

Harvest Festival 2026

Your community needs your help!

We are Deal Area Foodbank and Pantry, a community-based charity covering Deal and the surrounding areas (as far as Preston & Wingham) and affiliated to both Trussell Trust and Your Local Pantry nationwide. We engage with our fantastic community to tackle hunger and hardship in our local area and offer a warm welcome to anyone who needs it – we believe no one in our community should go hungry.

We have seen a huge increase in demand for our support. Last year we provided 1,268 emergency foodbank parcels free of charge worth around £50,000, and 2,968 regular pantry shopping visits saving households around £80,000, each helping an average of 2.7 people. We distributed 57 tonnes of food in the year. With the cost of living still so high, we are seeing the need to help people in Deal and the surrounding areas increase even further.

While the need is increasing, at the same time food donations decline due to the cost-of-living crisis we find ourselves in. **We expect to have to spend around £15,000 this year buying food and other household essentials beyond what we receive as donations, and desperately need your help to achieve this.**

Support from your Church community is vital.

Harvest is such an important time of year for us, as it helps us to stock up on the essentials people in our community will need this coming winter. Working with local churches like yourselves is a vital part of our fundraising and you always support our cause so fantastically!

Like last year, we are again asking you to organise a food-drive collection **help us reach our target of collecting 6.5 tonnes this year – beating last year's amazing 6.2 tonnes!**

We can collect your donations, just contact us on the number below to make arrangements and let us know if you would like us to attend or participate in a Harvest Festival service.

Attached is a Harvest poster showing our most needed items that we would love to receive, but we will gratefully receive all donations!

Thank you for your time and support.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Hayes, Foodbank Manager
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