

# North Cotswold Foodbank

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

## Message from Kevin

*With daffodils in bloom and the days lengthening, Spring is a welcome time for many of us. The winter months can be bleak but when you're facing hunger, it's even tougher.*



*We experienced an extremely busy and challenging Christmas and New Year period and continued to see high levels of need during January and February. In the 12 months to the end of December, we provided 1,800 emergency food parcels to people facing hardship in our local communities. Although this figure is broadly similar to the previous year, over the past six years it has rocketed by 130%.*

*Most people were referred to the food bank because they simply couldn't cover their living costs. Cost of living payments and falling inflation have helped some people get back on their feet, but too many people are being left behind and trapped in severe hardship and for many it's becoming harder to escape.*

*Our food banks are a lifeline for people facing hunger and hardship – but we know they're not the long-term solution. That's why, as well as providing emergency food and practical support for people left without enough money to live on, we work to ensure a future where no one in the UK needs a food bank to survive.*

*You can help us by donating food or volunteering at one of our centres or as a Trustee. Without our incredible volunteers we simply wouldn't be able to do what we do, and the many people facing hardship wouldn't get the support they need. The article opposite has more information on the vacancies currently available and where to find out more information.*

*Kevin Carden  
Foodbank Manager*

## 1,800 emergency food parcels provided last year

North Cotswold Foodbank provided 1,800 emergency food parcels to people facing hardship in the last year (1 January to 31 December 2025).

The parcels supported 480 local households, 44% of which were families with children. Peak demand was in November and December.

The figures are broadly similar to those for 2024. However, the increase in food bank need in the Cotswolds since the pandemic has rocketed by 130% in the last six years.

North Cotswold Foodbank Manager Kevin Carden said the reasons that people turn to the food bank vary.

"The main factor is a rise in the cost of living, along with long-term illness and debt. Sometimes people have lost their job and just need us for a few weeks until they get back on their feet. Other times, a repair bill for the car or a washing machine throws the family finances out and there's nothing left to pay the food bills," he said.

"We are enormously grateful to Co-op and Tesco shoppers in our area for putting food in our donation bins – every tin counts, whether it's

loo rolls or a tin of ham," said Kevin.

"We'd also like to thank all those who have given us cash donations, as well as our local schools who do so much for us at Harvest Festival time. Your generosity makes a massive difference to local people in genuine need."

Overall, food banks in the Trussell community distributed more than 2.6 million emergency food parcels in the past 12 months – equivalent to one parcel every 12 seconds. Trussell highlighted the scars that the pandemic and cost of living crisis have left on living standards, with food bank use across the UK still 45% higher than in 2019.

"Our aim is to end the need for food banks," said Kevin. "At the moment, that goal is some way off."



## We're recruiting

We are currently looking for Team Leaders for our centres at Stow-on-the-Wold and Chipping Campden. For more information on the roles visit our website here:

[northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/2026/02/27/were-recruiting](https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/2026/02/27/were-recruiting)

We are also looking for two Trustees to join our Board. If you can bring your vision, passion, and experience to support our rapid growth, and strengthen our Board to deliver our strategy, we would love to hear from you. The time you give will have a direct impact in providing essential support to people in crisis and will be critical as we work together to fulfil our vision of seeing a UK without the need for food banks.

For more information contact Lucy at [lucy@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:lucy@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)

## Lent lunch

Dozens of people got a warm welcome in Winchcombe when they turned up for a Lent lunch and raised more than £600 for North Cotswold Foodbank.



Led by Carol Baker and her team, the St Nicholas Church volunteers dug out their pinnies, got cooking and dished up hearty bowls of soup and home-made cakes.

"Many of you might be wondering why we need food banks in the Cotswolds," said food bank volunteer Alexia Monroe. "True, we don't have many homeless people sleeping in doorways or other classic signs of deprivation, but we do have hidden hardship," she said.

## It's toot, toot Tooty goodbye

In January, we said Goodbye to Tooty Gibbs who, after 13 years as outlet lead volunteer at Chipping Campden, finally hung up her green fleece for the last time.

