

Mission partner prayer and update - on behalf of Cobham Area Foodbank

It is a sad situation that we are still asking for support of the community to help families in need of food. The cost of living is on everyone's mind and has an influence not just on the material aspects of life but can also lead to both mental and physical health issues.

There is an element of stigma about having to use a foodbank and we are convinced there are, sadly, more people in our community who could benefit from our support and help. We continue to give out more food and household items than we receive in donations, so are forced to use the generous financial donations and our dwindling stock reserves to satisfy the demand.

On a positive note, we have been receiving, every Tuesday, freshly grown vegetables and fruits from the Community Gardens of East Horsley, "Grace and Flavour" which is a great addition to the kinds of foods we usually distribute. We are also happy to report that Squire's Garden Centre (Stoke D'Abernon) has chosen our foodbank as their Charity of the Year 2023/2024 – the first event being a "plantathon" last Friday, from which all the proceeds went to the foodbank. Watch out and support further events in the coming months.

We hope some of you have tried the *BanktheFood* app publicised in previous news sheets which give you the priority items we need on your phone before you reach the checkout at the supermarket!

We pray together before each session – will you pray too, that

1. Regular donations, of both food and money, increase especially during the seasons of Harvest and Christmas so we can satisfy the growing demand and replenish our stocks.
2. Squires' events serve to both raise money and awareness of the need in the local community.
3. The wellbeing of our volunteers and clients will continue.

Thank you all for your generous support.

Christina from Cobham Area Foodbank