

Another busy year draws to a close

Looking back on 2017, just nothing has stood still.

We have had two Tesco collections, with the most recent one bringing in almost 6 tonnes of food; a record for harvest donations from schools and churches; the burgeoning of our Welfare Benefits Advice service; the acquisition of a van to assist in the logistics associated with our operation; the opening of the Food Pantry based at Grace Baptist; additional collection points opened in Co-op and Tesco local stores; the start of some fresh food availability from the FareShare scheme and, sadly, the roll out of Universal Credit stimulating the need for us to be here - as evidenced by client family numbers continuing to increase by 15% in the first 8 months of the current financial year.

Every company annual report seems to start with a statement of the tremendous value of their staff - often just before making half of them redundant! There is no likelihood of us making our volunteers redundant and our appreciation of your value is genuine and sincere.

We really couldn't do it without you!



on hearing the other mother's need, split the pack of nappies with her. It was this that prompted Mel to make an appeal for nappies on the Roger Phillips phone-in programme.

The Ainsdale Foodbank, is supported by Churches Together in Ainsdale and they have a total of 28 volunteers from across all the churches in Ainsdale.

The work of the Foodbank is really well supported by members of all the churches who make regular donations of food and toiletries which are delivered to the Methodist Church for transfer to the Lakeside warehouse.

They also receive valuable help from the local Co-op store who have a collection point in the shop.

Christmas and New Year Opening

Please note that we shall be closed between Christmas and New Year.

The last Distribution Centre opening is Friday December 22nd and Grace Baptist will re-open on Tuesday January 2nd.

The Warehouse will open on Friday December 22nd and reopen on Thursday January 4th.

Our Distribution Centres – Ainsdale

My visit to Ainsdale coincided, happily, with a team meeting. Not only was I able to enjoy the customary warm welcome I have come to expect from our distribution centres, but a delicious cup cake too!

The team leader is Barbara Radcliffe, who was instrumental in setting up the Foodbank at Ainsdale and she continues to co-ordinate the volunteers.

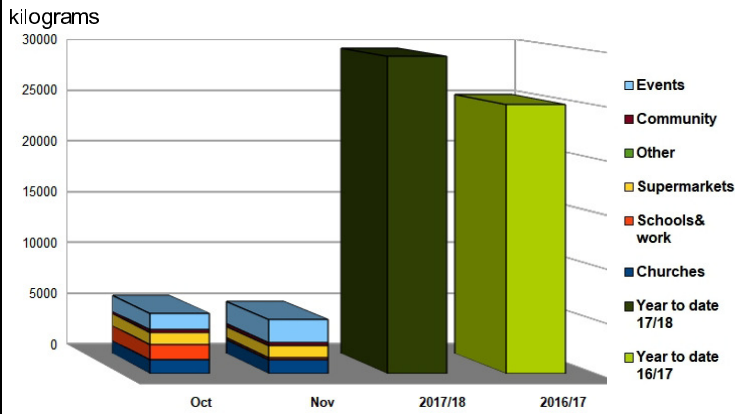
One of the team volunteers, Mel Jones, was on Radio Merseyside, following an afternoon when two young mothers came to the Foodbank, both needing nappies for their young babies. We had only one pack of nappies at the time. The mother who had been given the nappies, on hearing the other mother's need, split the pack of nappies with her. It was this that prompted Mel to make an



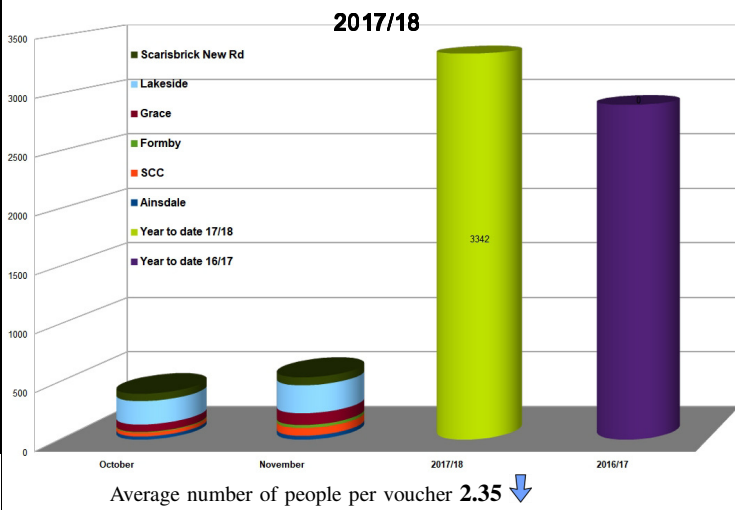
*We wish our volunteers, our distributors
 and all who have supported us in any way
 through 2017*

A Peaceful and Happy Christmas

Sources of donated food



People fed - by Distribution Centre



The Food Pantry

The Southport Food Pantry was opened at the Grace Centre on Friday 24th November by the Mayor of Sefton, Cllr Dave Robinson. It is for those who are “just about managing”. Over a cup of tea, members can receive support and advice on issues ranging from managing on a small budget to menu planning.

The Pantry is supported by local firms including Unite Professionals, DP Flooring, Bates Dairies and KC Workwear and by churches from Southport and Formby. Members can choose good value food from a range including chilled goods, fresh and tinned. Other items on offer include quality children’s books and toys.

Members pay a weekly membership of £4 and can choose goods to the retail value of £16 - £20 per week. Various charities in the town including the Food Bank itself, Christians against Poverty and the Salvation Army, recognising those who may benefit, are already sign-posting their clients to the Pantry.

We thank the volunteers there, led by Vicki, and welcome anyone new to the Foodbank team.

Highlights

- Tesco Christmas collection brings in 5.9 tonnes of much needed food, with pupils from Bishop David Sheppard school, the 58th Southport Brownies and Southport Sunrise Rotary assisting our own volunteers with the collection
- A grant of £5,300 was received from the Co-op Local Causes Fund
- The Food Pantry opened at Grace Baptist Church
- John interviewed on Sandgrounder Radio breakfast show
- A new charity trust to be created in early 2018
- Access Point Ltd staff collect food and make up 30 Christmas hampers for our clients
- Donation received from Airway Solutions Ltd
- Numerous heartwarming personal donations
- Food donated up by 18% in period April to November
- Benefit delays and changes generate 40% of client demand
- Stanley High School students visit us to learn of our work

SHOPPING LIST

Custard

Puddings

eg Sponge, jellies, Anget Delight

Sweet or savoury treats



The small print!

Until now Southport Foodbank has operated under the charity umbrella of Elim church. With the growth of our work and the addition of new services it was felt that it was time to have our own charity recognition.

We will soon be 'Southport and Formby Churches Debt Centre Ltd' (governed, as now, by a board of trustees.)

Amongst other benefits, this will allow us to apply to a number of organisations for financial grants to help us in our work. These are bodies whose beneficence we were previously excluded from by nature of the financial strength of the Elim church.

