

# Tewkesbury Foodbank

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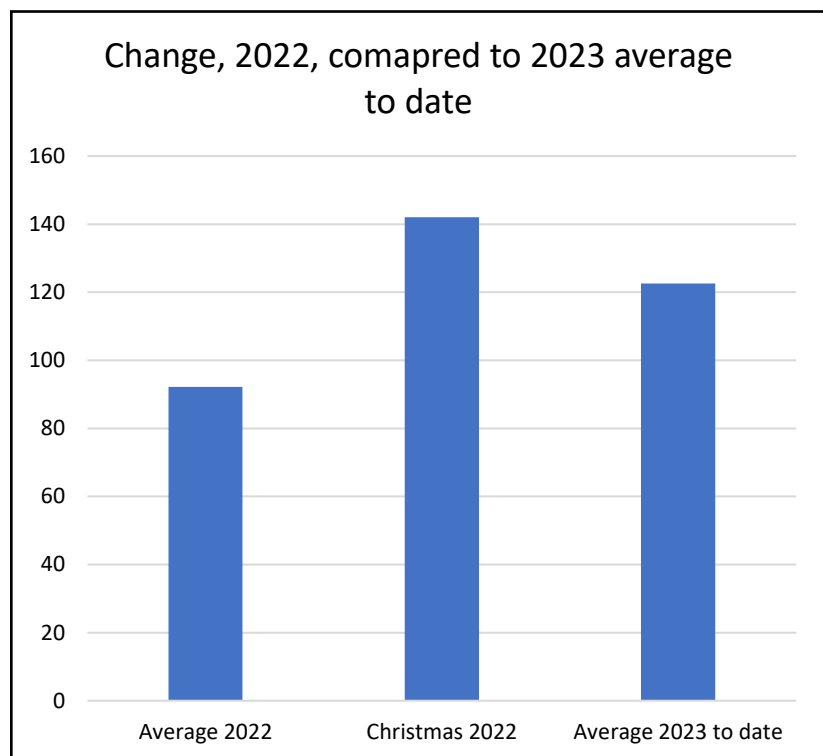


Dear all,

It's been a while since I put 'pen to paper', and for that, I apologise. We've been very busy and it doesn't look like there's currently an end in sight!

Much of our work this year has been making changes to how we operate in response to the sustained level of high demand. Last year's peak levels have almost become this year's average.

It feels like we've been running hard just to stand still, sometimes! Our volunteers have done an amazing job dealing with all the change and keeping going just the same.



*An increase, to date, of over 30% compared to 2022*

As part of this, we've had to re-consider how we welcome the increased number of clients through our doors, how we manage (and, increasingly now, purchase) greater quantities of stock, and how we ensure that we make best use of the donations you give us. We've also seen significant change in our referral agency network that has prompted a wholesale review of how things work.

We continue to be very grateful for your donations. The harvest period was very healthy for us; we've enjoyed great relationships with local businesses and organisations again this year; and we continue to rely on those who faithfully drop off their regular donations or place their standing orders. We couldn't do what we do without you!

That said, to maintain the sustainability of what we do, we're constantly on the lookout for new ideas and opportunities - so please do get in touch!



*Fundraising at Puckrup Golf Club*

We know, because you've been asking, that you want to help out over the festive period, too. We're planning a smaller 'Christmas Blessings' project this year, which will be available in December to those eligible for our services anyway (i.e., those who cannot afford to buy food), and we'll also be giving out, as extras, any festive stock we receive.

If you have anything festive that you're thinking of donating, it'd be really helpful to have it by around the 8<sup>th</sup> December, please, which gives us the best chance of being able to distribute it before Christmas (our final session of the year will be 22<sup>nd</sup> December). As we're now employing an appointment system, if you have a larger donation to bring, perhaps you'd be in touch in advance, please, so that we can work out the best time? Thank you!

Our opening arrangements for Christmas and the new year are as follows: on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, we're open as usual, then closed until the new year. Our first session in 2024 will be Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January. In between, there will be a limited emergency service available, by arrangement, on 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> December.



**Christmas Opening**

☼ Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December:	open as usual
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December – Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January:	closed
<small>(There will be emergency cover by arrangement on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December. Please call 01684 296824.)</small>	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January:	open as usual

As ever, thanks so much for your support again this year. A very happy Christmas and new year to you all, from all of us at Tewkesbury Foodbank.