



Cambridge City
Foodbank
Ending hunger together

Ask me how
you can help
ur foodbank

We are
Cambridge City

Foodbank



“

For most of its history Cambridge City Foodbank has been run entirely by volunteers, proving food to people in need five days a week. Today, together with a team of employed staff, volunteers and partners across the city, we are working towards a future where no one is forced to turn to a food bank to survive.

”

Steve Clay, CEO

Our vision is for a UK without the need for food banks.

We will provide emergency and affordable food, all the while there is a need for us. But food banks are not an inevitable part of our society. In one of the wealthiest nations in the world, no one should have to turn to a food bank to survive.

Our Ongoing Work

Foodbank Welcome Centres in and around Cambridge provide three-day emergency parcels, as well as a hot drink, listening ear, and expert advice.

Fairbite Food Clubs give members access to a weekly shop, ongoing support and advice, and connection to the community through our partner organisations, for a small membership fee which contributes to the sustainability of the network.



We provide **emergency** and **affordable** food, and **tackle the causes** of poverty, by harnessing the **power of the community**.



Our referral pathways and financial inclusion project enable people to get the financial support they are entitled to. Local and national campaigning aims to tackle the root causes of poverty.



The power to end the need for food banks is in the community. Our Foodbank is powered by a 200-strong team of volunteers, public donations, collaborations with partners, and the ideas and insight of our members and visitors.

Map of sites

Foodbank Welcome Centres:

1. St Paul's Church
2. Chesterton Methodist Church
3. Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM)
4. Northstowe Community Centre
5. Church of the Good Shepherd (COGS)
6. Cambourne Blue Space
7. Christ Church Trumpington
8. C3 Church

Fairbite Food Clubs:

9. Arbury
10. Hope
11. St Andrew's
12. Trumpington
13. Queen Edith's

Warehouses:

14. Orwell House
15. Nuffield Road

Cambourne

Northstowe

Cambridge
City Centre

Emergency Food

In 2023 we provided nearly

16,000

emergency food parcels.

At our eight Foodbank Welcome Centres in and around Cambridge, visitors are greeted by volunteers, welcomed with a hot drink and given a three-day emergency food parcel to feed everyone in their household. They are also offered fresh items including fruit and vegetables.

People who need help are referred to us by an outside agency, such as Citizens Advice, a local charity, or religious or community organisation. The referral process helps ensure that people in need are getting ongoing support as well as emergency food.

Local churches and community organisations host our Foodbank Welcome Centres, and ensure that people can access emergency food five days a week.

Along with Foodbank Welcome Centre volunteers and support agencies that visit our Centres, they work to create a calm and compassionate space for people who are collecting food.

Emergency food parcels are made up of items donated by the public. Food donations are collected by volunteer drivers from locations across Cambridge, or dropped off at our warehouse by individuals or groups who have run donation drives.

Teams of volunteers sort donations and pack emergency food parcels according to a set list of items. Parcels contain sufficient nutrition for at least three days' worth of healthy, balanced meals. Volunteers drive food parcels to our Foodbank Welcome Centres, and financial donations allow us to supply fresh items like vegetables and bread to visitors too.





Affordable Food

Over

350

households representing over 900 people are supported by our network of **Fairbrite Food Clubs**.



Fairbrite Food Clubs are aimed at people who are struggling financially, especially people who have repeatedly relied on emergency food from the Foodbank. Fairbrite Food Club members can choose a weekly shop as and when they need it, access ongoing advice, and get involved in the **community**.



Members pay a small membership fee every time they shop which supports the sustainability of the Fairbrite Food Club. They have a **choice** of up to ten items plus fresh fruit and vegetables. Financial donations to the Foodbank, and surplus food from local and national stores, keep the shelves stocked.



The Food Clubs are **community**-led and run with partner organisations who provide a **connection** to the wider **community** and take care of day to day operations. Volunteer teams, including members who volunteer, stock the shelves, run the shop, and get to know members.



The first Fairbrite Food Club opened in Arbury in 2018. Fairbrite Arbury was followed by Fairbrite Hope which transitioned from a **community** food hub in 2022 and is run in partnership with St George's Church, Chesterton.



In 2024, after funding for food hubs ended, we opened three new Fairbrite Food Clubs to ensure that local people could continue accessing food aid in those locations. Fairbrite St Andrew's, Cherry Hinton, Fairbrite Trumpington, and Fairbrite Queen Edith's joined the existing Fairbrite Food Club network.

