

Welcome to our first 2025 Newsletter

Thank you for your dedication and support. Together, we nourish hope.

Ending
hunger
together

Trussell Update

We need urgent action on hunger in the UK. People are being pushed to the brink because they don't have enough money to live on. This can't go on.

We are 1,400 food bank locations, supported by 36,000 volunteers, 12,000 churches, 100,000s of community groups and schools, and millions of people around the UK.

We work locally and across the UK for a more just and compassionate society where no one needs a food bank to survive. We're determined to make this a reality.

Until this happens, we provide emergency food and practical support to people in their hardest moments. And work with our partners and local communities to ensure everyone gets the right help long before they need to use a food bank.

Recent EGFB Statistics Snapshot

We helped the following total annual numbers of clients:

- **2024 1,616 Adults and 1,010 Children Total 2,626**
- **2023 1,981 Adults and 1,203 Children Total 3,184**

These numbers are total visits rather than individuals, so one client coming three times would contribute 3 to the totals.

We feel that these falling numbers, both in the annual totals and in each of the last 3 months of the year compared to 2023, indicate success in the Financial Inclusion and other support offers in reducing the need for clients to keep coming; but we need more evidence to support this, so we intend to develop reports combining the financial value of food and other support (gift cards and vouchers).

A Message from our Trustees



We have now completed our transformation, and the East Grinstead is now running as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation, CIO** (number 1208343 at the Charities Commission). This has had minimal impact on how we operate but required a lot of effort behind the scenes and special thanks must go to Philip Brown, our Finance Trustee, for his herculean efforts at managing the bureaucratic processes.

With the conversion complete, the Trustees look forward to fresh challenges in 2025, working with the team on securing the future of the Financial Inclusion project, gathering more lived experience feedback and working with other agencies to move further on our Mission to ensure no one needs a Food Bank to survive.

Events

- **22 February** - Annual Warehouse Check. Refreshments Provided. Please sign up via Assemble or contact Mike Brooks.
- **22 March** - Waitrose collection day Please sign up via Assemble or contact CJ.
- **5 May** - Town May Fair
- **21 October** - AGM and Volunteer appreciation Event - 6.30pm start

Training

Online Training Modules on Assemble.

On behalf of the Trustees, please make sure you all your modules are up to date to comply with our Charity requirements and that helps us keep you safe while volunteering. Thank you.

Volunteer Training - Two dates: *24 April - An introduction to benefits and 24 May - Financial Inclusion Project. Please ask for more details.*

Together

Trussell Brand Update

We have begun to update Leaflets, Signage, Posters, Banners and uniforms. A form to order new uniform items has been circulated.

Some of the new ID cards have been ordered and hopefully the last few stragglers have also been sent to print. In terms of uniforms the order forms are available. Sign up for the new branded kit.

Ask for an order form to be sent to you via Assemble.



Christmas Bag Pack

A really big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, including the Town Mayor Steve Odie for packing 200 double Christmas bags and delivering them. Thank you also to all those who donated their time, money and food to help us deliver this much needed support at Christmas. This represents approximately 1970 kgs of food going out to those in need.

In a new initiative, we ran a “Santa’s Grotto” in a separate room in the sessions before Christmas, with a display of soft toys and Christmas treats. Thanks to Corina for sourcing the soft toys and to all the volunteers who managed this room.

As well as the Grotto, we were able to pass 50 soft toys to Being Neighbourly for their “Christmas Smiles” deliveries to locally isolated people and another 50 were driven to children in war-torn Ukraine.

The Christmas Bag Pack represents one of the biggest events in our calendar. As well as the central provision of food and goodwill, it provides an opportunity for our volunteers to work together in a larger group, for outside supporters to ‘muck in’ and for general publicity.

It requires a huge amount of food and Christmas items and of effort from the warehouse and delivery teams.

There will be a full de-briefing shortly and any thoughts on the Bag Pack (aims, processes, set up and all) would be most welcome – please let Mike Barlow or Lucy Tribe have your thoughts.





We are grateful for your help and support to our family. even though we are barely new in the church and in this community, you did not hesitate to lend a hand to us. We pray that God will continue to use you as his channel of his love to others. God bless you, your work and your family.



I would like to thank you wholeheartedly for the generous support you have afforded me since September 2024. Without your help, my health would have deteriorated further to a third hospital admission. I'm still not out of the woods yet, Thank you.



Thank you to **Unifi** for their donation of £200 worth of food. Unifi are a company that cleans commercial Aircraft across the UK. We were one of ten Trussell Foodbanks to benefit from a very generous £200 shopping trip from Unifi.



Many thanks to Tony Baulch and the team at **Ashdown Solutions** who made a very generous £250 donation to East Grinstead Foodbank. Ashdown Solutions is a vital part of our IT infrastructure at the Foodbank and in The Jubilee Community Centre, thank you so much for your wider support all year round!



Sharing our appreciation for Tamsin, Georgina, Barry and the whole East Grinstead team from **Rolls Royce Solutions UK** who collected and dropped off a huge donation of food and household hygiene items.



The **gang at Carlo Lounge** kindly collected donations of food and essential items for the foodbank in their restaurant this festive period!



Thank you to **Filipino British Nurses Extra Care East Grinstead Ltd** for the Health Checks Sessions held at Trinity Church on Sunday and to all those who volunteered and attended the clinics.



Thank you to all our **Sainsbury's** and **Waitrose customers** who have donated food and money to the Foodbank, we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Thank you also to those not mentioned who have dropped food items off at our various drop off points, again we are so grateful and could not do this without you.

Ending hunger together



Bank the Food App

Most of you will have the App, but for those that don't, can download it by scanning the QR code and see how you can see our real time call for low stock food items.

[Make every donation count.](#)

Download the app here

Please ask friends and family

to consider donating food to East Grinstead Foodbank, either through a monetary donation or through donating food. Thank you for your generosity

Donate via our QR Codes



[Sponsor a Meal](#)
£4.65



[Feed a Family for a week](#)
£68.95



[Winter Appeal](#)



Your voice matters. If you identify as a woman or girl living, working, or studying in Surrey, we want to hear from you. Have you experienced or witnessed Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)? Surrey's VAWG Partnership is committed to tackling this issue, and your experiences are vital in shaping how we prevent, address, and respond to VAWG in Surrey.

Whether or not you have reported your experience or accessed support services, your perspective is invaluable. Help us improve support for victims and survivors by sharing your views. [Click here to complete the survey.](#)

Mission Statements

Trussell's Mission Statement:

We exist so everyone in the UK can be free from hunger. We work together to ensure no one needs a Foodbank to survive. Until that happens, we provide emergency food and practical support for people left without enough money to live on.

EGFB Mission Statement:

East Grinstead Foodbank ("EGFB") is part of the Trussell network, which exists so everyone in the UK can be free from hunger and to ensure no one needs a Food Bank to survive. Until that happens, EGFB will provide emergency food and practical support for people in East Grinstead and the surrounding areas for people left without enough money to live on.

Our Values :

- Demonstrating compassion to all those who visit EGFB
- Respect for staff, volunteers, donors, referral agencies and clients
- Justice for those in need in our local area
- Dignity for all
- Active participation, and a positive reputation in our community