

Trustees

Peter Wilson – Chairperson.
Eric Lindsay.

Jessie Mowbray – Treasurer.
Alastair Fyall.

Mary Smith – School Co-ordinator.

Aim of Christ in Action Food Bank

Supply to individuals and families in crisis three meals for 3 days plus basic hygiene requirements. In addition to assist families with children attending Newton Primary School, an area of recognised material deprivation, by supplying food to families and supporting the Supper Club initiated and funded by the school.

Trustees Report

As the Trustees met at the beginning of the year there was already concern about Covid 19 and the impact it would have on our ability to carry out our aims. Two of our Trustees had to stand back temporarily from direct activity though they were continually updated on all aspects of Christ in Action activities, Mr Alastair Fyall and Mr Eric Lyndsay. A number of our volunteers also had to discontinue their attendance at the food bank premises. The trustees appreciated this was a hard decision for all to take. The remaining three trustees decided to continue the foodbank as best they could within the strict Covid 19 guidelines. The Trustees anticipated a huge rise **in demand** which lead to concerns about availability **of food and funding**. Covid regulations regarding **church premises** and **volunteers** safety were ongoing challenges.

Demand

We anticipated to be overwhelmed with demand however that did not happen. As we moved into lockdown demand dropped but rose through the year. Government assistance and new charities stepped in. Newton Primary School became a hub for the catchment area not just families with children attending school. Seascope ran its own food bank and we benefited from their food stocks when they closed it down after first lockdown. The Women's Refuge closed in March. Hostels received help from other charities and there was little movement in the early days of Covid 19 as we moved into first lockdown demand returned but were not overwhelmed.

Food

During the year we received donations of food from individuals within the **original set-up group of churches** though on a much reduced scale due to closure of churches and many of our supporters being in isolation measures. **Customers at Sainsbury's Store in Prestwick** were very generous during the year as were **Sainsbury's staff** at Christmas time. We received food from **South Ayrshire Council** directly and **from Fareshare** as part of an account opened by local government. We received food from groups who opened and closed during the year e.g. **10:10 Trust**. Two local groups also donated generously **Prestwick for the People Facebook** group and residents from **Townhead Home** in Symington. Food stocks settled in stores and shopping regulations eased during the year. Managing food in large quantities was a challenge. Food went into quarantine was date checked sorted and stored in MPN church and for a short period at ST James Church. At one time we had overstocks with short sell by dates, food that was not appropriate ie non-essential items chick peas, kidney beans exotic flavoured rice, quinoa (mainly from Fareshare). Communication between foodbanks increased at this time and communication through SAC staff assisted in moving food around appropriately. At the present time all food is held in MPN church. Food parcels, were made up then stored where volunteers safely accessed them, delivered when volunteers were available. Fresh food parcels to the school, when access was permitted/ deemed safe, were made up in new school room. For 31 weeks we used local Grant's Fruiterer to deliver fresh items fruit veg milk eggs to the school and a local Farm Shop Tattie Shack to deliver sacks of potatoes. The school staff and community workers received our donations and distributed them.

Finances

During this unique year our income from our regular source i.e. congregation members reduced significantly but a new source the JMA Trust contacted us and has become a major partner in our work. The JMA trust has donated £4000 and kept in close contact offering assistance throughout the year. We have also benefitted from Participatory Budget Schemes and Local Authority Small grant fund applications, totalling £1500 plus Tesco Bags of Help Scheme granting £500. Craigie Development Trust also donated £1500 which encouraged us to maintain the fresh food deliveries to Newton Primary School throughout the year. We received one individual donation of £1000 plus many regular monthly and weekly donations from church supporters individually and fund raising by knitting or collecting within their organisation e.g. Bible Study groups or groups of staff in Hostels. Because of the amount of ambient food made available from various sources spending has been focused on fresh food items. Secure funds enable us to comply with requests for fresh food items to the community Hub at Newton Primary. It seems unlikely that Government support will continue regarding food drops, but new schemes of child payments and continuation of

£20 uplift to universal credit will make a difference however we anticipate an increase in demand in view of predicted economic conditions locally as unemployment rises.

