



Farming and Food: For Thought

Social Justice and Local Action

Professor John Whitton

Blackburn Diocese
The Church of England in Lancashire

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HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Contents

- Creation Care and Food – A systemic issue?
- Transformation and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- UK Food Strategy: What is going on?
- Farmers and the Food System
- Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance – What do we do? (Annie)
- Foodbanks and People (Gill)

Church of England and Care for Creation

Creationtide or the Season of Creation

This is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Many churches choose to use this time of year to hold special services and events to give thanks for God's gift of creation, and to renew their commitment to caring for our one planet home.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	

UK Food: Current Status

- UK does not produce all the food it consumes, nor does it consume all the food it produces
- We produce around 60% of our food, of this, we export approximately 10%, leaving just under 50% for domestic consumption
- Much of the grains, meat, dairy, and eggs we consume are produced here, but we import beef and dairy to meet demand
- UK imports 85% fruit and 50% vegetables to meet demand, particularly out of growing season

This from the UK Food Strategy:

“It has become increasingly apparent that the food system is driving negative impacts on our health, environment, and resilience that undermine our food security. In recent years, we have seen exceptionally high levels of food price inflation, impacting household food security, particularly for the most vulnerable. These negative impacts are well documented and are largely well understood.”



**'I feel more like a professional gambler':
British farmers reveal their twin struggles
with climate change and mental health**

Published: June 10, 2024 4:51pm BST



Sustainability Science (2025) 20:1667–1680
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-024-01504-7>

SPECIAL FEATURE: ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Agriculture (re-)territorialisation: Balancing the Promotion of Local Products and International Trade in Europe

Systemic barriers preventing farmer engagement in the agricultural climate transition: a qualitative study

John Whitton¹ · Andrew Carmichael¹

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Abstract

Farmers and the agricultural sector are facing an uncertain future, due to rapidly changing agricultural policy and a nexus of commercial, environmental and biodiversity challenges brought on by anthropogenic climate change. Balancing the interests of the farming community and natural environment is generating organisational and personal conflict, rather than effective agricultural adaption and a focus on the net zero transition. In this paper, we consider how farmers and the wider farming community can participate in engagement and decision-making for the transition, on their own terms, whilst ensuring social justice for fair and equitable decision-making. We discuss findings from our research project, that used questionnaire and follow up semi-structured interviews with farmers and farming groups to reveal systemic issues that prevent farmers engaging with the climate transition to net zero during their everyday practice. We highlight the structural relationships that form these barriers and frustrate farmers when designing and implementing farm interventions to agricultural systems during times of transition. Farmers have highlighted barriers to be associated with policy, (uncertain government strategy, landowner bias in government policy and tenancy restrictions, government bureaucracy—particularly environment schemes), commercial (market forces—downward pressure from supermarkets on price points, availability of labour due to seasonal migration restrictions, increasing cost of labour) and interpersonal (succession—uncertain future of the family farm due to limited income). This frustrates the ability of farmers to address climate change through farming practices and undermines the implementation of innovative engagement practices, such as co-produced interventions, in policy and decision-making settings.

Keywords Agriculture · Farming · Stakeholder engagement · Participation · Co-production · Climate transition

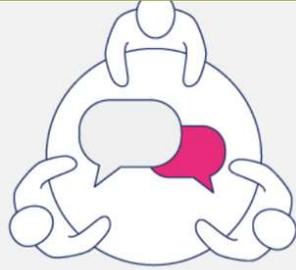


Why Join the Food Alliance?

What do we do?

THE SIX WORK

STREAMS



Food Governance and Strategy

Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.



Good Food Movement

Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement.



Healthy Food for All

Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food.



Sustainable Food Economy

Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy.



Catering and Procurement

Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains.



Food for the Planet

Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.



it all starts with you....

- We care about the food you eat
- that food is always available to you and helps you thrive
- the quality of that food
- that you are not being misled by packaging
- that you have the skills to get the most out of the food you make



THEN, IT'S
ABOUT THE
SMALLER FOOD
BUSINESSES
AND GROWERS
IN OUR
TOWN.....

We aim to develop Blackburn's reputation as a food destination with a flourishing, vibrant diverse food scene that celebrates the cultural diversity of the borough, our fabulous local produce and independent businesses.

