



**WIMBORNE**  
**FOOD BANK** PLUS

**2021-2022**  
*More than just food*

**FAITHWORKS**

LISTEN | GIVE HOPE | ACT | INSPIRE



Volunteers Thank You Cream Tea

## Introduction

**As the Food Bank+ moves in to another year we are overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our community** throughout such a difficult and challenging time. Over the last year we helped feed 2,432 people who could not afford to buy food and we could not do this vital work in the community without you.

**The last year has seen the Food Bank continue to grow** and we have expanded our team and services due to an increase in demand. We have also added to our storage and we now have a large storage container.

**We have grown our CMA (Community Money Advice) team and have our own dedicated office 'The Lighthouse'.** This is such a blessing and we are committed to continuing to develop this service by helping people managing their money.

*“Everyone was so welcoming, friendly, sensitive and understanding of our circumstance. It is amazing that others put themselves out to help people like us.*”

*It's overwhelming. I didn't feel belittled at all and had a sense of calm come over me when I left.”*

*“My visit today was extremely helpful. I can't thank you all enough. I honestly wouldn't be able to feed my son and myself without it.”*



*Rplowman*

Rachel Plowman  
Deputy Manager

*Keenan*

Sharon Keenan  
Manager



## Christmas Restored

**Following an accident and awaiting back surgery Mark\* was unable to work and not receiving any benefits.** As a carer for one of their children, his wife was in receipt of Carer's Allowance. However, this was not enough to pay all the bills and feed their young family.

**Mark contacted us and we immediately provided a large food parcel full of fresh food,** a Cook (recipe) Bag, and treats for everyone. We also referred him to the Children's Centre for further support.

**School shoe vouchers and clothing for their children were supplied and we continued to provide regular food parcels.** Two Acts435 applications were submitted to fund new bathroom flooring, clothing and shoes for Mark.

**At Christmas the family received a luxury Christmas hamper** and a local gift shop gave the children a bag each

full of Christmas presents. They also visited our Santa's Grotto and Dorset Council provided pantomime tickets for the family. Mark said:

***"Thank you for all the support and kindness...** We have been really anxious with Christmas approaching... bracing ourselves to tell them [the children] unfortunately that they had to miss out on Christmas this year.*

***Your help means that our babies will have presents to open on Christmas Day.** The excitement that our two boys had when told that they were going to see Father Christmas... was absolutely magical, they continually re-live the evening with each other. Reinforcing their positive memories of Christmas. Something that without your help and generosity would have never been possible. Thank you."*  
*\*Name changed to protect identity*

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*"Christmas isn't a very nice time, my anxiety goes up tenfold... I have the worst memories and the children had such an awful past that I'm forever trying to make it up to them...It's even harder at Christmas..*

*With your help and kindness, they've had two wonderful evenings with lots of lovely things and it's massively taken the pressure off me.*

*I know I always say it but you and your team have done more for us than you'll ever know... I wish I'd known 10 years ago that there's so many amazing people out there like you... and you're really not alone." - Food Bank+ guest*

## 2021-2022 STATISTICS

1,897



### ADULTS & CHILDREN FED

We provide fresh fruit, vegetables and bread, a Cook Bag (including recipe),

feminine hygiene products, baby food, nappies and toiletries, cleaning products and cat or dog food.

7



### CMA TEAM

Our CMA team is made up of seven dedicated volunteers who have been fully

trained by Faithworks CMA. The team provided free debt advice and budget support to 14 people over the last year.

77



### ACTS 435

The online giving charity connects those who want to provide practical help to

those who need it. Over the last year we have used Acts 435 to provide furniture and white goods for 77 households.

206



### SCHOOL HOLIDAY PARCELS

The holidays can provide an additional pressure on family food budgets - we

provide extra food during the school holidays to ensure the whole family are able to eat healthy, wholesome food.

50



### LUXURY CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thanks to Dorset Community Foundation 50 luxury hampers were given to families

that most needed them. The hampers included: food vouchers, a toy shop voucher (to buy a child's present), a family game and more!

38



### WOMENS CLOTHING REQUESTS

Local social enterprise, Wardrobe Foundation, provide quality and

personalised clothing to women who need it. We have referred 38 women to the organisation over the last year.



## Beyond Anything I Hoped For

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*“Every member of the Food Bank is so warm [and] helpful. It is a very stressful situation to be having to go to the Food Bank and they are so efficient and an asset to the community. Keep up the wonderful support!”*

*“The support I have received from Sharon and the team goes beyond anything I could have ever hoped for.*

*It’s more than being able to provide food for my children. They have helped by lending an ear when I need someone to talk to.*

*They have shown me pathways to receive additional support for myself, with clothing and electrical items I have needed for my children. They have put me in touch with organisations that have helped me with budgeting, bills, childcare, activities and so much more.*

*They hold events that have given me the chance to meet new people and enable me to leave my home without feeling anxious.*

*They go above and beyond with any queries I may have and I know they are always there if I need help. I cannot put into words the amount of support I have received and how eternally grateful I will be to Sharon and her team.”*

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*“Honestly, I can’t describe how much we needed the help you gave us... When I came to you I was very embarrassed, but you were all amazing and friendly. I came home and shed a tear. You gave us everything, even toys and toiletries... We had plenty to top up our cupboards.”*

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*“I felt... much lighter after I left. Thank you so much for everything. It’s a massive help to me and my son. Everyone was lovely and non-judgemental... so kind, I cried happy tears.”*

# CMA: Debt Advice & Budget Support



**Our CMA (Community Money Advice) team provide free debt advice and budget support.** We are part of the national CMA network which means we are able to function as debt advisors, compliant and regulated by the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority).

**We also work closely with local agencies including:** Citizens Advice, Shelter, Dorset Council and CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

**We need more volunteers to join our team.** To find out more email: [dawn.reed@faith-works.org.uk](mailto:dawn.reed@faith-works.org.uk) or phone 01202 429037.

## Acts 435



**An online giving charity, directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need.** Acts 435 has provided an invaluable resource to source funding for a wide variety of critical needs such as beds, bedding and clothing. We submitted 77 applications for Acts 435 grants over the last year.

**One single Mum and her three children had moved on from the women's refuge** however, were unable to afford all the furniture they needed for their new home. An Acts 435

grant application was made to fund a bed, wardrobe and a bed and bedding for the toddler.

**We also provided regular food parcels, school uniforms and referred the Mum to the Wardrobe Foundation** for a clothing pack. Over Christmas they visited our Christmas grotto and received one of our luxury hampers and free pantomime tickets (donated by Wimborne Minster Town Council) and children's gift bags from the Present Company.

*"Thank you so much to the generous individuals who donated towards my children's school uniform.*

*It's been a tough year but the kindness of some people shines bright enough to make it worthwhile. I've been able to get my children school clothes for at least a year.*

*I'll be forever grateful for those who have helped in my time of need and hope one day I'll be in the position to pay it forward. Thank you" - Acts 435 recipient*

