

NOTICES & NEWS

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Worship in Church and Online

Preachers and readings for Sunday 28th April

Acts 8: 26-40;
 Psalm 22: 25-31;
 1 John 4: 7-21;
 John 15: 1-8

Worship in Church: 10.30am

Apr 28th Local Arrangement
 May 5th Revd. Barry Bishop HC
 May 12th Revd. Barry Bishop
 May 19th Gareth Zimmerman

Flowers in church this week have been kindly provided by:
 Mrs D Godden

Weekly Programme

Monday:

Friendship Club (2nd Mon) 2.30pm,
Badminton Club 9.30 - 11.30am
BB&GA Anchors/Juniors 5.30-8.15pm
Welcome Cafe 5.00 - 8.15pm
Monday Makers 7.30-9.30pm

Tuesday:

JellyTotz Parents & Toddlers 10-11.30am
Step"n"Style (termtime) 3.45-7.30pm
Men's Social (2nd Tue) 10.00-12noon

Wednesday:

Welcome Cafe 10.00 - 12noon
Welcome Garden 9.30-12noon
Supastrikers (termtime) 1.30-2.15pm

Thursday:

Welcome Cafe 10am - 12noon
BB&GA Company 7.00-10.00pm
Craft Group 10.00 - 12.00 weekly

Friday:

Friday Lunch Club 2nd&4th Fri

Saturday:

Welcome Cafe 1st & 3rd of month

Foodbank - The collection crate is available in the church entrance every week.

Church & PFA Events 2024

May 6th Plant Sale (HMC)
 June 8th Jumble Sale (PFA)
 June 15th Gloucester Model Railway Show (HMC)
 June 29th Strawberry Fayre (PFA)
 Sept 28th Jumble Sale (PFA)
 Nov 9th Jumble Sale (HMC)



Take a Moment



We have been asked by Tony from Lydbrook Baptist Church to pray for James Leach. Please take a moment to read his message, and include young James in your prayers.

Hello

I am contacting various churches in and near Hucclecote, asking for urgent prayer for a seriously ill little boy. As I do not live near Gloucester, I may have missed some out - if I have, please feel free to copy this more widely.

My daughter lives in Longlevens, and our grandson goes to a nursery in Innsworth. A little boy who is a close friend is seriously ill in Bristol Children's Hospital.

His name is James Leach and his parents are Debbie and John. James is a sweet and friendly little boy, who turned three last week. It has been discovered that he has a large brain tumour at the top of his spinal column, which appears to have intertwined with veins, arteries, etc, and is very difficult to tackle.

He has been in hospital for the last week, and was initially intended to have 2 operations a few days ago. However, the surgeons have now decided that it would be better for him to have one large one. He is now due to have an operation tomorrow (Tuesday), which is scheduled to take 20 hours. This will obviously have to involve a number of surgeons, and James will have to be under anaesthetics for a long time.

This is a very dangerous situation, and his parents are clearly very worried. They are staying in the hospital with him, and have been there for several days.

Please pray for the surgeons who conduct the operation, for its success and complete healing for James, and for continued love and support for him and his parents. Our church at Lydbrook knows that our God heals, and have been praying since we heard of James' diagnosis, but he would benefit from as much prayer support from the Hucclecote / Gloucester area as is possible.

Every blessing

Tony Fussey
 Secretary, Lydbrook Baptist Church

Gloucester Foodbank Spring 2024 Newsletter

Gloucester Foodbank Newsletter **Spring 2024**



Numbers Matter—but remember It's all about people

At Gloucester Foodbank we never forget that we are helping individuals and families. But we have to report to various bodies on the numbers we have helped and how much we have spent etc. To give an idea we set out below some information for the financial year ended 31st March 2024 **So some highlights from the year.**

Numbers of food & toiletry packages delivered	17,037
Numbers of adults helped	10,766
Number of children under 16 helped	6271
Kg of food etc given to clients	137,867
Kg of food donated to the Foodbank	98,150
Kg of food purchased by the Foodbank	35,912
Money spent on purchasing food and toiletries—we were fortunate to receive financial support from the UK government. Support is unlikely to happen in the current financial year.	£88,922

Gloucester Foodbank is a Christian based charity and part of the Trussell Trust network. Not every member of our team is a Christian; and we welcome and support people from all parts of the community of Gloucester. We are a registered charity: 1113515 and a Company Limited by Guarantee 054020666.

Why do people need help from our Foodbank

We know that with the right support and a stable and sufficient income, people don't need to turn to food banks for support. Hunger in the UK isn't about food. It's about a lack of income, leaving people without enough money to afford the essentials. This could be due to a range of reasons including:

- **Problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy, and deductions)**
- **Challenging life experiences or ill health**
- **Lack of informal or formal support**

The Foodbank continues to work, with its partners, to address the underlying issues that cause food poverty. Until the time comes when we can end the need for food banks, we will be here to ensure that local people in hardship have the food & essentials they need.

