

MARSWORTH FOOD BANK REPORT 2025 - 2026

- The Food Bank continues to operate very well and delivers a mix of groceries, eggs, fruit and vegetables every week. As one of the Ukrainians has recently left to live in Poland, there are currently a total of 8 people, living in Marsworth, who are looked after.
- The Food Bank is much more than a food delivery service. All are cared for and helped in many additional ways. Help is given when they are emotionally low by spending time talking to them. Lisa continues to be their nurse and a number of them have received treatment from her, whether it has been treating injuries or speaking to hospitals. Assistance has also been given with paperwork and other personal problems that some find difficult to cope with on their own.
- I am very grateful to Noble Foods Ltd for the 4 dozen eggs, and to P. Mead & Sons for the wonderful selection of fruit and vegetables we receive from them every week.
- I am very grateful to the help given by Jenny Shiels and Denise Cornwall on those weeks when I am unable to carry out the deliveries. Richard Hares and Jane Blumsom have also, very kindly, agreed to help as and when necessary.
- I am extremely grateful to Jenny Shiels and to All Saints Church, Marsworth for acting as our bookkeepers. This enables any private donations to have gift-aid added to them and for the accounts to be always up-to-date and accurate.
- Buckinghamshire Council, through their Helping Hands division, pay us a grant every 6 months, which is our main source of income. Here again we are most grateful to Caroline Smith and Jenny Shiels for attending to the relevant form-filling. I have also had a meeting with them, which was extremely useful and not only ensured future funding but also gave the council a clearer picture of how we operate. We also receive a number of monetary donations through the year from people in Marsworth, which all help enormously and enable us to purchase a few 'extras' for them from time to time.
- Additionally, with Helena Winter-Brown looking after the cooking, Lisa and I put on a Christmas Lunch, with help on the day from close to 20 others who prepared vegetables, put out and laid the tables, cooked and served the food, kept glasses topped-up then cleared and washed up. Christmas 2025 was the biggest yet, with 63 seniors being fed a first-class meal. As last year, it was wonderful to have some of our senior friends from Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Slapton and Ivinghoe Aston making it a truly benefice-wide occasion. They started arriving at 11.30 to be given sherry, wine or soft drinks. Pass-the-parcel was played, with four parcels flying round the tables. A traditional Christmas lunch was served after grace was said by Richard Cooper. Anna Swanell sang some delightful carols, stopping abruptly so the parcels could be unwrapped. As usual a major highlight was the visit from Father Christmas (Paul Barber), who had presents for everyone. There was also a unique raffle, where everyone got a prize. Also, thanks must go to The Marsworth Craft Club, who had hand-made presents for everyone. Here huge thanks must go to Tony and Di Harvie, who were our main sponsors and to William and Jane Blumsom, who provided the wine and sherry. We are also extremely grateful to The Marsworth Charity, Waitrose Aylesbury, M&S Tring, Tesco Tring and Fancy That in Tring for their very kind donations.
- This summer we plan to reintroduce afternoon teas in our garden. These have not been possible for last couple of years.

Richard Cooper