

## Challenges and Changes

The Cobham Area Foodbank, one of St Andrew's Mission Partners, has seen some changes - as **Christina van Roest**, Trustee and General Manager, explains...

**W**e all go through difficult times, but there are people in our community who really suffer.

The 'cost of living crisis' involves not only the financial aspect of lacking the money to pay the bills, but also coping with sudden redundancies, fighting Covid-19 and flu, which are still circulating, and 'simply' putting food on the table.

Clients find themselves without enough money, even when they are employed. That is the very sad situation for many families. Rents, food and utility prices have gone up to such levels that there is no realistic chance for the clients to be able to improve their finances by themselves in the short term, even when they have a job. Facing these challenges, many suffer serious mental health situations.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, especially from St Andrew's Oxshott and many individuals, we have sufficient funding and stock in the warehouse to help all clients who come to us for help. However, we must not

get complacent, because we reached the point again that more kilograms of food go out than come in: in February 2023 we received 2,168 kg from our all our collection points, but 3,029 kg went to 67 families. (In comparison, 4,067 kg came in and 2,923 kg went out in the month of December 2022.) We were able to be very generous with treats and special Christmas food for all our clients.

Many thanks for your generous contributions,

both financial and food donations.

From April 2022 to March 2023, St Andrew's food donations were 485kg.



Facing these

### An holistic approach

We continue to subscribe to the Trussell Trust and we follow a holistic approach offering 'More than just food', signposting our clients to many organisations offering support to their specific situation.

We have fed 2,298 people since April

2022 (955 children and 1,343 adults).

This number is not much higher than the previous year, but the big difference is that in the last two months we are now helping more adults who have full time jobs but need our help at the Foodbank due to their low income, debt, and deprivation.

We do not dare to mention any predictions for the rest of this year, as the 'Cost of Living Crisis' can hit anyone in our society at any time.

We are very grateful to our volunteers (numbering about 80) who make it all possible, with your donations, to help the large number of clients in need.

We will keep supporting our clients in Cobham, Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon, Downside, East & West Horsley, and Effingham with your continuing generous help.

Many thanks again.

*Christina van Roest*

