



for a life less ordinary

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Dear Friends,

Thank you and Happy Christmas!

On behalf of all the Storehouse Foodbank team, I would like to thank you for your much-valued partnership throughout this last year.

It is our shared privilege to be able to reach out to so many local families and individuals in crisis. It is also something that so wonderfully unites many of us in our town and surrounding villages.

Waitrose shoppers have shown amazing generosity with food donations at our recent foodbank weekend in Sudbury. It has meant that we have been able to give out at least 125 life-saving emergency hampers to feed 265 people and provide greater peace over the Christmas period.

It rounds up an extraordinary year of donations fuelled by extraordinary need. Through our relationships with churches, schools, voluntary organisations and businesses, Storehouse Foodbank is able to provide the most vulnerable people in our community with hope and, in the process, given them back their dignity and self-esteem. I can't state enough how important it is for them to know that someone cares with 'no strings attached'.

Along the way, we have had the privilege of praying with our clients. We praise God that we have seen a number of significant healings and people coming to faith this year.

I will be the first to say that I wish that foodbanks did not exist, and I also look forward to the day when we get put out of business by the decreasing reliance on them. But I am also aware of Jesus' words, "The poor you will always have with you". So until His return, I can assure you that we will do all we can do to continue to pour out Christ-like compassion on the lost, broken-hearted and downtrodden.

Lastly, you might like to know that we now have 34 Storehouse Collection Points in and around Sudbury, including the newly added Co-op East of England local stores, as well as a large Sudbury employer who has set one up just for their employees. God's light is shining brightly in the darkness!

May the Lord bless you this Christmas.

Enjoy a peaceful New Year.

Yours in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Stewart-Darling, *Senior Pastor, Stour Valley Vineyard Church*