

Holy Trinity Church Foodbank Update New Year 2023

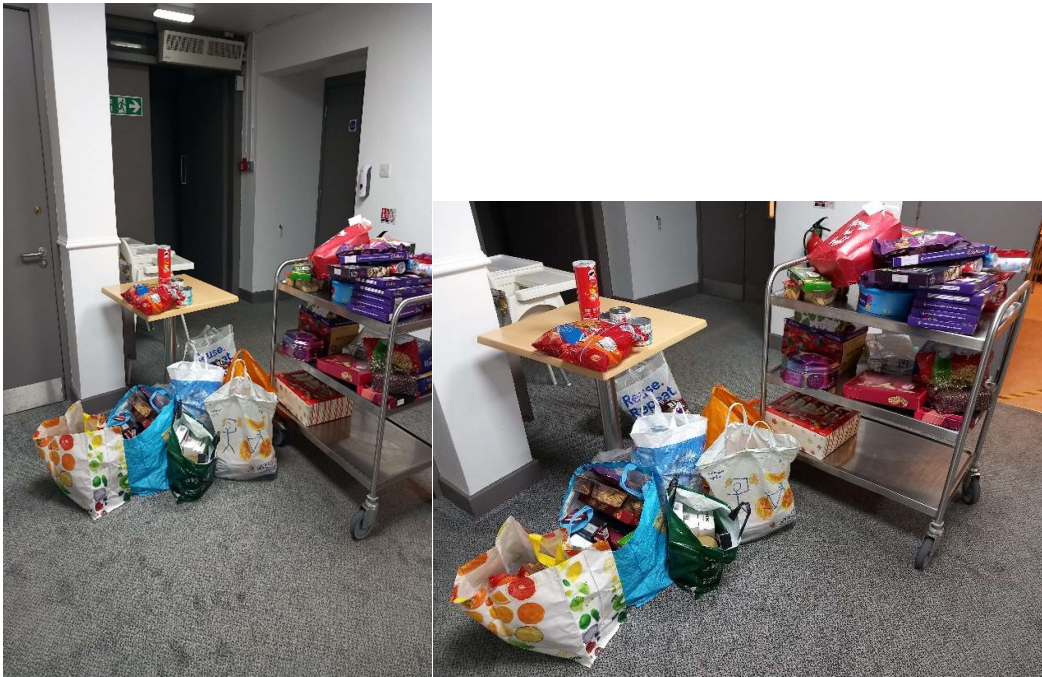
'THE CATASTROPHIC IMPACT OF WORSENING FOOD INSECURITY IS BLIGHTING THE LIVES AND MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ACROSS DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS'

BMJ 2022;379:o2919 published 02 December 2022

During 2022 the Foodbank has been open **every** Tuesday afternoon to serve the local community. This major achievement has been thanks to our wonderful donors of time, food, and finances.

Christmas

We have received donations of food, and money to enable us to make up supplementary 'Christmas Dinner Bags', which were additional to the regular packs, this was important for the dignity of the households we support.





We also had a large donation of toys and wrapping items. We used an extra room, and set up a 'toyshop', where clients could go with a foodbank volunteer to selections of toys for various age groups which matched with their family and select suitable toys and wrapping paper. By the end of the session this room was completely empty, every donation had gone to a family.



We also received very generous hampers of food, which were distributed as received to named individuals in the parish at the discretion of the minister.

Energy Costs

We have been pleased to have received just prior to the end of 2022 an energy costs grant of £2000 from City of Edinburgh Council to be distributed to eligible foodbank clients by the end of March 2023. We have also received a private donation to be distributed according to the same terms. These two sums of money were being distributed days after receipt, and given the recent very cold weather have been well timed.