Celebrating businesses that innovate and lead healthy, sustainable, ethical and affordable food approaches across the borough.

Empowering and enabling citizens and local producers to grow food throughout the year and connect to the town's food system.





Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council



In 2024, BwD Council re-signed the Healthy Weight Declaration. This confirms the council's commitment to lead local action and demonstrate good practice to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities.

BwD Council's Local Plan restricts new hot food takeaways in areas with high rates of childhood obesity.

The Council run the Recipe 4 Health award scheme which recognises food businesses that promote healthy eating, environmental issues and social responsibility.

In 2019, BwD Council declared a Climate Emergency and made a commitment to reduce carbon emissions and set the goal to be Net Zero by 2030.



Our wider town

LOCAL FARMES

We aim to bring together, food producers, farmers and manufacturers to support them and to shorten our local food supply chains, so the food you eat hasn't travelled halfway across the world and you get the freshest produce you can.

CATERING

Supporting schools and adult education providers to work with local food producers to help citizens understand the food journey and be more aware of farmers and producers and where the produce is available.

PROCUREMENT

Supporting businesses, especially those in the public sector, to adopt local sourcing in their food procurement.



what's happening nationally?

GOVERNMENT FOOD STRATEGY

It follows the government-commissioned independent review of the food system, the "[National Food Strategy](#)" led by Henry Dimbleby and builds on existing work across government and the actions already being taken forward by industry and other key actors.

The objectives for this strategy are to deliver:

- a prosperous agri-food and seafood sector that ensures a secure food supply in an unpredictable world and contributes to the levelling up agenda through good quality jobs around the country
- a sustainable, nature positive, affordable food system that provides choice and access to high quality products that support healthier and home-grown diets for all
- trade that provides export opportunities and consumer choice through imports, without compromising our regulatory standards for food, whether produced domestically or imported



SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES

The Sustainable Food Places Award is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined-up, holistic approach to food and achieving a significant positive change across key food issues.



Globally and the climate



What we eat, and how that food is produced, affects our health but also the environment.

Food needs to be grown and processed, transported, distributed, prepared, consumed, and sometimes disposed of. Each of these steps creates greenhouse gases that trap the sun's heat and contribute to climate change. [About a third](#) of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions is linked to food.

We need to encourage people to:-

Eat healthier meals
Start eating a more plant-rich, [balanced diet](#) – one that provides energy and nutrients from several different food groups – and reduce foods that are harder on our planet.

and also...

Cut your food waste

Think about [how you buy, prepare and dispose](#) of food. When you throw away food, you're also wasting the energy, land, water, and fertilizer that was used to produce, package, and transport it.

Only buy what you need – and use up what you buy. And don't shy away from buying [imperfect-looking fruits](#) and vegetables. They might otherwise get thrown out.



 Blackburn
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

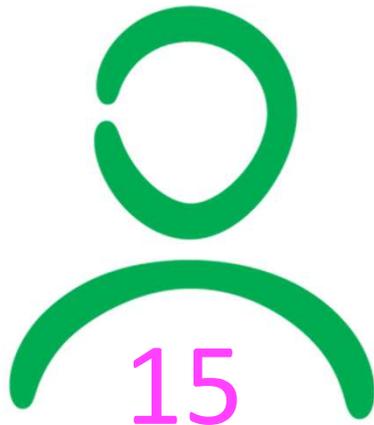
 **The Oaks**
Money Advice Centre

Foodbanks and People



Blackburn Foodbank and The Oaks

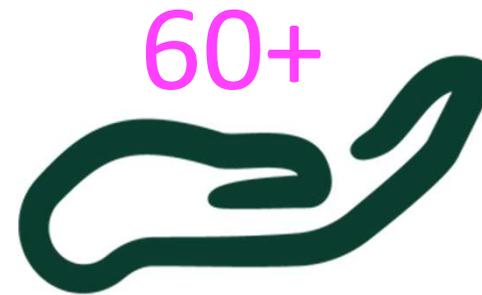
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Members of staff

9

Trustees



Volunteers

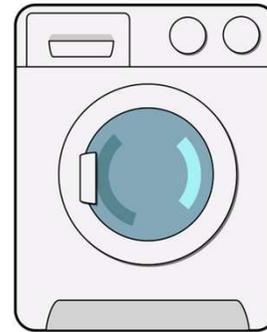
Why do people need to use a food bank?