Gloucester Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's national network, which reports that 1.5 million emergency food parcels were provided to people between April and September 2023 by food banks in the charity's UK-wide network. This is the most parcels that the network has ever distributed at this point in the year and represents a 16% increase from the same period in 2022.

Speaking about the rising need for emergency food and what can be done to support people facing hardship, **Emma Revie, Chief Executive at the Trussell Trust**, said:

"These statistics are extremely alarming. An increasing number of children are growing up in families facing hunger, forced to turn to food banks to survive. A generation is growing up believing that it's normal to see a food bank in every community. This is not right.

"Rising hunger and hardship have devastating consequences for individuals and our communities, damage the nation's health and hold back our economy. People in work, as well as people who cannot work, are increasingly being pushed into debt. That's why the UK Government must build on its work to protect people from increasingly severe hardship and commit to putting an Essentials Guarantee into legislation, to embed in our social security system the widely supported principle that, at a minimum **Universal Credit should protect people from going without essentials**".

How Can you help people in need across Gloucester

1 We were fortunate to receive grants from the Government, trusts etc to help fund our services and especially buying food to meet the shortfall in donations in the last financial year. The Government scheme ended in March 2024. If you can help donate some extra items at supermarkets etc we would be very grateful. Tesco and Asda provide money to our Foodbank based on the amount of food collected in their stores. Morrisons, Sainsburys and Co-ops also have collection boxes for food etc.

2 We are facing a potential short fall in our finances over the next year. We do have some reserves, but these will be depleted very quickly if we have to buy food regularly. Phil McLellan who helps with fundraising said "we are grateful for the support from individuals and churches especially. We have been weak in linking with local businesses, many of whom have a charity of the year. If anyone has links with local businesses who might be able to help—please let us know. We are very happy to follow up and see how we can partner with these local businesses and groups".

3 If you would like to support us financially, please visit our website and then click on "Give Help" and then "Donate Money". This will give you the choice to either donate by bank transfer (see standing order form for details) or card (click the red donate box).

4 We have around 70 volunteers without whom we would not function. If you have some spare time and would like to help please call or email us.



Phil McLellan and Assistant Manger
Fiona Jarvis met the Mayor of
Tewkesbury at an event in Churchdown

Contact Details

Email—info@gloucester.foodbank.org.uk

Phone 01452 309683

Website—gloucester.foodbank.org.uk

Pat & Martin Chopping

Pat and Martin will be visiting the area for a few days in June and are planning to meet with friends from church on Thursday 13th.

They will be calling in during the Welcome Café opening, followed by a bring and share lunch, as in the past. All friends are welcome.

HMC – BBC News Report

The following text and photographs have been reproduced from a recent BBC news item.

Easter church garden theft 'especially upsetting'



Karen Gardner, BBC News, West of England

- Published, 16 April 2024

Equipment worth about £200 has been stolen from the Welcome Community Garden in Gloucester.

The theft took place from within the grounds of Hucclecote Methodist Church in the early hours of Easter Sunday and was caught on CCTV.

The garden provides food, companionship and fellowship, for our church community and for the wider community of Hucclecote.

A man took 12 scaffolding boards which had been donated by the city's Altitude Scaffolding. Police have been informed.



The 12ft long scaffolding boards were painted and ready to be used in the garden

Shortly before the theft, the boards had been painted by volunteers ready to be used to edge vegetable beds.

Church volunteer Elaine Keasley explained CCTV footage showed a man scaling a 6ft gate and then passing the boards through the gate over the course of about an hour.

"It was clearly a pre-planned theft and I would appeal to the thief to think again and return them," she said.

"It's especially upsetting for the church community that the theft took place on Easter.

"We are going to need 12 more 12ft scaffold boards to complete our raised beds and would be grateful if anyone has any spare to donate to the project."



Volunteers grow mostly vegetables which are then donated

Vegetables such as runner beans, potatoes, squash, beetroot, kale and chard are grown in the beds then given to the church lunch club and a food hub.

Anyone who saw someone moving scaffold boards from the field, on the corner of Carisbrooke Road and Hucclecote Road, on Easter Saturday afternoon or night or early hours of Easter Sunday should contact the police on 101.

It is thought a van would have been needed because the boards are heavy.

Plant Sale – Appeal for Garden Tools etc.

Our annual Plant and Garden Sale will take place Bank Holiday Monday 6th May starting at 10.30am.

You may have already read a notice appealing for plants to sell. This note is all about **garden equipment**. We are looking for preloved equipment:

- spades, forks, canes, planters and ceramic pots etc.
- garden furniture, hand tools, shears, seeds.
- Lawn Mowers. If you have replaced your old mower or are thinking about it, we would like your old one, if it is in a saleable condition.
- anything else not mentioned above.

Please will you `Spring Clean` your garden shed and garage and put to one side, ready for our sale, anything that you no longer need in a saleable condition.

The hall will be open on Sunday 5th May 2-5pm to receive any donations of garden equipment. Please join us on sale day from 10.30am when the Café will be open for Coffee & Cakes.

These are just a few examples of the tools and equipment which we can sell:

