community Champion! This award came shortly before Rosemary suffered a serious illness but we are delighted to report that she has now recovered and has resumed her very busy role at ANFB.

It's nice to be appreciated!



The Lord Mayor's Office

8th September 2020

Staff & Volunteers
Aston and Nechells Food Bank
St Matthews Church
63 Wardlow Road
Birmingham
B7 4JH

Dear Staff and Volunteers,

It has been drawn to my attention the wonderful work that you have been doing during the current pandemic sourcing, sorting and providing food parcels to needy and vulnerable families in Aston and Nechells.

I know that there has been unprecedented demand on food banks across the City and that without the support of people like yourself many vulnerable, lonely and elderly people would be going hungry.

The work you are doing is vital and must make such a difference to those you are feeding and supplying with essential goods. Please accept my heartfelt thanks, you truly are all heroes in these challenging times.

I hope you; your families, friends and colleagues are all well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohammed Azim'.

Councillor Mohammed Azim
Lord Mayor of Birmingham

We were delighted to receive this letter from our Lord Mayor, Councillor Mohammed Azim, in September. Our volunteers work long hours - at distribution centres, at the warehouse, collecting and transporting food, looking after the finances, administrative responsibilities are never ending, volunteers maintain a social media presence, and not forgetting our dedicated trustees who ensure we are on track and moving forward!

Thank you so much Lord Mayor.....it's nice to be appreciated!



We have truly been staggered by the generosity of donors over the past few months. We cannot mention everyone, but particular thanks goes to **Ferrovial (Amey)** for their substantial donation towards our work.

So many folks are donating through JustGiving every month or as a one-off, which has made an enormous difference to our forward planning, conscious that our most challenging times lie ahead.

Another special thank you - to Keith and Val

When lockdown started in March, a number of our volunteers had to stop working, and we found ourselves short-handed. However, we were greatly blessed because several others stepped forward, prepared to help as much as necessary. They were an enormous encouragement, and we are very grateful to them all.



Two of the most notable helpers were Keith and Val, who had already been working at Ward End on Wednesdays, but quickly became indispensable members of the Monday and Tuesday sessions as well; indeed, if we had needed their help on Fridays, they would probably have agreed! They always came on time, even though they had to walk from their accommodation, and were very committed.

I once asked them why that was, and Keith said simply, "Because we know what it's like". Having travelled from Germany to London, they had soon found themselves destitute and homeless, not even aware at first that they were entitled to benefits. They were given food parcels several times by local foodbanks, so when they moved to Birmingham they thought it totally logical to volunteer at Ward End, repaying the generosity which they had experienced when in need.

Nothing was ever too much trouble for them! Both were capable of moving heavy crates of food around fast, and Keith's expertise in IT matters was often useful. Val was excellent at meeting and greeting clients when they arrived, though he was not afraid of telling them off if they stepped out of line.

It was a great joy to us when they were successful in obtaining a job - cleaning houses, almost literally anywhere in the country. We miss them hugely, but are very glad for their sake that they are on a more secure financial footing. As with Maddy, another volunteer who came to join us in March and has now found a job, ANFB has proved to be a good stepping stone!

David Fletcher

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

The Elim Church, Church Walk, St Margaret's Road, Ward End, B8 2HA
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 located at St Matthew's Church, 63 Wardlow Rd Nechells B7 4JH and is open for deliveries from **10am to 12noon every Tuesday**.

Everyone who comes to ANFB needs to have a red voucher, or an E-Referral number which can be obtained from Birmingham Settlement 0121 250 0765 or Citizens Advice 0808 2082138.

#CharityNotPPV

Since the recent introduction of 'Pay-Per-View' games on Sky Sports and BT Sport, many fans have turned their frustration at the new charges into action by donating the would-be PPV fee of £14.95 to their local foodbank or similar charity.

The idea grew from a conversation amongst premier league fan activists within the Fans Supporting



Foodbank group and has spread across the country with £1000's being raised. The bulk of the campaign has been highlighted and shared via

Twitter under the # of CharityNotPPV – with every Premier League Club's fans on board.

Without our usual Aston Villa match day collections and other donation channels such as local churches and schools, our harvest donations are greatly reduced. ANFB greatly appreciates the fans' initiative, with the collective figure rising daily, now surpassing £4,000.

With the Villa's upcoming games also now chosen for PPV it is expected this figure will continue to rise.

We'd like to give a huge thank you to every Villa fan who has donated, it is very much appreciated.

Kerry Lenihan

Warehouse storage is once again an issue but a temporary overflow space has recently been made available to us by Birchfield Gospel Hall Aston.



contact us

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How you can help

Should you wish to support us financially at this difficult time, please go to our website and follow the donate links to JustGiving.

Thank you.

www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk

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Aston & Nechells Foodbank

Follow us on Twitter

@A_Nfoodbank

