

Ludlow CTAL Emergency Food Parcel Scheme (Ludlow Food Bank) 2014 statistical Report

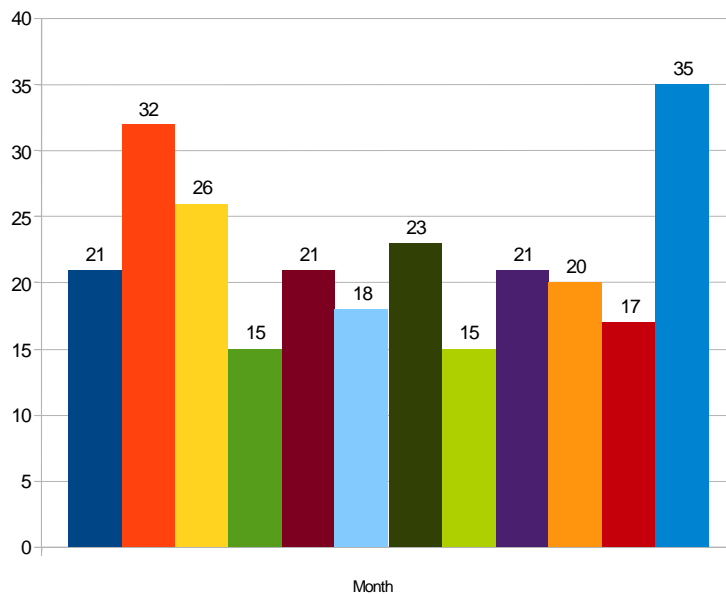
Ludlow emergency food parcel scheme is run from Ludlow Baptist Church purely by volunteers who give up their time to help people who are in emergency situations and require food to help them "get by". Either social services or the CAB refer all food parcel recipients. On occasion a previous recipient may request a further food parcel, and these requests are taken on a case-by-case basis: sometimes a request for a food parcel may be turned down. In these cases, the recipient is referred to "Hands Together Ludlow" who offer help with learning to cook, hot pots and other practical assistance.

In 2014 we continued to be busy, although there were some quiet times. April and August saw fewer referrals than any other month. December was our busiest month. Altogether we gave out 264 food parcels helping 618 individual people. Numbers have increased over the years:

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 2008 | Around 30 |
| 2009 | Around 50 |
| 2010 | 73 |
| 2011 | 85 |
| 2012 | 108 |
| 2013 | 260 |
| 2014 | 264 |

We have come across some heart-rending cases, and are happy to be able to offer some hope where there was none.

Number of food parcels given out each month



Food Parcels given out by Ludlow food bank 01/01/2014- 31/12/2014

Number of Parcels:

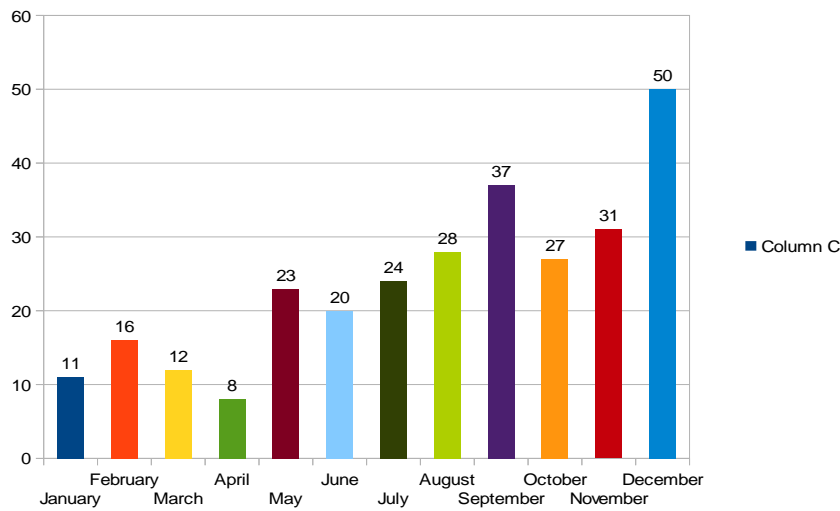
| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Family | 49 |
| Single Male | 71 |
| Single Female | 46 |
| Single Parent | 80 |
| Couple | 18 |
| | 264 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Total Number of people helped | |
| Single adult | 197 |
| Married adult | 134 |
| Children | 287 |
| | 618 |

