

## **News from the local foodbanks**

We have some important updates to share with you regarding our operations at Quinton and Oldbury Foodbank. As you know, we have been (currently ) operating out of 2 distribution centres:

- St Boniface Church, Quinton Road West, Birmingham, B32 2QD
- The Coffee Shop, 151 Castle Road, Oldbury, B68 0EL

Our trustees and steering group, with guidance from Trussell Trust staff have been reflecting on our operations at both centres and have decided to make changes in how we operate. We believe these changes are needed to streamline our work and make our Food Bank more efficient and effective at serving our community.

**St Boniface Church** - We are continuing to operate our Wednesday Food Bank sessions at St Boniface on Wednesdays from 11am-1pm. We have seen significant increase in demand at St Boniface. In response to this, we will be launching an additional weekly session every Tuesday from 10am-12pm, starting from the 6th September.

**The Coffee Shop** - The Friday Food Bank session is stopping at this site on 26th August. The local demand for the provision of crisis food parcels has always been less than at St Boniface and the management of food donations and volunteer teams across 2 centres has been demanding. The physical layout of the Coffee Shop has presented us with additional difficulties to do with privacy and offering further support to Food Bank clients. However, the Coffee Shop is being re-launched as "**Brandhall Community Hub**" and will offer a variety of support to the local community. This will include a Local Pantry, a food membership club giving access to low-cost food, including fresh goods, in a shop format. The Local Pantry will work in partnership with the Food Bank to be another way to support local people in a managed way, allowing households to budget for the food they need. To help ensure that everyone who needs food aid support in the Brandhall area, we will be supplying emergency pre-packed parcels at the Coffee Shop on Friday, until the Local Pantry is launched. We will have information about the Local Pantry and how to become a member ready in September.

**The nearest food banks in the Trussell Trust network to the Hub include:**

1. Quinton and Oldbury Foodbank, St Boniface Church, B32 2QD (1 mile)
2. Smethwick, Holy Trinity Church B67 7AH (2 miles)
3. Handsworth, New Wesleyan Church, B21 0LA (3 miles)
4. Birmingham Central, Birmingham City Church, B1 3QQ (4 miles)