



November 2023

Message from the Chair



When I reflect on the last ten years of Kirkcaldy Foodbank and try and make sense of the challenge, but to also acknowledge the growth, transformation, and transition of this community charity, what immediately comes to mind is that we have walked together.

This is not a matter of strolling or of wandering but of together doing something profoundly human, walking in solidarity alongside the most vulnerable in our local area. That as a community, we have, as best as possible, tried to practice justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly in a concrete sense that daily deals with the realities of life.

It is a relationship of equals and hopefully somewhere on the way of walking together, we might have brought some small healing in our local community, placing compassion and care at the heart of our charity, that we have chipped away at the nonsense and ignorance that exists around poverty.

Acknowledging that much of what we see is trauma when the struggles of life overwhelm our brothers and sisters. We have achieved this together, and the charity exists because of the commitment and support you all give, in whatever capacity that is. Over the last few years, there have been difficult times, but many have helped by offering their wisdom and quietly supported us when financial challenges were most acute. We stayed open during the COVID pandemic, ensuring that we could still reach those in most need.

In this community endeavour, everything has equal value as it contributes to building a better world. Thank you for all you have done, but please continue doing it.

I will finish by paying tribute to our many volunteers undertaking different roles (past and present), the Board of Trustees. You are an expression of the charity.

You have achieved a lot in the last 10 years.

Ian Campbell

To Our Volunteers and Supporters

December 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the Kirkcaldy Foodbank. When we opened our doors at Dysart St Clair Parish Church and St Bryce Kirk in 2013, we did not imagine that we would still be needed 10 years on. So it is with a mixture of gratitude for what we have been able to achieve, and anger and disappointment that we are still so desperately needed, that we mark this milestone.

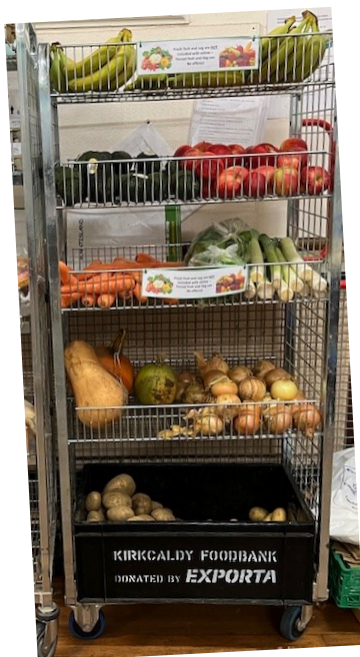
Over the past 10 years we have distributed many thousands of food parcels. In addition, we have provided practical advice through our links with other social support groups, particularly Fife Council Social Work, Community Development and Welfare Support teams and CARF. Importantly, we have offered a compassionate and safe space to people at a time when they need it most.

None of this could have been done without you—our supporters and volunteers. We are immensely grateful for your time, talents and financial support.

See How We've Grown



Where we started: Dysart St Clair Parish Church



Today's efficient operation at Viewforth Church hall



FROM GORDON BROWN—A SUPPORTER FROM DAY ONE

I was proud to be present at the first meetings that led to the creation of Kirkcaldy Foodbank. Its volunteers have over the years given everything they have got to make the Foodbank the force for good that it is today.

Volunteers from all walks of life, whom I thank, enabled the Foodbank to provide 16,000 food parcels last year—300 a week—a five-fold rise in supplies since 2015, as pressures on families have grown, and need has rocketed upwards.

I want to pay tribute to every volunteer and every supplier and to thank them—and especially the committee running the Foodbank and its outlets—for their work of compassion that has given low income families not only immediate relief from their current desperate need, but hope for a better future, and most of all, told them in a very concrete way that someone cares.



FROM PROFESSOR ALASTAIR McINTOSH



When I see the work of Scotland's foodbanks they remind me that the most frequent miracle in the stories about Jesus was the feeding of the multitudes. There are six versions in the gospels. The steadfast work of the Kirkcaldy Foodbank over the past decade is a continuation of that miraculous spirit. There is no need for anything magical about it. The magic, quite simply, is the work of love expressed through a small community that keeps on giving life.

A MESSAGE FROM BRIGGS MARINE

Over the past decade, Kirkcaldy Foodbank has demonstrated exceptional commitment to serving the local community. As demand has increased fivefold, their tireless efforts and dedication to proving vital support to those in need has undoubtedly reached the lives of many.

The work of Kirkcaldy Foodbank has not only helped to alleviate hunger, but also brought hope and relief to individuals and families facing challenging circumstances. The impact of the foodbank resonates far beyond just providing food; it symbolizes the strength of community coming together.

Briggs Marine is proud to be one of the many local businesses actively supporting the foodbank's mission to create a brighter, more nourished future for all.



A QUOTE FROM DARREN McGARVEY



When I attended a busy AGM at Kirkcaldy Foodbank few years back, I was struck by the sheer scale of the operation. The term *foodbank* does not truly convey what an undertaking such an initiative truly nor the profound impact volunteers have on the lives of those in the community. The visit impressed upon me the sense of urgency, not just around food poverty, but of chipping away at public ignorance as

to its roots. With the economy in the worst shape of our lifetimes, these vital services are needed more than ever before. Kirkcaldy remains a leader in this area. Not simply in the management of complicated logistics, but in placing love, compassion and care at the heart of what they do.

REFLECTIONS FROM A LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER

Brigitte Sweeney has been a Foodbank volunteer from day one. She responded to an announcement in the *Fife Free Press* of a meeting called to discuss what could be done to alleviate the problems of the hungry in Kirkcaldy. Eighty concerned citizens turned up to this meeting which was held at The Cottage—only forty had been expected—and the Kirkcaldy Foodbank was born.

Several local organisations, as well as individuals, were involved. A search for accommodation across the town led to Dysart St Clair Parish Church and St Bryce Kirk offering their premises; Iain Anderson from the Fife Community Food Team advised on the contents of the food parcels; social agencies provided referral vouchers. Jobs were assigned: a stock team, packers, drivers, front-line workers.

Brigitte's first job was Co-ordinator of Volunteers, bringing all these people together in an organized way. It was a job she held for several years. She has also been a front-line volunteer at Linton Lane, and has managed the Foodbank e-mails. Currently, she sits of the Foodbank Board and is a member of the communication and fund-raising groups.

Brigitte notes that there are rewards for all the hard work, in particular seeing people who have been helped by the Foodbank get back on their feet and become supporters themselves.

Asked why she was prompted to volunteer, Brigitte says she has known what it is like to be hungry and homeless. Indeed she has - at the end of World War Two she was a refugee from Poland.

Thank you Brigitte for giving back to this community so very generously.

END HUNGER FAST!

This is an initiative to mark our tenth anniversary. We are asking you to make a small sacrifice to help the Foodbank continue its valuable work. Pledge to fast for 12 hours any day between 27th November-3rd December 2023. Sign up friends, colleagues and family to sponsor you at an hourly rate of their (or your) choosing and encourage others to get involved too. The funds you raise will help the Foodbank continue its important work. To take part visit our fundraising page on Just Giving at www.justgiving.com/kirkcaldy-foodbank. If you have any other fundraising ideas or want more information please contact us at kirkcaldyfoodbank@gmail.com.

**To the individual volunteers, the corporate supporters, the
politicians, sports teams, entertainers,
everyone who has worked to make the past 10 years possible**

THANK YOU!