Repeat parcels 105

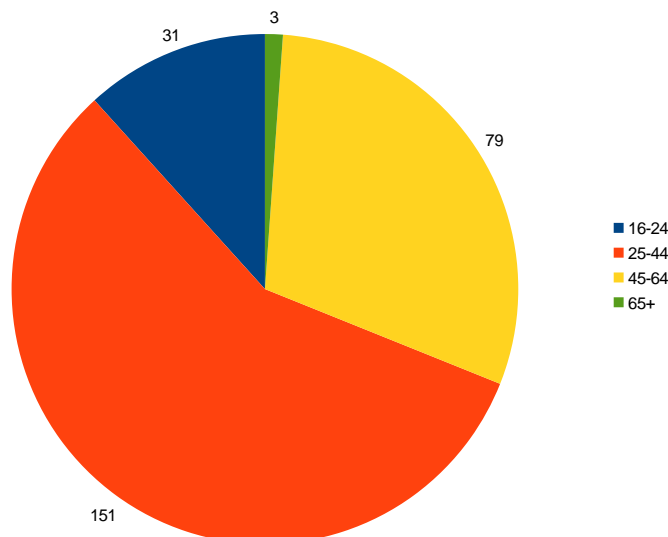
This year has seen an increase in the number of families needing help, and we have helped 287 children.

Number of children helped each month



A Food parcel contains enough food for about one-week, so parcels for large families are considerably bigger than parcels for single people. It is interesting that the age group, which has needed the most help is the 25-44 age range. People in the 65+ range are either coping well, or are not being recognised as being in need.

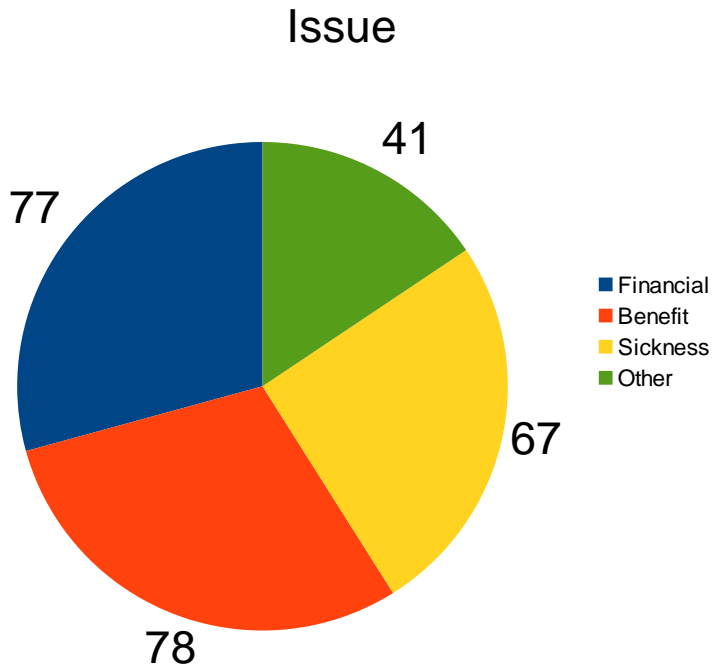
Age Range of Food parcel recipients



Reasons for needing a food Parcel

We have been categorising reasons for needing a food parcel as:

1. Financial
2. Benefit
3. Sickness (including mental health problems)
4. Other



“Other” reasons for needing a parcel have included:

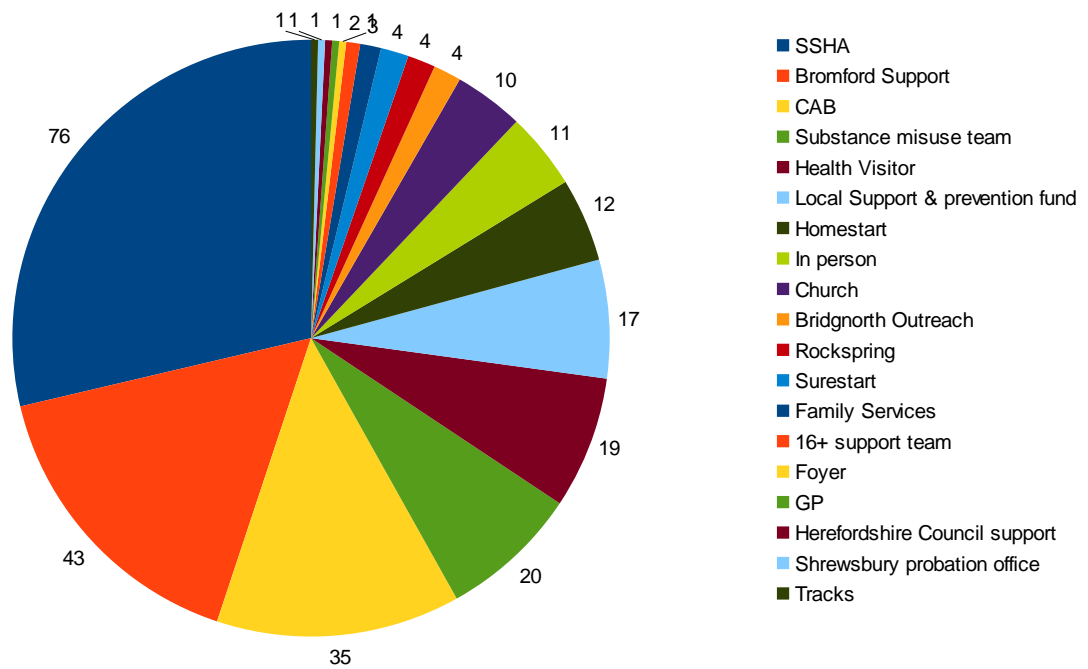
- Fire
- Flood
- Fraud victim
- Burglary victim
- Domestic violence victim
- Homelessness
- Bereavement
- Redundancy
- Bad debts

Where the reason “Benefit” is given, this is because benefits have been stopped (often in error). It has taken up to 8 weeks for benefits to be re-instated, although this has improved recently, since we received help from our local MP.

We receive referrals from a number of agencies, as seen in the following chart:

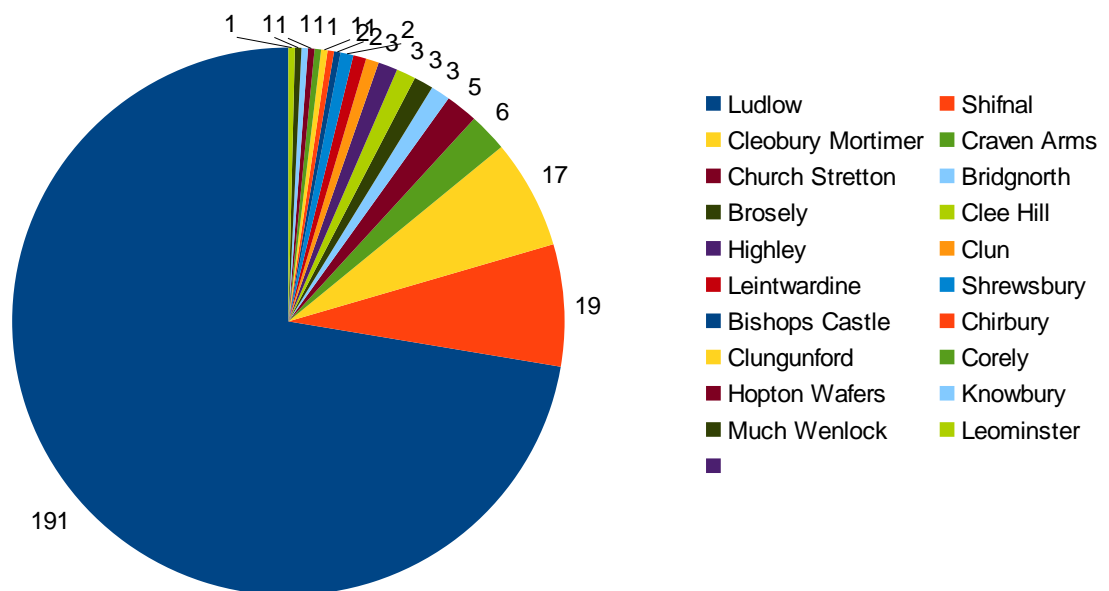
Please note that the “Substance mis-use team” only refer people who are actively trying to overcome their addictions.

Agencies who have referred people for a food parcel



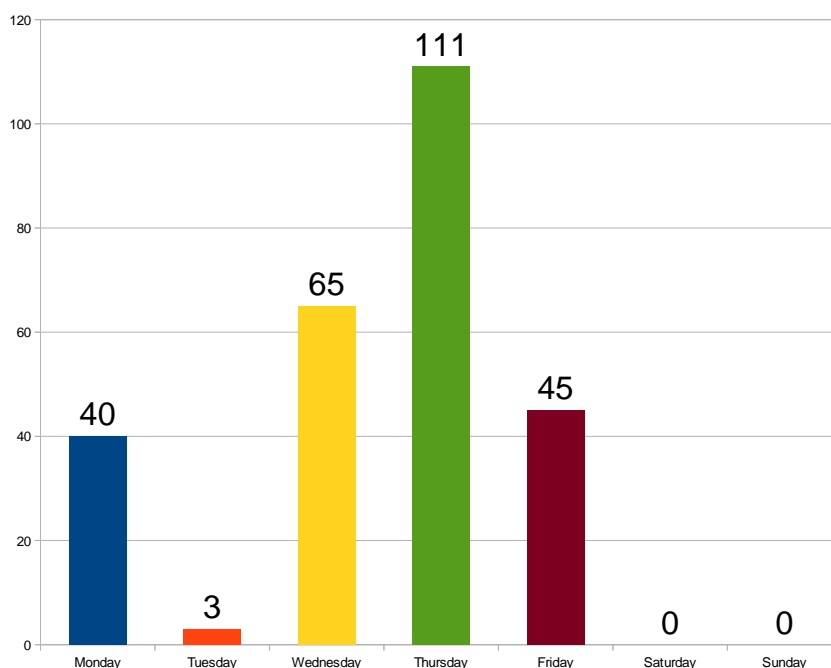
All Food parcels given out by us go to "local" people, the vast majority live in Ludlow itself, but some of the agencies cover South Shropshire and are based at the Rockspring centre on Thursdays. We are happy to help these professionals as they seek to support some very needy people.

Home Address for food parcel recipients



For completeness I include a chart which shows which are our busiest days. This is for the benefit of our volunteers who do such a good job of making up parcels, and handing them to people.

Day Collected



Where Has the food come from?

This is the other side of the story, and is a story that deserves to be told. The generosity we have witnessed from churches, groups, businesses and individuals has been amazing. We have had a steady stream of donations coming in, much of which has been donated on a week-by-week basis in the churches in and around Ludlow. We are so grateful for this faithful giving. We have also had periods of “flood-like” proportions, where food has been coming in in great abundance. This occurred particularly at harvest and Christmas. Those times have been very joyful. We have had dry times also, but have been given generous donations of money so that we are able to buy food at such times.

There have been many donations that have been particularly moving such as:

- a harvest donation from a nursing home in town,
- a disabled lady who brought in a donation,
- a company in Cleobury who bought Christmas gifts for children who needed a food parcel,
- previous food parcel recipients who have donated when they are “back on their feet”,
- a man who brings in a considerable donation of food every month
- and a young Brownie who inspired her whole school to raise funds and donate food.

We have not had to turn anyone away because of lack of resources, and we feel so blessed to be in such a position.

Thank you for your continued support of this scheme – it makes such a difference to so many people.

Ruth Davies

(Food parcel scheme co-ordinator)