



# HARVEST PRAYER RESOURCES

SHOWING COMPASSION,  
SEEKING JUSTICE



# WELCOME

The Trussell Trust supports a nationwide network of more than 1,200 food bank centres and together we provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

Harvest is an important time for food banks, with many churches and schools choosing to donate non-perishable food as a way of supporting people who are in need, whilst also celebrating God's provision.



This year the coronavirus pandemic has contributed to unprecedented increases in need for food banks, on top of already rising figures. Food banks in our network saw an 89% increase in need for emergency food parcels during April 2020 compared to the same month last year.

Harvest food collections will play therefore a vital part in keeping our food banks stocked and able to help individuals and families who are in need over the coming months. If your church would like to organise a Harvest collection for your local food bank, you can find out how here [ADD LINK].

We are committed to supporting food banks in our network for as long as they are needed, but we are also committed towards working towards a society in which no-one needs to use a food bank. We believe that, alongside showing compassion and building community, it is also our responsibility to seek justice. This means working together with others to challenge and change systems and structures that keep people trapped in poverty, as well as offering relational and practical support to people in crisis.

To this end, we would love to invite you and your church to pray with us at this crucial time. This short Harvest Prayer Guide is designed help you do this. You could use it by yourself, share it with a small group or incorporate it into a church service. Further resources, including PowerPoint slides, can be found at: [www.trusselltrust.org.uk/church-resources](http://www.trusselltrust.org.uk/church-resources), where you can also sign up to be kept up to date about our church resources.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US IN PRAYER.

# A HARVEST PRAYER

Loving God,

Thank you for the many ways in which you provide for us:

Food, family, friendship,

Housing, health, happiness,

And ways to use our time and talents.

We lift to you too the ways in which we remain in need of these things.

God of generosity,

**May your kingdom come.**

We pray for people in our community and beyond

Who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time,

And especially for those who are unable to afford enough to eat.

We pray for supportive relationships, practical provision and real hope.

God of compassion,

**May your kingdom come.**

Thank you that you call us to play our part,

Working with you and with others to bring about change.

We pray for political decision-makers and leaders:

Give them courage and insight to develop policies and systems that support the flourishing of all,

So that even in challenging times, no-one goes hungry and everyone has dignity.

God of justice,

**May your kingdom come.**

Thank you for those who are serving and caring for others,

In churches, in charities, and public services,

In our neighbourhoods, in our homes, and in many other contexts.

Would you give them strength, rest and perseverance.

As they work to support others, we ask that they too would receive all they need to thrive.

God of love,

**May your kingdom come.**

Amen

# PRAYER POINTS

*You may like to pray specifically for the work of your local food bank. You can find out more about your nearest Trussell Trust food bank by searching for it [here](#) and following the links to their website.*

Here are some ways you can pray at this time:

**Give thanks** for the extraordinary generosity, dedication and partnership we have seen at this difficult time, from food bank staff and volunteers, from local churches, from businesses and from the public. This support has made it possible for food banks to continue to provide for people in crisis in very challenging circumstances.

**Lament** the suffering we are seeing in our society at this time. People losing loved ones, health, jobs, and businesses. Families struggling to make ends meet. Mourn the injustices and inequalities made evident by the pandemic, which communities and individuals have been burdened by for many years.

**Pray for:**

- **People experiencing acute poverty:** that they would receive the support they need and be able to find positive pathways forwards.
- **Food banks:** that they would receive sufficient food donations, and that they would be able to respond to every person who needs their support with sensitivity and kindness.
- **Our society:** for justice and compassion to prevail in political and economic decision-making, so that everyone is protected from poverty and has the chance to flourish.

**But let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing stream!**

*Amos 5: 24*