

## Harvest Appeal 2018



"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.'

<sup>37-40</sup> "Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.' *The Message - Matthew 25:34-40*



West Cheshire Foodbank is committed to supporting those in our community who at times feel overlooked or ignored in our society: Those who care for a family member, those suffering with an illness, those who are unable to work, those who work in low paid jobs, those who live in high rent properties, those 1 in 5 people struggling with issues arising from living in poverty.

Real life stories from people who have visited our foodbank provide an opportunity for you to meet some of those West Cheshire Foodbank have supported (*\*please note all names have been changed*).

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After working for 30 years, the company *Fred*\* worked for collapsed. He has been unable to find work but is still looking and feels his age is a barrier to this. *Fred* had savings but these have run out making up the shortfall on his rent, he has tried looking for a cheaper property but letting agents didn't want to know, as he is unemployed and failed the credit check. *Fred* now feels trapped in a property with high rent. *Fred* has found it difficult to find his way round the benefits systems but has received some support from other agencies. He has found the loss of dignity for someone who has worked their entire life overwhelming.

*Sally* has had difficulties since the switchover to Universal Credit. A computer problem resulted in her only having £100 to live on for 5 weeks. She says that she met all the appointments and the problem isn't of her making. There will be a 4 week delay before she gets the rest of the money due to her. Meanwhile she has no gas or electricity as she has used up all the emergency buffer. She was very grateful for the food and toiletries she was given.

The cold weather has forced a choice between spending money on heating or eating. *Alex* has chosen to keep himself warm with the limited finances he has. He feels very appreciative of the help he's received and to not be judged. Prior to being on benefits he was working a minimum wage job and has no savings to help him through this unusual cold snap. Making 'that phone call' to ask for help was the hardest part."

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In order for West Cheshire Foodbank to continue to support people in our community we rely on local churches. Our warehouse is looking very empty after a busy summer, so now more than ever we need your support this harvest time! **Please click on the link below to access our harvest appeal posters and shopping lists.**

<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/2018/09/07/harvest-appeal-2/>

*Thank you*