

ORGANISE A HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION FOR YOUR CHURCH

WHY ORGANISE A HARVEST FOOD COLLECTION

Food donations are crucial to the food banks in our network. Without the boxes, packets, and tins donated by our amazing supporters across the UK, food banks simply wouldn't be able to run.

Churches play a big part in supporting the food banks in our network, and as we face increasing need for emergency food supplies during the current pandemic, food donations are more important than ever.

Your church can help by coordinating a food collection for donations to your local food bank. These supplies will go directly to people in crisis in your local community. It's easy to do and will make a huge difference.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO ORGANISING A SUCCESSFUL COLLECTION

- If your church doesn't already support a local food bank, find your nearest one using our Find a Foodbank map [here](#).
- Follow the links to their website or social media for details about what items they are most in need of and to check local arrangements for dropping off food, including the location(s) and time slots where this can be done. (There are some food banks in our network that currently have sufficient stocks and are unable to take more food at present – please check local food bank websites to make sure this isn't the case in your area before organising your collection.)
- Decide how long your collection will run for. You might want to incorporate it into an online or physical Harvest service, perhaps using our [Harvest prayer resources here](#). Or you might want to run a collection over a couple of weeks, or on a regular basis.
- Decide on appropriate collection point(s). This could be your church building, or you might ask for volunteers from the congregation to host a collection point at their home.
- You'll need to find a box or bag for collections, and we recommend you empty the container regularly (at least daily) particularly if it is outside or in a public place. Be sure to wash your hands after touching donated food. You may wish to use gloves to do this. Please ensure the collection point is within the bounds of the property, not on the pavement.
- Agree how you will share the location of the collection point(s), taking into account that it may not be appropriate to share personal addresses online. You might decide to focus on involving members of your church congregation, or raise awareness within your local community, enabling everyone to contribute.
- Let people know what you are doing! If your church has an email list, or closed Facebook group, this could be a good way of letting people know where to take food and making sure they know which items are needed. We've provided a standard list, but let them know if the local food bank has specific needs.
- Twitter and other publicly accessible channels are a great way of sharing what you're doing. You can use your posts to raise awareness of your collection on social media. Check out our example [here](#).
- It is important that social-distancing is observed by people dropping off food, and that any localised lockdowns or restrictions are taken into account.
- You can use the [poster provided](#) to label the collection box or make your own label.
- When you're ready to make your Harvest donation, follow the instructions on your local food bank's website in order to drop off the collection.
- Once your collection has finished, remember to get in touch with people who donated and share how many items were collected, where the food has gone, and how grateful you - and the food bank - are for their support. You could share a 'thank you' image on social media too.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.