



Hello! Happy New Year and welcome to our first Bridge The Gap newsletter!! We've had a really busy year and we're excited to be able to share some updates with you.



### First things first - the numbers:

In 2025; we gave out food parcels to serve, 1,097 guests made up of 3,843 parcels and 462 families. These numbers speak for themselves and we are so proud and grateful to be able to be here for this incredible community.

### Updates

We have improved our BTG Extra sessions this year. The focus of these events is to help our guests to help themselves. We give them the opportunity to meet with volunteers from local agencies, who are on hand to offer guidance with any problems they may be facing. We also have staff and volunteers available to help with form filling or other administrative tasks. As well as offering a free lunch. This has had a great response from our guests and we are looking forward to welcoming lots of new agencies in this coming year.



We have held 3 Stay and Play Café sessions to raise money for Bridge The Gap and to create an affordable activity for local kids during the school holidays - these events have been so much fun and we can't wait for the next one during February half term!





We have made lots of exciting connections with local organisations, such as Avondale Carehome, Bierton C of E School, Oak Green School and our local Tesco. We love being part of the wider community in Aylesbury and can't wait to explore these and other connections in the coming year.



We have welcomed Kate to our BTG staff team! Kate has volunteered for some time and has made herself an indispensable part of the team. Kate helps to make the Friday food bank run like a well-oiled machine and we are excited to see what new ideas she can bring to the table.

We have worked closely with a local organisation called Raising Nutrition, who have helped us to take a closer look at the food we give to our guests at the food bank and how to use those items to make healthy meal choices. David and the team have even given us an accreditation to show our commitment to making healthier food choices more accessible and promoting the positive impact of nourishing food on well being to our guests.





## Christmas 2025

We had another very busy Christmas this year!! The events of Operations Santa were fabulously festive and very much enjoyed by all! Santa(Graham) was spreading Christmas cheer all around and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!! At our Christmas BTG Extra event we served 100 people including volunteers, at the toy bank we gave out presents for 99 children, and in the 2 weeks leading up to Christmas we gave out 160 Christmas hampers on top of our regular food bank parcels. We are so grateful to be able to support our local community at Christmas and are so humbled by the support we have received to enable us to do so.



Over the year we have been overwhelmed by the support we have received both financially and in thoughts, prayers and well-wishes. To know that the work we do here is recognised and that others care about the community of Southcourt just as much as we do, is hard to put into words. All we can say is thank you. Thank you for standing with us and with the people in need in this community. We hope that you will find it in your hearts to stand with us again this coming year.

We would like to say a special thank you to our incredible funders that have supported us this year - without you we would not be able to do what we do! So thank you so much to The Clare Foundation, Heart of Bucks, Fairhive Homes, Rothschild Foundation, Tony & Sheelagh Williams Foundation, Bucks Council, CHIP Community Chest Fund, Aylesbury Town Council, Chiltern Hills Rally Club, Souter Trust, Shanly Foundation and Aylesbury Rotary Club. As well as others who have wished to remain anonymous.

From all of us here at Bridge The Gap  
We hope you had a wonderful Christmas period and wish you all the best for the coming year!