

COST OF LIVING CRISIS



A Community Café and Hub

At 7 Wheatsheaf Walk, Ormskirk (opposite the Court Leet pub).
Many activities and events are held there each week promoting wellbeing.
For details, please see the poster at the back of church or call in to the café
which is open to all, Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 5pm.
or contact letstalk@hopest.org.uk Also on Facebook. Or phone 07903 381874

The news is full of the cost of living crisis and the impact it is having on people in every walk of life, but especially on those who had least before it began. There are many things we can do to help our brothers and sisters at this difficult time. Here are some suggestions:

Donations to Ormskirk Food Bank

Please can all food & toiletry donations be taken directly to:

Ormskirk Food Bank New Church House,
Church Street,
Ormskirk,
Lancashire,
L39 3RD.

Open Tuesdays and Fridays 11am till 1pm

Donations for the refugees and asylum seekers in Skelmersdale.

Please can all food & toiletry donations be taken directly to:

The Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre

Northway, Skelmersdale WN8 6LU

Main Centre Opening Hours

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

SHOP AND GIVE

Ormskirk Food Bank donations can be handed in at several shops and other businesses, in addition to their base at New Church House Ormskirk. They list:

Tesco Store, Burscough Bridge (Please note: this is for food bought in this store. Food purchased in other stores must be sealed and clearly labelled as having been purchased elsewhere). Also:

Booths, Ringtail Park, Burscough; Co-op, 52 Wigan Rd, Ormskirk; Co-op, 58 Town Green Ln, Aughton; Morrisons, 2 Park Rd, Ormskirk; Nationwide, Burscough Street, Ormskirk; Halifax, Church Street, Ormskirk; Kicking Donkey Pub, Narrow Moss Lane.

Other supermarkets are making their own contributions to the cost of living crisis. For example, Lidl labels items on shelves which can be placed in their collection point at the checkouts. These donations will be used "to help local community groups in need of supplies, including food banks, soup kitchens, community centres and more".

Parishioners wishing to donate food in any of the above ways should perhaps check arrangements first with individual stores.

NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION

N.E.A. is an independent British charity that works to reduce fuel poverty. You can find out more about its work at ([https://www.nea.org.uk/ National Energy Action \(NEA\)](https://www.nea.org.uk/NationalEnergyAction))

Fuel Poverty | National Energy Action (NEA) works across England

Wales and Northern Ireland to eradicate fuel poverty and

raise awareness.www.nea.org.uk

West Lancs Debt Advice

Can we help you? The cost-of-living crisis is leading many people who have had no problems with debt in the past into difficulties.

West Lancs Debt Advice offers a free, friendly, confidential service to help people to deal with debt. It is part of Community Money Advice, established for 25 years, which provides advice and training, and is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Just talking to a friendly face and getting started can ease the burden of worrying about debts.

To contact West Lancs Debt Advice either e-mail debtadvice@wlda.org.uk (the best way) or phone 07731 482 120 and leave a message. Someone will contact you to arrange an appointment.

West Lancs Debt Advice is based at Langham Hall at the back of Emmanuel United Reformed Methodist Church, Derby Street, Ormskirk L39 2DE (opposite the railway station). If you think we can help you, please get in touch and don't carry debt worries alone.

Let others know about “warm spaces” across the

Archdiocese – including refreshments and wifi available at St Gregory’s, Liverpool Road, Lydiate. Thursdays 1pm to 3.30pm – friendly and welcoming. Information on ways to help will continue to be circulated.

Low cost meals at Café Birchwood

- Meals made from food donated by supermarkets – reduces food waste
- 3 course meal – starter, main course and dessert
- Pay what you can afford (£2 suggested)
- Open to everyone in West Lancashire • Wednesdays 12 midday to 1 pm at Tanhouse Community Centre, Ennerdale, WN8 6AN.
 - Car Parking and also buses 310, 375 and 385 run to Upholland Labour Club, then half mile walk to the Community Centre (310 change at Concourse Bus Station) • Thursdays 11 am to 1pm at the Ecumenical Centre Skelmersdale, Northway, WN8 6LU. Near the Concourse – free parking and also on bus routes.
- Very friendly and welcoming places. Information on other available help will continue to be circulated

Scouts & FareShare Food – Pastoral Centre Car Park Sunday afternoons

- This is food donated by Tesco, which also helps reduce food waste.
- Distributed in the Parish centre car park from around 4.15 for 20 minutes – but not every Sunday
 - Information is shared through a WhatsApp group – letting people know if there is food to share and what time in the car park. A message is sent as the scouts leave Tesco on the Sunday
 - Contact Anne Gilham on 07803706389 to be added to the list of people receiving this information
 - Usually 8 - 15 boxes for sharing, mainly bread, fruit, vegetables and salad. Information on other available help will continue to be circulated.

A Selection of Agencies.

1. West Lancs Borough Council

Their web site www.westlancs.gov.uk, gives information on

- Household Support Fund (available to 31 March 2023)

The Household Fund is to assist residents of West Lancs with significant rising living costs. It is intended to help those who do not have enough resources to meet immediate short term needs and require assistance with essential items over the coming months.

This can be used to help towards the cost of:

- Energy/water needs
- Food
- Essentials linked to energy / water needs
- Wider essentials but only in exceptional circumstances

A link to the application form for this Fund can be found on the Household Support Fund page within the www.westlancs.gov.uk home page.

- Cost of Living Support Hub

West Lancs Council have also gathered together a range of support to assist residents with planning for winter. On the 'Cost of Living Support Hub' webpage, you will find links to: 'Lancashire Warm Spaces;' support with energy costs and pensioner cost of living top-up payments.

2. Turn2Us Their web site www.turn2us.org.uk gives advice and support on entitlements, grants etc

They offer "support for those facing financial shocks... as they... work towards financial security." This is for those both seeking assistance and for those able to offer donations towards their work.

3. Fuel Bank Foundation Their web site www.fuelbankfoundation.org helps households in fuel crisis

4. Other Allowances may be available in certain situations. Do look online or ask at agencies such as Citizens Advice, Age UK. Examples of allowances are: -

Attendance Allowance – this is a benefit payment from the Department for Work and Pensions (www.gov.uk), for those who have reached state pension age and need a level of help caring for themselves. An information booklet is available from Age UK and the PPC has some basic information on this allowance. Bereavement Support Payment - for those who lost their wife, husband, civil partner before their partner reached pensionable age. Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/bereavement-support-payment> Bereavement Service helpline Telephone: 0800 151 2012