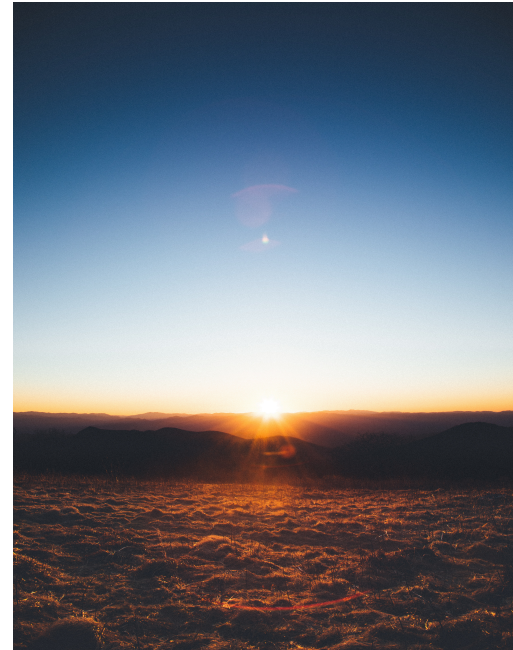


## Team work will help us to bring lasting changes

WELL, 2020 is behind us but not a distant memory by any means. Despite all that has been horrible about it, there have been some amazing positives. The one I would most like to emphasise has been the most amazing and fantastically generous response by so many people to the Covid-19 crisis. We have benefited greatly from this, and of course we have been able to pass on those blessings to thousands, yes thousands, of people. And besides the work done by all of you who contribute time and energy to the Newcastle-Staffs Trussell Trust Foodbank, various other foodbanks have appeared and done their bit to meet people's needs. All of this is wonderful. However, we are now in 2021, and, God willing, this pandemic will one day be defeated. There will be a general feeling at last we can get back to 'normal'. Except of course, we won't be able to do that so easily. We may not have to wear face coverings

or maintain a social distance, but there will almost certainly be an increase in people's financial hardship. With outward signs of the pandemic less visible, it may be the generosity being shown at the moment will begin to disappear. Trussell Trust is preparing for these challenges,

and some of the Trustees and others will be meeting with a representative soon to talk about being "Together for Change". There will be changes ahead, but we will also need 'more of the same'. We will continue to need to count on your wonderful support in 2021, just as much as we did in 2020. Working together, I am confident that we will see long term change and that hunger and poverty will be defeated.



*Thank you for who you are and all you do.  
Simon Boxall, chairman.*

## Join us at AGM

THIS year we will be holding a virtual annual general meeting. Volunteers should have received their invite by email. The AGM is usually held in October and was postponed due to the ongoing pandemic. We hoped we would be able to get together in person but it would seem this is not to be. If you would like to attend on February 8 but have not received the details please email [info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk)

## Keeping foodbank Covid-secure

AS we again find ourselves in lockdown, we want to thank all our volunteers who are keeping our centres up and running despite operating under severe restrictions. If you need any support in maintaining services or understanding the Covid-secure guidance then please get in touch. This includes ensuring face coverings are worn and hand sanitiser is available. Call the office on 07519 159061 with any enquiries or requests.



## IN OTHER NEWS



## Support in a digital age

If you would like to help our foodbank but are unable to hold traditional collections, please make use of our QR code which takes scanners directly to our Crowdfunder donation page.



## Connect with us!

Did you know Newcastle-Staffs Foodbank is on social media? You can keep up-to-date with our latest news and appeals at the touch of a button. Please engage with us online as well as in person.

Like, share, follow!

Tweet @NewcStaffsFB.  
Share @newcastlestaffsfoodbank on Instagram.  
Or you can always message  
@NewcastleUnderLymeBoroughFoodbank on Facebook.

# Jack and Christian take up meal-a-day challenge

STUDENTS Christian Bailey and Jack Kennedy have raised a fantastic £500 for Newcastle-Staffs Foodbank.

The two friends were inspired by footballer Marcus Rashford who launched a campaign last year to protect vulnerable children who were going hungry during the Covid-19 pandemic. Together they sacrificed their usual dinners to live on just one meal a day for a month.

Friends, family and other supporters sponsored their efforts which often saw them surviving on just a packed lunch. A total of £1,000 was raised with the funds split between our foodbank and a project in Derby.

Christian, a student at the University of Derby who lives in North Staffordshire, said: "Thank you to all who donated and helped us. It really is so important, now more than ever before, to help each other out." Rashford's End Child Food Poverty Alliance was launched in the autumn and continues to lobby the Government to review the availability and adequacy of free school meals. Eligibility for free school meals is restricted to children in households where



parents claim out-of-work benefits, including some on universal credit. Widening eligibility was a key recommendation of the government-commissioned national food plan published in July, and is a central demand of Rashford's campaign. Christian said: "How the challenge affected us mentally and physically in our lives proved to us how problematic the issue is."

Jack said: "We are in the time of a pandemic, where local business has shut down and parents are losing out on work, meaning even more children fall under the line of food poverty in a country that boasts itself as one who cares."

Jane Baker, project lead at Newcastle-Staffs Foodbank, said: "We are extremely grateful to Jack and Christian. They went some way to walk a mile in the shoes of our clients, showing real empathy and compassion."



**Newcastle-Staffs Foodbank**  
Brick Kiln Lane  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
ST5 7AS

07519 159061  
info@newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk  
newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, send a message to the email address above with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line or text the number above with "unsubscribe" and your name

Registered Charity No. 1150816  
Registered in England & Wales