

Dunstable Foodbank faces risk of closure

Dunstable Foodbank is facing a crisis situation as food stocks fall at an alarming rate. In the past few months, coinciding with the introduction of Universal Credit, the amount of food distributed to those looking for help has considerably outweighed the amount being donated. We have seen a 48% increase in the number of people fed in the first 6 months of this year compared to the same period last year.

Our current food stock is 3908kg. Last month we distributed 3974kg food, so we only have a month's food left to distribute. We also usually experience a rise in demand in the school summer holidays.

Dunstable Foodbank is appealing to the public to be even more generous and help meet the growing demand by donating long life and ambient temperature foods, but we are also appealing to churches which have supported us in the past to encourage their members to continue and if possible increase their regular food donations.

Donations can be left in your usual church collection point, or made in one of our supermarket permanent collection points (Tesco Skimpot Road; Sainsbury's and ASDA in Dunstable; and Morrison's in Houghton Regis. Any other donations should be taken to one of the three distribution centres in the town – details on our website (<https://dunstable.foodbank.org.uk/>)

The Foodbank would appreciate any long-life foods, but current strongest needs are for:

UHT Milk

Sugar (500g)

Instant Mashed Potato

Tinned Fish

Sponge Puddings (Long Life or tinned) *and other foods are:*

Tomatoes (tinned)

Soup (tinned)

Fruit juice (carton)

Pasta

Pasta sauces

Beans

Rice pudding (tinned)

Cereal

Tea bags/instant coffee

Rice

Tinned meat or tinned fruit/veg

Jam

Biscuits or snack bars

Shampoo/conditioner