Premises

After initial uncertainty Church of Scotland confirmed that established food banks could (with regulations) continue to operate. The trustees appreciate all the help Monkton and Prestwick North Church have given in the past year, re health and safety, risk assessment and access to extra storage.

Volunteers

We had to ask our over 80's to stay at home and they have been sadly missed. The government furlough scheme brought new faces to the team and their enthusiasm and energy was greatly appreciated especially as we moved pallets of food from various sources. We acquired volunteers from organisation that had to temporarily close and we are delighted they have stayed with us. We have also recruited 2 newly retired volunteers.

Statistics

During this time we had to simplify our record keeping.

	Parcels	
Hostels and Housing First	667	delivered throughout the year
Women's Refuge	9	the refuge closed in March 2020 and will not open till March 2021
Others	11	referrals from local ministers, 10:10 Trust and Broken Chains
Newton Primary School Hub	1149	including fresh food for families in Newton area
Total Parcels	1836	

Newton Primary School Hub received approximately 1000 dozen eggs, 1060 x2litres of fresh milk, £2690 of fresh fruit and vegetables. Nappies, baby hygiene items washing powder, cleaning products and dried goods were also sent to the school. Christmas donations of seasonal items including cakes sweets were sent to the school and hostels. In response to a request 3 of 4 hostels received deliveries of fruit, bread and fresh milk.

During this year we have delivered to the Hostels on a weekly basis and asked them to store bags. The phone accepting referrals has been available throughout the year including over Christmas period Monday to Friday 9.00 till 4.00pm and Saturday 9.00 till 12.00 Seascope Charity has not required our assistance but Housing First (for those moving out of hotels)operating out of Viewfield Gate has used us on a weekly basis. The Women's Refuge closed in March and is now being refurbished. Newton Primary School has remained open throughout the year and we have worked closely with Mrs McAvoy Head teacher, responding as we have been able to items the families and community have required. As we had funds we were able to make fresh quality produce a priority for the children. Many agencies have been working together in this community hub and we are proud to have been a continuing part of the much needed support.

Trustees have found this a very hard year to manage but we kept answering the phone and we learned. We worked with local government staff and are working to improve communications to get the right food to people who need it. We joined the Ayrshire Food Network and that has allowed us to compare demand and share overstocks. The impact of the Scottish Government's new payment for families with young children may have an impact as it rolls out in coming year but we anticipate the need for gifted food to continue as the economic reality of living with Covid19 continues into 2021. The trustees wish to express their deep gratitude to the dedicated teams of volunteers who assisted in the food store, packed bags, and delivered food and to those individuals and organisations who donated food and monies, which kept the shelves filled. The Trustees are grateful to Mr. Ian Steven for carrying out his duties as an Independent Examiner.

This report was accepted by Trustees on 17th May 2021

Mr Peter Wilson Chairperson

Peter Wilson

Independent Examination Certificate

I have examined the Trustees 'Report, the Christ in Action Food Bank Accounting records, and the Receipts Payments Account and Statement of Balances that are attached as part of this document.

My examination has been carried out under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities & Trustees Investment(Scotland) Act 2005.

To the best of my knowledge & belief, and in accordance with the information & explanations given to me:

a) The charity trustees consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation10 (1)(d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland)Regulations 2006 does not apply and therefore the Christ in Action Food Bank is eligible to have an independent examination.

b) The Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Balances have been properly prepared from the records of the Christ in Action Food Bank and are in agreement with them.

c) The Receipts and Payments Account & Statement of Balances comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and with the Christ in Action Food Bank's effective Constitution.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements of section33 of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 and 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met.

~~# In my examination the following matters of a material nature have come to my attention:~~

(please delete paragraph # as appropriate)

Signed: Ian Steven Dated: 18.05.21

Qualifications: Chartered Accountant