Her volunteer mission began when she went to her granddaughter's school harvest festival in 2012. "There was a speaker from the Coventry Foodbank who was so inspiring that I thought we could do something here," she recalled. "I got in touch with Trussell who were working from Naunton Chapel. Then I spoke to the Pastor of Campden Baptist Church and he said we could get on with it. So we did. It has been a blessing to be able to help people. I have always had fantastic teams around me – it couldn't have happened without them," Tooty said.

We are looking for a Team Leader to replace

Tooty at Chipping Campden – see our website for more information about the role and how to apply.

There have also been a couple of recent changes to our Board of Trustees. Louise Goll has resigned as a Trustee. Louise has made a significant contribution to North Cotswold Foodbank over the past two years and we thank her for her valuable support and guidance with safeguarding matters. And we say Hello to a new Board member, Laura Crabb. Laura has a wealth of experience working in the public sector for 25 years, directing programmes on strategic change and transformation. Welcome to the team Laura!



## Donate food

We always welcome non-perishable food and hygiene and cleaning products. The items we need change regularly, so please check the list on our website to see the latest shortages.

<https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

You can take your donations to the store in Guiting Power, which is open on Tuesdays from 10.00 -12.00.

You can also take donations to our food bank centres whilst they are open. For a list of our centres and opening hours, visit our website at <https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/locations>

There are also collection points in the following locations:

Post office and One Stop shop, Chipping Campden

Bishops Cleeve Parish Council Office, GL52 8LR (Monday-Friday 9.00am-12.00pm)

White House Surgery, Moreton, opposite the North Cotswold Hospital

Tesco in Stow and Bishops Cleeve

Co-op in Bourton, Moreton, Winchcombe and Bishops Cleeve

Coventry Building Society, Winchcombe

Please note that supermarket collection points are for in-store purchases only.

Details of how to donate money can be found on our website here: [northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/](https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/)

## Contact details

Store:

North Cotswold Foodbank  
Unit 2, Glebe Farm Buildings  
Guiting Power  
Cheltenham GL54 5TZ  
Tel: 07879 375562

Email: [info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)  
Website: [northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)

## Follow us



Keep in touch with us on social media:

via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCotswoldFoodbank>  
via Instagram: [www.instagram.com/Northcotswoldfoodbank](https://www.instagram.com/Northcotswoldfoodbank)

## Thanks a million



When The Cotswold School decided to organise a collection for North Cotswold Foodbank in December, they

didn't hold back.

Pupils, teachers, parents and staff collected an incredible 900kg of food, toiletries, cleaning products and Christmas fare. Then, led by an able team of sixth-form volunteers, they packed everything into two minibuses and delivered it all in person to our warehouse in Guiting Power.

Foodbank Manager Kevin Carden was bowled over. "A huge thank you to everyone who contributed," he said. "The items received have given a huge boost to our stock levels and will enable us to provide more emergency food parcels and additional Christmas hampers over the coming weeks to people who are going through difficult times. We try to provide a little extra at Christmas time and donations, such as this one from The Cotswold School, make an enormous difference."

A colour-riffic Christmas surprise was given to families who visited our outlets in Moreton-in-Marsh and Chipping Campden the week before Christmas.



In partnership with The Art Society, the members of the Blockley branch gifted a large amount of colouring books, colouring pens and pencils, crayons and notebooks for our younger visitors. A grant was provided to The Art Society Blockley, who raised funds to match the grant to provide as many gifts as they could.

One young chap was very excited by the gift and opened it straight away so he could do some colouring! A huge thank you goes out to all who donated.

Thank you to Craig Ogden for the generous donation of £670 that was raised from sales of tickets for his concert at St. Mary's Church, Church Westcote, last December.



In February, the Co-op in Moreton hosted a Food bank Awareness Day in aid of North Cotswold Foodbank. Over 90kg of much needed items were donated by the Co-op customers on the day. A huge thank you to Barbara, Community Coordinator at the Co-op, who did all the organising.