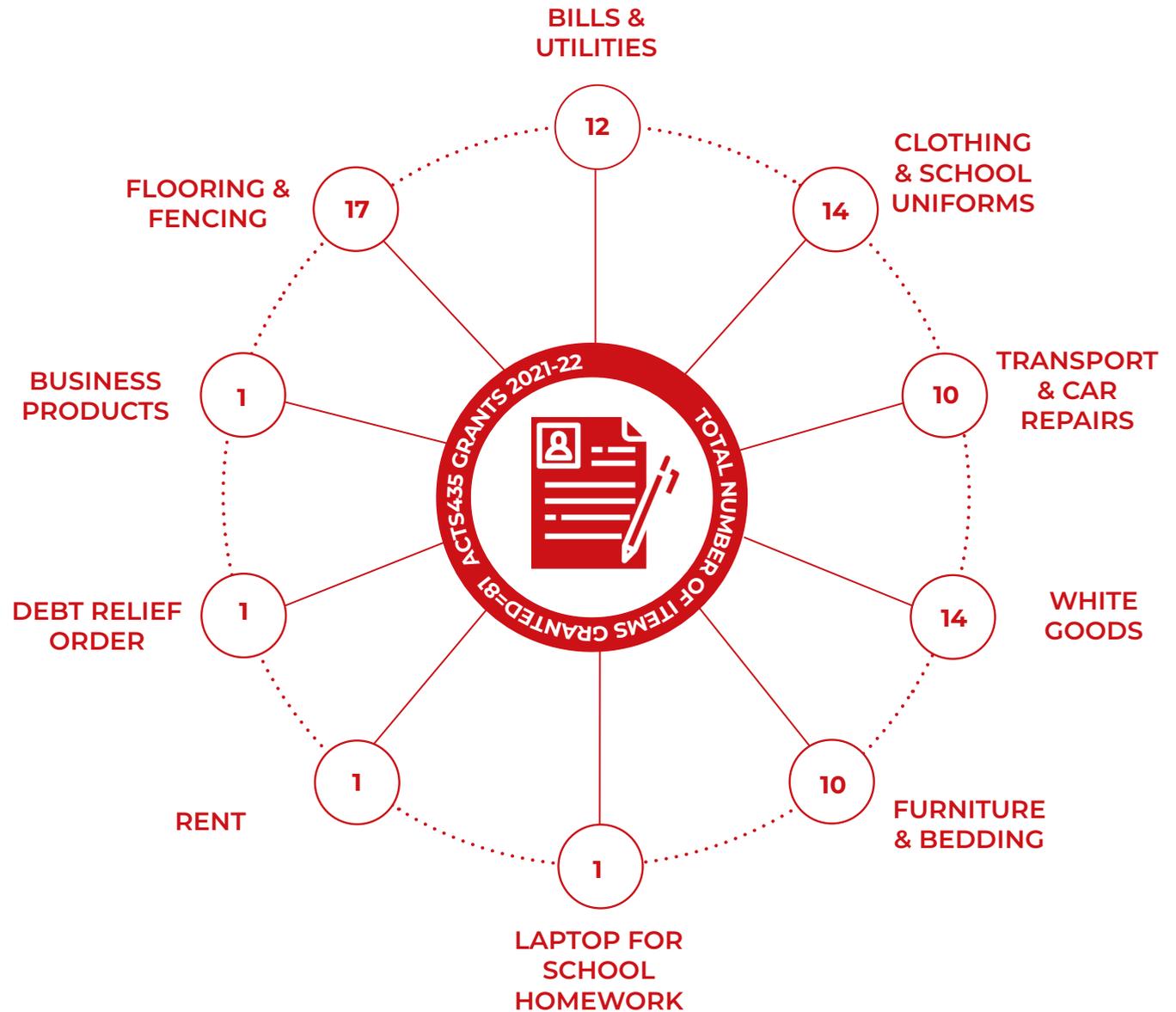


# Acts 435 2021- 2022

*“Thank you so much for sourcing a sponsor for our carpeting. We are relieved and delighted to have the floors covered.*

*The help and kindness given by you and your team is much appreciated.”*

*- Acts 435 grant recipient*



*\*Icons from Freepik.com, IconGeek26 & Flaticon*



*“A more caring bunch of people (volunteers and staff) I could never have imagined. We are all very different and play to each others strengths. Some love ‘front of house’, some like working in the sheds, others make deliveries, but we all enjoy a cuppa together - with cake of course!”*

## Wimborne Business Awards

We were delighted to be awarded the 2022 Wimborne Business Award for Outstanding Community Support.

This award is dedicated to every one of our hard working volunteers who between them cover a wide variety of roles across Wimborne Food Bank+.

*We could not do all that we do without them.*



*“The great thing about helping at the Food Bank is that I am contributing to the community in which I live but have also become a member of the ‘Food Bank Family’... where we all look out for each other and have a few chuckles along the way.”*

## Our Team

**Our incredible volunteers gave 3,640 hours in time last year!**

**Our amazing team is made up of forty-six wonderful volunteers and two paid part-time staff.** The volunteers perform various roles such as rotating stock, making food parcels, serving clients, collecting donations and fresh food from supermarkets, delivering food parcels and providing money advice.