During 2022

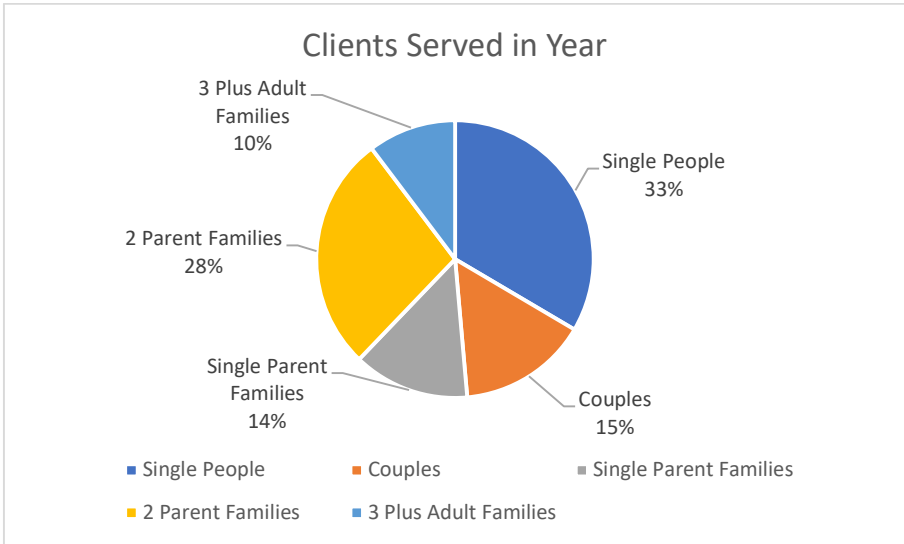
Over the month of November 2022 we supported 155 different households. The number of households supported per week peaked at 75 weekly in November which is a 25% increase on November 2021, with a total of 269 adults and 164 children being supported that month

We see a continual rise in the number of households accessing the foodbank, some visiting only once, others occasionally throughout the year, but some individuals and families seek support most weeks. The main reason for new clients using the service since the summer is reported as issues relating to the cost of living crisis. Other issues include loss of employment, issues with benefit payments, unexpected other bills and expenses and individuals in low paid employment 'needing a help as I don't get paid until next week.' We continue to welcome a great diversity of clients from different cultures and backgrounds,

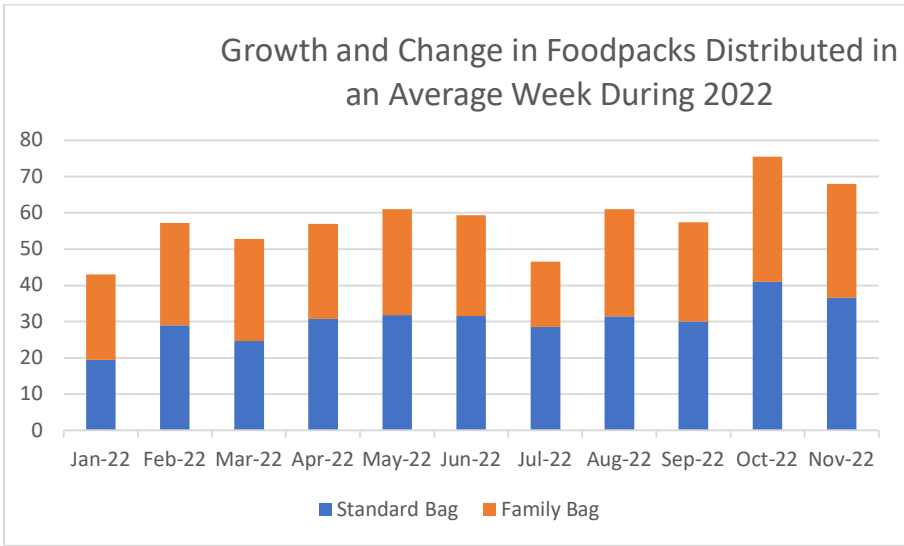
During 2022 the Holy Trinity Church Foodbank has distributed 3,112 packs of food, which have been supplied to 457 different households. Over 2022 780 different adults, and 508 different children and young people have been supported.

including locals for the Wester Hailes community, Syrians, Polish, Romanians, a mix of Muslim communities, and an increasing demand from a number of African nationalities.

Looking at 2022 overall 48% of clients were in adult only households, and with 33% were single people.



We supply 'Standard Bags' to single people and couples, and 'Family Bags' to family households. Over the year the total number of bags we have supplied in an average week has varied.



We would like to thank all of our supporters, and wish you all a very Happy New Year !

Thank you!