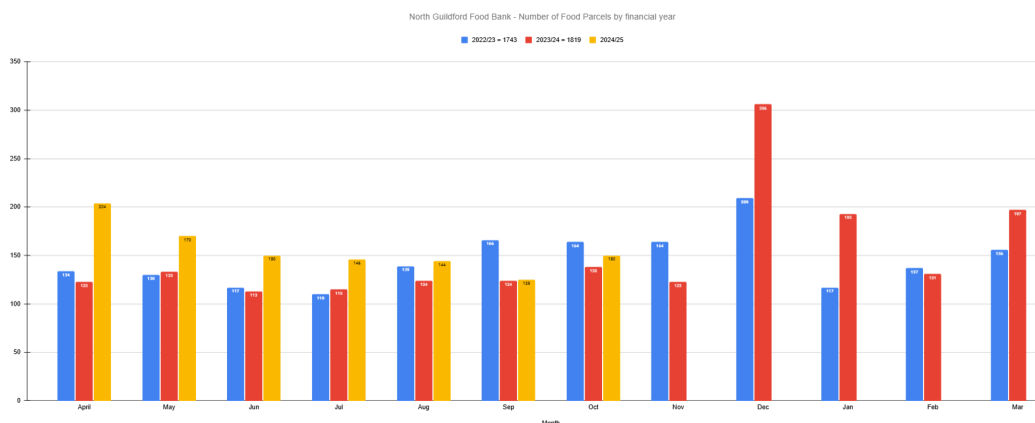


The North Guildford Food Bank

Dear Donors,

We are only able to support so many people in need in the community with the generous and faithful support of our donors. Thank you to each of you who have donated so generously.

We have never had to make a Christmas appeal in the past. This year we have seen demand for food parcels increase by nearly 30% and have had to spend from our reserves to keep providing our clients with the same level of service. Please see our parcel number statistics below. Therefore, we feel that now is the time to ask for some additional support from our community.



We know we will be busy

We are approaching what we know to be the busiest time of year for food banks. Last December, demand increased by 50% on 2022. If demand continues at current levels for 2024, we will expect to distribute around 400 food parcels. To put this into perspective, a "normal month" is around 150 parcels.

We are so grateful to all our donors, for all you do and give. Please only read on if you may be able to provide us with a little extra in the coming months.

There are **four** different ways you can support us:

1. **Financial donation** - we buy around 60% of the products (including fresh produce) needed to make up our food parcels. We try to find the most cost effective options possible, to support our clients the best we can.

Thank you to everyone who donates to us in this way. If you are able to increase a regular donation, please contact your bank to amend your standing order. To make a one off (or to start a regular) donation to support us this December, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/northguildfordfoodbank>

or make a bank transfer using the following details:

Bank: Lloyds

Sort code: 30-93-74

A/c : 66556468

Name: North Guildford Food Bank

Reference: Donor name

Please email treasurer@ngfoodbank.co.uk to let us know that you've made a transfer.

2. **Produce collection** - 40% of our parcels are made up from generous donations from the local community. If you are able to arrange a collection of produce at your office, with your neighbours, at a club you attend or with friends and family, it will really help reduce the amount we need to spend over the next few weeks. To help us manage the items coming in and to resource our stock team on

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collection days, if you are organising a donation, please complete this Google form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckdWINaYiTZ1IKU4m21IFSBqHkAmBt_joQcfsK6WBj9q-lDw/viewform?usp=sf_link

We will then contact you with a list of suggested items for you to collect.

In order for these donations to help as many clients as possible and for us to effectively manage and plan our stock levels, we ask that collections are completed as early as possible, and preferably delivered to us by the end of November.

3. **Specific donations - Tesco vouchers** - Each December, we want our food bank clients to have some food shopping choice, in addition to their food parcel. We give a Tesco voucher, of either £30 or £50, depending on the size of the household. This has been extremely well received, with often, quite emotional responses.

With the expected number of clients in December, we are budgeting £15,000 to cover the cost of these vouchers.

If food choice is something that you care deeply about, then if (when making a financial donation - details in 1 above) you put "**Supermarket Vouchers**" in your payment reference, or as a comment in your JustGiving donation, we will ring-fence your donation to be spent on these vouchers.

4. **Specific donations - Fuel support** - We partner with The Fuel Bank Foundation, to provide fuel vouchers to our clients who are on prepayment meters. The Fuel Bank Foundation does not currently ask for a financial contribution from us for this work.

We would like to expand our fuel support, to all our clients who are in fuel crisis, and to provide advice and support to those in fuel poverty. We are therefore looking to start working with Energy Manage <https://www.energymanage.org.uk/> to provide some financial support to those who are billed monthly and additional advice and support to all our clients who would like to reduce their energy usage. This support could be; making a one off payment to reduce fuel debt and have a manageable payment plan going forward, or as simple as providing draft excluder strips, or plastic sheeting to seal windows during the winter. The support will be bespoke, depending on clients' needs.

We plan to run a 3-month trial, January - March 2025, with a budget of £5,000.

If support with energy use and fuel bills is something you are passionate about, then if (when making a financial donation - details in 1 above) you put "**Fuel**" in your payment reference, or as a comment in your JustGiving donation, we will ring-fence your donation to be spent on fuel support work.

Thank you so much for the time you have taken to read this email. Every donation, from a tin of soup to larger financial donations mean so much to us, our clients and volunteers. Thank you so much for your support to date and I look forward to updating you in the new year with news from December 2024.

Very best wishes and a Happy Christmas (when you get there!)

Jessica

Manager

North Guildford Food Bank

Registered charity number: 1188640

My normal working days are Monday - Thursday

07538 413525

northguildfordfoodbank.co.uk