*“It’s a privilege to welcome people and help put them at their ease, listen to their worries and offer something practical at the same time.”*

## Recipe Bags

*"It was delicious! Such an easy meal but so good and my two ate all of theirs too! Thank you so much!"*

**Our Recipe Bags have been extremely popular!** The bags include recipe of the week and all the ingredients required to make the sweet or savoury dish. Recipes have included pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, fish cakes, macaroni cheese and pineapple upside down cake.

**This initiative creates the opportunity for families to cook together,** increasing confidence in children to try new ingredients and recipes, as well as practice new skills in the kitchen. We think that families who cook together are also more likely to eat together.

*"You gave us breathing space to reduce our stress levels and not to worry about feeding our children."*

*You guys are a lifeline... It exceeded all of our expectations. Everyone was so nice and friendly. They were all approachable and not judgemental at all. Thank you. We will never forget the kindness show to us"*





## So Much More Than Food...

### **We believe everyone should have access to food.**

We also understand that people need more than food to enable them to live well.

**In addition to our CMA Debt Advice Service, food parcels and school holiday parcels,** we provide a large bag of fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, feminine hygiene products, baby food, nappies, toiletries, cleaning products and cat or dog food. We also provide Recipe Bags with all the ingredients and the recipe to make a fresh sweet or savoury dish.

**Thanks to a grant from the Friends of Canford School** we were able to give every child an outdoor game over the summer school holiday period.

**Last Christmas we held our very first Christmas Grotto** where families were given the chance to meet Father Christmas, choose their own Christmas present and pick and wrap a gift for their parents. It was a very emotional and festive event. We are already planning our next one!

*“Wimborne Food [Bank+] has been a God-send to me. Not being able to afford the most important things like food is not just hard but destroying...”*

*My first time coming to the food bank I could not stop crying, I was embarrassed, scared and had a panic attack. The most amazing people there helped me... and not just with food, there was Christmas presents, clothes, toiletries, laundry stuff, finance advice and an ear to listen.*

*They are going to do a course on confidence which I have put my name down for... [and] a coffee morning which I will definitely go to.*

*Before I went to them... I felt so lonely and scared... they have changed all of that... [the] volunteers really are the most amazing people I have ever met in my life. They have changed my life completely...”*



## Thank You

*“Thank you to everyone involved in this life-saving work. I know how much many of my clients rely on you.”*

**Thank you to all the local churches, schools, businesses,** organisations, families and individuals for your overwhelming support and generosity throughout the last year.

**We also could not do everything that we do without our amazing, dedicated team of volunteers.** A Big Thank You goes to each and every one of them for all the time, energy and love that they put in to everything that they do.

**A special thank you goes to Elim Church for their support** in providing us with our own dedicated

space to provide Money Advice and to **Wimborne Rugby Club** for their ongoing help with events and storage, and to **Waitrose** and all the local **Co-ops** for their huge help with food donations and fresh food.

**Lastly, we want to thank the Wimborne community for your overwhelming support** with food and toiletry donations and for your help with our annual initiatives. It really does make a huge difference.

*“I just wanted to thank you. Over the last six months I have been working as a Health Visitor in East Dorset.*

*How wonderful your service is; the help and support you give families is immense.” – Health Visitor*



# Wimborne Food Bank+

**Become a friend of Wimborne Food Bank+ by donating £10 or more a month** by setting up a direct payment or regular payments:

**Bank:** CAF Bank

**Account Name:** Wimborne Food Bank+

**Account Number:** 00034963

**Sort Code:** 40-52-40

Alternatively you can donate via our CAF Donate campaign here:  
<https://bit.ly/Wimbornefoodbank> or scan the QR code:



*All individuals shown in this publication have given their specific permission for their photographs to be used. Names with an \* have been changed to protect individual's privacy.*

***“I’ve been part of the team since March 2020... and feel like I have been here much longer, having met such lovely people. Helping at [the] Food Bank gives me a sense of purpose and gives me an extra spring in my step.”***



**Our website**  Leigh Park Community Centre,  
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 [faith-works.org.uk/locations-across-dorset/wimborne-food-bank-dorset/](https://faith-works.org.uk/locations-across-dorset/wimborne-food-bank-dorset/)

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