Advice and support

We ensure that people visiting us for food also get support so that they are less likely to need us in the future.

People receiving emergency food are referred to us by trained referral agents, who are able to offer wider support.

Whilst visiting the Foodbank or a Fairbite Food Club people can speak with expert advisors, thanks to our partnership with Cambridge and District Citizens Advice. The advisors help people navigate the benefits system, and claim the financial support they are entitled to.

In the first year, the **partnership unlocked**

£477,854

of **unclaimed financial support** for people relying on the Foodbank or Fairbite Food Clubs.

Visitors to Foodbank Welcomes Centres and Fairbite Food Club members can also get face-to-face help from other visiting agencies on housing matters, homelessness, digital access, debt and utility bills.

We regularly run Cost of Living Events with Cambridge City Council, which connect people facing hardship with specialist support organisations.



Campaigns for change

We are building community power by organising people who have visited the Foodbank and Fairbite Food Club members to campaign for changes that will reduce food bank need. Organising is about bringing people together to get the power required to secure the changes they need. Our campaigns are led by people who have experienced the issues that are driving hardship, like unaffordable housing, low pay, and gaps in support for disabled people.

We connect our members and visitors to their elected representatives to help them make the case for change and ensure that decision-makers understand the reality for people going without the essentials.

One of the biggest drivers of food bank need is the social security system failing to support people. Alongside Trussell and other food banks, we are campaigning for an Essentials Guarantee, which would enshrine in law the principle that the social security system should always provide people in need with enough to afford life's essentials. We are bringing people across Cambridgeshire together to get involved in calling on local politicians to back an Essentials Guarantee.



Volunteering

We are powered by a

200

strong team of volunteers.

Warehouse

Volunteers sorting and packing food in the warehouse are crucial to our provision of emergency food. They take in donations from the public, weigh and sort them by type, and then pack food parcels of different categories and prepare them for delivery to Foodbank Welcome Centres.

Drivers

We rely on volunteer drivers to get food where it needs to be, whether that's collecting from donation points or delivering to Foodbank Welcome Centres.



Supermarkets

In addition to hosting Foodbank collection points, during special food donation drives volunteer teams encourage members of the public to donate to us. They greet shoppers and provide a list of most needed items.

Foodbank Welcome Centres

Teams in Foodbank Welcome Centres greet people who collect food. They help people pick fresh food items, toiletries and household items, and offer a hot drink, conversation, and guidance on where to access further support.

Fairbite Food Clubs

Our Fairbite Food Clubs are stocked and staffed by volunteers. Often these volunteers get involved because of their connection to their particular Food Club, through the community or as a member. They get

the shop ready for members, check people in and get to know regular visitors.

Office

In the Foodbank office you'll find volunteers responding to public enquiries, doing volunteer and finance administration, and helping with stock and voucher records.

Trustees

Our Trustee Board oversee the long term direction of the Foodbank, make sure we use our resources well and that the charity is run properly.

Special projects

As well as regular volunteer roles, the Foodbank relies on individuals who take on responsibility for specific project or areas of work, like running the annual Christmas Hamper Appeal.



We rely on donations.

Fundraising

Donate Funds: We rely on financial donations so that no one has to go hungry in Cambridge.



Financial donations allow us to provide fresh food items for Foodbank Welcome Centres, help plug shortages in food donations, support our significant volunteer operation, and supply fresh, ambient and surplus food to keep our Fairbite Food Clubs running. One-off, regular and gift-aided donations, from individuals, businesses and trusts are vital to the Foodbank's ongoing sustainability.



Donate Food: Donated food items make up the majority of food parcels

we distribute at Foodbank Welcome Centres. Community groups, religious organisations, businesses and members of the public organise food collections for the Foodbank. Many local supermarkets and smaller shops give customers a chance to donate to us with a donation point in store and special donation drives. We maintain a list of our most needed items on our website and on the Bank The Food app, where anyone can register to get reminders of what we need when they are near a donation point.



Partner with us: Community groups, businesses, religious organisations, schools and colleges regularly partner with us to organise fundraising or 'Charity of the Year' events. To support Cambridge City Foodbank, and become a vital part of this community project working to end hunger, please contact us at info@ccfb.org.uk.

In addition, some programmes are funded by grants, including from Trussell.



Cambridge City Foodbank is a registered charity in England and Wales.
Registered charity number 1149883.

ccfb.org.uk

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