



knightonfoodbank

annual report

NOVEMBER 2015 – OCTOBER 2016



knightonfoodbank

BAPTIST CHURCH, NORTON STREET, KNIGHTON, POWYS

MANAGER: HELEN ANDERSON

TEL: 07731 524 058

EMAIL: helen@knightonfoodbank.co.uk

www.knightonfoodbank.co.uk

INTRODUCTION

I am glad to commend this brief Annual Report to all our friends and supporters, to whom we continue to be very grateful. Knighton Food Bank remains a wonderful example of a project of Christian service to the poorest in our communities, and we can all be proud of it. Saving 10 adults and a number of children each month from going hungry in communities of our size is surely very worthwhile.

Besides our generous supporters, I am also grateful to our Treasurer, Secretary and Committee who give time to organise our work and fund-raise for it. Thank you too to the network of volunteers who organise the food store, buy the fresh produce, and often transport the food parcels - and most of all to Helen herself, who provides such competent and cheerful leadership, careful assessment of all our clients, and management support.

Conscious of the time and effort we put in to raise funds, I have been working this year to transform our sponsoring body, Churches Together in Knighton and District, into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission, in order that our Food Bank will more easily be able to raise money from charitable trusts. Now that a new constitution has been agreed I am hopeful that this change will take place early next year, and that soon after we should begin to see the benefit for our Food Bank.

Peter Cope
Chair, Knighton Food Bank

Report for the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 15TH November 2016

Introduction:

The Food Bank, initiated by the Churches Together in Knighton & District, individuals and the local community, has been in operation for 4 years. The ethos continues to be the provision, after careful consideration of need, a crisis food parcel consisting of 3 days worth of tinned & dried food, plus fresh items such as milk, bread, cheese and eggs. Referrals predominately come via the local support services and agencies such as Social Services, Housing, Women's Aid, Mental Health Services, GP's, District Nurses, Health Visitors and CAB.

In the last year we have added the provision of vouchers for fruit/vegetables to our service. These have proved very popular as they allow our friends who need some help, the chance to choose good quality fresh items from a local market garden.

We have been successful in maintaining support to the east Radnor area in addition to Knighton and outlying villages, thanks to dedicated donations of food and cash specifically for this purpose.

Summary of Project from November 2015 - October 2016:

We continue to provide food parcels to individuals and families in crisis, with the primary reason for requests being delay (or withdrawal) of welfare benefits.

There has been an increase in the number of referrals (see page 5). In particular, the increase in single food parcels is indicative of the new Universal Credit which is currently concentrated on single, new claimants.

For information to our supporters, it is useful to note that when we look at the total number of individuals receiving food, and then multiply that figure by 3 meals per day, and multiply again by 3 days, – we have actually provided **1,494 meals**.

Publicity & Website:

The website is in its second year and is well used as a source of information and for referrals. We are able to promote upcoming events and news of our additional projects such as the Winter Pantry and the Summer School Holiday schemes.

Challenges for the Food Bank in 2017.

The roll-out of Universal Credit has had an impact on the number of referrals, as we predicted in last year's annual report. The food bank provides a much needed safety net for claimants of UC – particularly as they are required to wait 5 weeks for their first payment. We also receive requests for help from working families (tax credits) and also self employed workers who cannot claim sickness benefits.

However, in order to continue the level of our service to meet the upturn in referrals, we face the challenge of raising enough ring-fenced monies to provide management support and running costs for the food bank.

Acknowledgements:

Sincere thanks to the generous people of Knighton & Presteigne who give so freely of their time as volunteers & committee members. In addition, we are grateful to those in the wider community who donate food & cash, or have set up standing orders, and also the generous customers of Tower House Gallery who donate “suspended coffees” and cash throughout the year.

Also a big “thank you” must go to the individuals who work hard to spread the word about the food bank and who inform others of what it feels like to be one day away from being destitute and hungry.

In addition we wish to thank:

Knighton & District Churches Together
The Churches of Presteigne & District
Presteigne & Norton Town Council
Knighton Baptist Chapel (for the use of the Foyer and Russell Cottage)
Llanfair Waterdine Church
Presteigne Community Cafe
John Beddoes School (Harvest Festival)
Bedstone School (Harvest Festival)
Rafi Mohamed for website support
Harry Tuffins (food collection point)
The Llanfair Singers (for their generous fundraising concert)

Audit of Service November 2015 – October 2016

Source of Referrals:
Clergy
Housing Support Services
GP/ Hospital/Health Visitor/District Nurse
Social Services
Knighton Community Support
KFB Manager Referral
CAB Money Advice Service
Self Referral
Powys CC Welfare Advice Service

Monthly Breakdown (Referrals)			(Previous Year) 2013/14
November	2015	5	4
December		12	12
January	2016	3	10
February		3	8
March		9	5
April		7	3
May		8	7
June		11	2
July		6	7
August		8	5
September		4	3
October		10	2
TOTAL:		86	68

Food parcels issued:

Family – 13 = **(26 adults)**

Double – 19 = **(38 adults)**

Single – 58 = **(58 adults)**

TOTAL: 122 adults fed (Previous year 2014/15 =97adults)

+

34 children fed (Previous year 2013/14 = 70)