



Thank you for visiting our food bank. We wanted to make you aware of a significant change that will be coming soon. We will be closing the food bank and relaunching as 'Oasis Community Shop'. The final food bank session will be on **15th October**, and the Community Shop will launch on **29th October**.

The Community Shop will serve the Hangleton community in the same location and day of the week as the food bank has been, run by our same Emmanuel Church team.

Oasis, Emmanuel Church, Hangleton Way, Wednesday's 10am-12pm.

What is the difference between the food bank and the community shop?

The food bank has been providing free, emergency food in the short term for guests who have been referred from other agencies. The community shop will offer heavily discounted (rather than completely free) food, but with **no referral required**, and **no limit** on the number of visits. It is geared toward people who are struggling with the cost of living in the longer term.

How much will it cost?

The Community Shop will have a membership model. A six month membership will cost £6. Each time you visit, you will be offered a £5 or £8 selection of food. The food will be worth at least double what you actually pay (compared to supermarket prices). Your first visit will be free of charge, so you can decide if you like it and want to sign up for a six month membership. Once you're a member, you can visit every week, or just when you need to.

What if I can't afford to pay anything at all?

We are here to help you and don't want anyone to miss out because they can't afford it. The first visit will be free, and if you really don't have enough money on a particular week, we can be flexible and take a reduced or delayed payment. We will also be working with our friends at Hangleton & West Blatchington Foodbank just down the road, who will still be giving free food to people in financial crisis.

Why is there a membership requirement?

Having our guests as members will help us keep track of numbers and help create a sense of ownership in the community. We want this to feel like somewhere you belong and have your say.

Are there any conditions for membership?

We want to serve local, Hangleton households who are struggling with the cost of living and are on very tight budgets. We will need to ask you a couple of initial questions to confirm that you really need our help.

Can I sign up now?

We will open on 29th October, so that will be your first opportunity to sign up and you will be able to try out the service for free. If we are deluged with newcomers, we might have to operate a waiting list, but existing food bank users will be prioritised.

Will the food be the same as Oasis Foodbank has provided?

It will be similar food but you will have more choice. The food will be laid out so that you can select the items you want for yourself (up to a certain number of items, depending on the price you've paid). We also plan to have a larger selection of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Will there still be free refreshments, a place to chat and advisors from agencies like Money Advice Plus?

Yes absolutely! We very much want this to be a place where you are supported and feel at home. There will still be a cafe-style area where you can have free refreshments and chat with people. And because there is no limit on how many visits you can make, you can stay around and get to know people! Your six month membership can be renewed whenever it lapses.

How is this being funded?

The money that guests contribute will not cover the food and running costs of Oasis Community Shop, so the shortfall will be covered by Emmanuel Church with some local donations and grants, just as the food bank has been. We continue to welcome donations!