Not enough money



Lost job



Broken washing machine



Broken down car

How does our food bank and The Oaks help?



We provide emergency food parcels for people who need them.



We help people with their money.
We provide emergency fuel support



We work with other services: employment support, mental and physical health.

What has our food bank been doing?

16,393

People supported in 2024



6,477

Children supported in 2024



74,500kg

Food
collected

How many people use The Oaks each year?

559

People supported in
the last year

£2,725,297.54

Money managed

What questions prompt conversations?

What has brought you to this crisis?

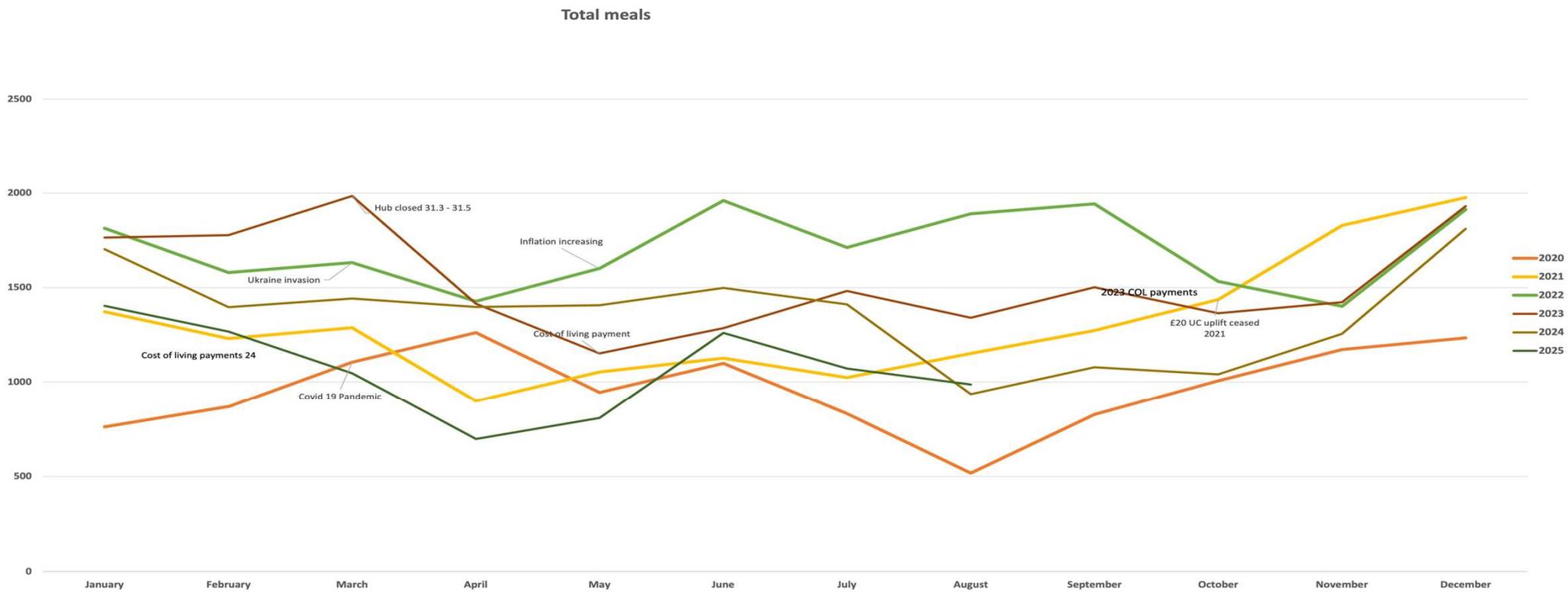
Why do you need to access the foodbank?

You've had a referral from x, how are you involved with them?

How did The Foodbank start?

Need

Need?



How did The Foodbank and The Oaks develop?

Need

Funding

How did The Foodbank develop?

Need

Funding

Training

Successes and challenges

Staffing

Client
Engagement

Resources
Space
Time

Successes and challenges

Case study
John
Rachel

Life changing



Thank You!

Please contact:

john.whitton@blackburn.anglican.org

annie@bwdfoodalliance.org.uk

manager@blackburn.foodbank.org.uk



The Oaks
Money Advice Centre

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES