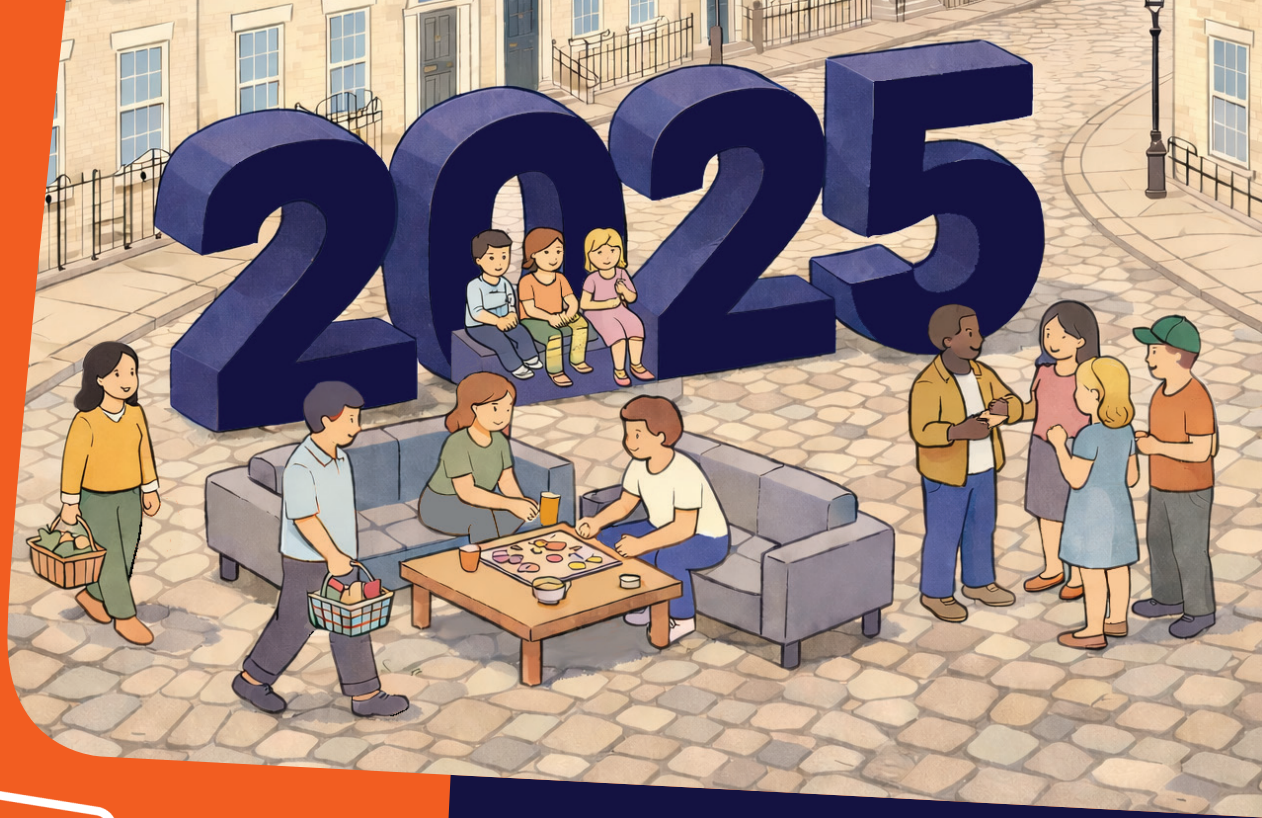




Oasis

Bath

Yearbook

At a Glance

109

Number of
Pantry sessions

363

Number of Support
Group Meetings
over **7** groups

151

Number of
people attending
Living Room

£23.79

Average weekly
saving per Pantry
customer

38801kg

Total Weight
of Food received
at the Pantry

56

Number of
volunteers on
Church related
teams

8

Number of
Micro Hubs

69

Number of
volunteers at Oasis
(in addition to church)

16

Number of people
attending Oasis
Kitchen

51

Number of
Oasis Under 18
sessions

Contents

At a Glance	 2
Contents & Introduction	 4
About Us	 6
Joys and Challenges	 8
Sam's Story	 11
2025 Timeline	 12
Bath Welcomes Refugees	 14
AA and SWEDA	 16
Pantry Member's Story	 18
Finances, Funding and Giving	 20
Social Media Highlights	 22
Billy's Story	 23
What People Say About us	 24
Join Us	 26

Introduction

A message from Jo Dolby, our Community Director.

Hello! Welcome to the first edition of our Oasis Bath 'Yearbook', an evolution in both name and approach for us as we evaluated our impact reporting and identified how we wanted to change and improve this.

As a church and charity we of course want to communicate the impact we're having in people's lives and the difference our projects make. But impact reporting focuses only on that, and we felt the need to tell our story more honestly, and present to you an honest snapshot of a year in the life of our community. You'll find stories of impact of course, but also things that didn't quite work so well, things we have learned, and hopefully a more narrative focused version of our last year.

In 2025, which this Yearbook focuses on, Oasis UK celebrated 40 years of making a difference in local communities, with a reminder of our desire to build stronger communities where no one is left out. We are so proud to be a part of that movement, and we hope you enjoy reading about what that has looked like for Oasis Bath in 2025.

With thanks as ever for your support and friendship, we couldn't do it without you!

Jo Dolby

Community Director

About Us

If you climb the stairs from the foyer in our church building you will pass a big grey slab declaring itself to be a memorial stone, laid on July 7th, 1869. Whilst things have changed radically since then and our identity has evolved and widened beyond that of just a Baptist Church, it is important to remember that we are part of a longstanding tradition of faith and community service on this site, and beyond it.

In 2018, the members of Hay Hill Baptist Church made a big decision to join Oasis UK, at the time the only church ever to have done so. This was the culmination of a long process as the existing church congregation asked big questions about our place in this city, our community's needs, and how to embody a progressive and inclusive theology. Oasis UK embodied all of those things. We share and now join in with the Oasis vision 'for community, a place where everybody is included, contributing, and reaching their God-given potential', and everything we do is in the hope of realising that vision.



The five Oasis ethos values also shape all of the work we do, and we hope that you will see them lived out in every area of our practice;

A passion to include everyone

A desire to treat everyone equally, respecting differences

A commitment to healthy and open relationships

A deep sense of hope that things can change and be transformed

A sense of perseverance to keep going for the long haul

So what does that actually look like? Well, since 2018, we have grown with the support of Oasis into a thriving community charity and church: Oasis Bath. Part of what we do is our faith gatherings under the name Oasis Church Bath, but we also aim to support the holistic wellbeing of people of all faiths and none through our community work, which takes various names and forms to adapt and respond to local need and voice. We also love to host and support the community work of others, recognising our building as a needed community asset.

Yearbook is a snapshot of how we have lived out our vision and values as a community in 2025, and how we are, to quote another Oasis vision statement, 'building stronger communities where no one is left out'.



Joys and Challenges

Amanda Higgin: Associate Minister

Joy: Graduation & Ordination

After 5 years of theology college, I am so proud and overjoyed to have been ordained as a Baptist minister in October 2025. I am hugely thankful to everybody, both at college and here at Oasis, who has trusted and encouraged me up to this point, and my ordination service was a wonderful gathering of people from all over the country. This is the end of one journey but the beginning of another, and I plan to never stop learning!



Challenge: Micro Hub

I have wanted to set up a new Micro Hub (church small group) for a while, and tested out a few ideas with the Church Steering Group none of which seemed quite right. In May, I started Friday Morning Coffee Club in response to several specific requests for a social, daytime micro hub, but it turned out that wasn't quite right either. Numbers dwindled from 5 attendees to 1, and it closed after two months. I don't regret giving it a go or making that decision with the information we had, but it obviously wasn't quite what people needed.



Paul Green: Hub Admin Assistant

Joy: Volunteers

It's truly humbling to see how the pantry volunteers so generously give up their time for the pantry. They're always willing to help and very prompt to respond to my emails - they really are a joy to work with!

Challenge: MS Excel

I'd never really used spreadsheets before joining the Oasis team at the start of the year, so it's been fascinating to learn how they work, although I realise I've still only scratched the surface. It's surprising how many systems are needed to make the pantry run smoothly.



Claire Henwood: Community Work Manager

Joy: Integration

This year feels like a lot of different elements have come together, making a clear and cohesive story about the wider benefits of our pantries.

Challenge: Uncertainty

This year has also proved to be the year with the greatest degree of uncertainty yet about future funding. It's hard to hold the tension of that, along with the amazing stories of transformation and integration from members.



Joy: Newbies

The best part of my role is connecting with new people who start attending the church or volunteer at the Pantry. Most of this contact begins via email, and I consider it a privilege to represent Oasis Bath in those first interactions. Later, I have the joy of meeting them in person - whether on a Sunday morning or during a visit to the Pantry.

Elayne Morgan: Hub Team Administrator

Challenge: Building Issues

Given the age of the building, it's no surprise that maintenance issues arise regularly.

The real challenge is coordinating repairs as they come up, especially when we rely on external agencies to schedule visits or carry out work. This year, we've had to reschedule multiple times due to factors beyond our control, which can be quite frustrating.





Sam's Story

Coming to the pantry has changed my life for the good and saved my life really. I came to the pantry one day and there was a nurse here doing covid vaccines. I had my covid vaccine and while I was here I felt very unwell. The nurse checked my blood pressure and she said it was just absolutely rocketing so Claire (Community Work Manager) gave me her phone and I rang up the hospital and they said to go straight there and get checked - I was actually put on an ECG machine and they found out that I had very high blood pressure.

Coming here saved my life, so I am so grateful to the pantry and all their staff because I wouldn't be here today without that.

When you come to the pantry there is meat as well as vegetables which you can choose. I did the cooking course here, that helped as well because all the food was healthy that we used each week.

That's all helped me to change my diet - I've lost two stone two pounds which I wouldn't have done at all. Coming here and having fresh vegetables and food that we can't otherwise afford means I've actually changed everything with my diet.

I am so grateful because I'm here and I'm living.



2025 Timeline

January



'Manifesto' speaking series

New boiler and radiators installed

Living room project

Partnership Sunday

Oasis Kitchen workshops

Belated staff Christmas party



February



Living Room project

Community Forum

DSL training at church

Queer Activism meeting



March



Jay Hulme poetry event

Oasis Regional Forum

Ash Wednesday

Trans awareness training

Oasis launched No One Left Out (NoLo) campaign

Launch Hub Plan

Open Table network

April



Radio Bath appearance

BWR and SWEDA Oasis partners

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

New Pantry prices

Church AGM

Feeding Britain Webinar



May



BANES Strategy Workshop

Friday Coffee Club Micro Hub

Lou Bisset from Oasis Reading visit – All-age service and planning

NoLo event in London



June



Volunteer Week

3SG Summer Social

Pantry Filming

Guarantee Our Essentials visit

All Governance group meeting and meal

Welcome Community Network meeting

A much loved pantry member's funeral

Elayne visited Oasis Waterloo

Oasis National Leaders Conference

July



Oasis 40th birthday community lunch

Community Forum

Oasis Kids – trip to Botanical Gardens

West of England Baptist Network AGM

Bath Pride

August



Building sorting day

Deep Clean

Maintenance Day

Summer Sundays

National Trust Event

September



Community Forum

Parenting Forward Micro Hub started

‘Trajectories’ speaking series

Met with “Stop the Traffik” to discuss Trauma Informed Practice

Attended B&NES Food Strategy workshop

October



Oasis Church Leader’s Day

Amanda’s Ordination

3SG volunteer fair

Embodied Faith Event

Hub volunteer coffee morning

November



Potatoes in the Park event

All Soul’s Day Reflective Service

Hosted our first supported intern from Bath College

Welcome Community Network meeting

Affordable Food Network meeting

Trans Day of Remembrance service

December



LGBT+ Carol service

Big Give campaign

Brew House Quiz (Fundraiser)

Church Forum (Name Change)

Superhero Fun Run

Staff drinks and Secret Santa

Christmas Day Breakfast Butties and Service

Hosted Wessex Water corporate volunteers





Text provided by BWR

Bath Welcomes Refugees (BWR)

is committed to making Bath a welcoming place for people who have been forcibly displaced from their homelands. The charity helps refugees and asylum seekers to build new lives by providing English language and educational support, assistance with resettlement needs and integration issues and arranging social gatherings in order to connect communities and reduce feelings of isolation.

Since April 2025 Oasis has been the venue for the BWR Afghan social group. Being able to provide a safe, welcoming space where Afghan people can connect, share experiences and feel less alone - helping to build a sense of community, belonging and hope.

A central part of Afghan culture is the sharing of food so these events provide an opportunity for people to cook traditional recipes to bring along for others to enjoy. This gives refugee families a chance to proudly share a piece of home and keep their culture alive. Whilst the sessions offer adults a chance to meet and talk, the children get the opportunity to do arts and crafts, play with toys or simply run around and let off steam.

The BWR volunteers who run the group relish the opportunity to meet and talk with the Afghan families, answer any questions or simply help people practice their English.

Unfortunately, the increasingly hostile political debate means some of the people we support feel unsafe. We work very hard to offer them reassurance and do all we can to increase their sense of safety.

This means we are very careful in how the events are advertised and we have volunteers on the door so only those who are invited are able to attend.

We are excited to be planning more Afghan social groups at Oasis and are also looking at different models of delivery to ensure we best meet this community's needs. Watch this space!

Oasis provides us with a fantastic venue right in the heart of Bath. The facilities are excellent and we have flexibility in terms of how we use the space. We really appreciate being able to borrow the toys for the children and use the kitchen area.

It is a very calm space and the people who attend the group are getting to know it and always seem relaxed and comfortable. We are very grateful for the support that Oasis has given us and we really value the collaboration.

To date there have been 3 Afghan social groups, which have offered support to 82 people.





The **Monday Alcoholics Anonymous**

meeting continues to thrive as a warm and welcoming space - open to newcomers, old-timers and everyone in between. We're proud to be a resilient and inclusive group where people from all walks of life feel safe, supported and heard.

Our group ethos is strong, with all service roles filled. While we face challenges from time to time, our shared commitment and unity keep us grounded in AA principles and make a real difference.

Although many of our members are based in and around Bath, we have regulars from Bristol, Portishead, Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire. Thanks to our central and accessible location, we often welcome visiting AAs from further afield and abroad. We're especially grateful for the clean, comfortable, secure venue which offers plenty of space, instant hot water and even a dishwasher!

The consistency of being able to meet on bank holidays is a real bonus for us. As a group, we're steady and well-balanced. We hold monthly conscience meetings to check in, smooth out any wrinkles, and ensure we remain open and responsive to anyone seeking sobriety.

A big thank you to Oasis for your support over the past year.

Text provided by Alcoholics Anonymous

Text provided by SWEDA



SWEDA is a local charity dedicated to providing specialist support to children, young people and adults affected by eating disorders in the South & West of England.

We provide preventative and recovery focused support through 1-2-1 counselling, nutritional support, support groups, guidance and resources, family services, schools outreach and a helpline.

Working with Oasis Bath has meant we've been able to offer face to face counselling to adults in Bath for the first time, where previously no specialist eating disorder service had been on offer. Oasis have provided a regular space from which we can deliver our 1-2-1 therapy sessions for clients seeking support with their recovery.

Here's what one client had to say about the support we provided:

“Really high quality services and incredibly well-trained staff. The support provided is life-saving.”



Pantry Member's Story

"I've been attending Oasis Pantry for a number of years now, as well as Living Room where my children and I have meals as part of the community. Because I'm a single parent, it's been really nice to connect with other people and have a safe space for us to come where we always feel welcome and included.

The Pantry itself basically keeps us going, because no matter what's going on financially, whatever stresses and strains we've got, it's always an accessible price point for us to be able to come and be sorted for the week.

I have two young children, both awaiting assessments for autism and ADHD, and certain things that other people take for granted are very difficult, especially going shopping. Both my boys are a flight risk which makes supermarkets and their car parks really challenging places. When I come to the Pantry with my boys, there's always someone to take them to the craft table and help entertain them or offer them a biscuit or a drink to enable me to shop.



I've recently learnt new skills at Oasis Kitchen. We cooked an amazing butternut squash curry, which was a real hit with my four-year-old. That was after the Energy Workshop where we were given slow cookers and learned low energy recipes for these and microwaves and such. I've always just had the basics in my kitchen and I didn't actually have these additional things, which are labour-saving and time-saving as well.

One of the brilliant things for me about Oasis is that it's really a holistic approach - it's about giving you skills too as well as food. It's also educating and enabling us to make informed choices and to be able to manage our households more efficiently, whether that be with energy or using sustainable items for cooking. I feel

that the impact is not just short term, it really does set you up with skills for life going forward and I'm really grateful.

A new addition to the Pantry has been Citizen's Advice coming here and that's been huge. I'd been trying to get through to Citizen's Advice on their main helpline for a long time and after a quick meeting with Sally, she had everything she needed to connect me with the right person. I'm pleased to say that, after several months of regularly going to see an advisor at Citizen's Advice, things are now much more manageable. I'm able to access things that I didn't even know I was entitled to, as well as saving money on our bills. As a family we just don't feel so alone.



There's always a friendly face and someone here to talk to, especially if you're not having a good day. You might come in feeling a little bit anxious or stressed but you end up feeling a lot lighter when you leave. It's just felt very inclusive, non-judgmental and I've always felt supported.

Recently, whilst we were in alternative accommodation a bit further away than usual, I had quite a serious illness, which meant that I couldn't drive and I was no longer able to come to the Pantry as I normally would. At that time we needed the Pantry and support from Oasis more than ever. What was so fantastic was how creative everyone was in adapting the service, shopping on my behalf and enabling someone else to come by and pick it up each week. When I did come back everyone was so welcoming and supportive and pleased to see me.



**Bath &
North East
Somerset**

I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Oasis - all the volunteers and staff who go above and beyond to support people like me in the community. Without them our lives would be very different. I just so hope that Oasis receive the ongoing support and funding that it needs to keep doing the amazing work that it's doing."

Finances, Funding and Giving

Oasis Bath has continued to thrive thanks to the generosity of our community and the vital support of grant funders. During September '24 to August '25, our work has been made possible by a blend of regular giving from individuals and successful grant applications. This combined support has enabled us to keep our projects running, our spaces open, and our services accessible to everyone who needs them.

General Giving

We are deeply grateful for the regular donations from our church community and other local supporters. Regular giving provides a stable foundation for our work, allowing us to plan ahead and respond quickly to new challenges. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us to make a real difference.

Pantry Donations

The Pantry project continues to thrive thanks to the generosity of our regular supporters, whose ongoing donations help sustain our work week by week. We're also grateful for those who have raised funds through charity events—such as half marathons—demonstrating a real commitment to supporting the Pantry. Their efforts are deeply appreciated by both our members and volunteers, and play a vital role in keeping the project running effectively.

A special mention goes to our local partner, Landrace Bakery, whose consistent support has made a significant impact. Over the past year, their customers have generously donated 893 loaves of artisan bread, along with monthly contributions averaging £450. These donations have enabled us to support those experiencing food insecurity and have strengthened our ability to respond to the needs of our community. The partnership with Landrace is a powerful example of how small, regular acts of kindness can create lasting change.



Grant Income

In addition to general giving and pantry giving, we have been successful in securing several significant grants. These funds have supported key projects such as the Pantry, our Hub Projects, and general community activities.

In total, Oasis Bath received over £84,600 in grant income this year.

This funding has been crucial in helping us keep our services affordable and available to all, especially during times of increased need.

Impact

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and funders, we have:

- Kept our community spaces open and welcoming
- Expanded our Pantry provision to support more families
- Responded flexibly to the changing needs of our community.

Looking Ahead

Despite our success in 2024/25, like many other charities, we are now facing a funding crisis. The team have been busy applying for grants but with a less than normal success rate. The church community responded amazingly to the challenge and general giving has increased, but we have a long way to go to secure the next few years of funding.

We are committed to building on this success by continuing to seek new funding opportunities and encouraging regular giving. We are hopeful that with your support, we can ensure Oasis Bath remains a place of hope, support, and opportunity for everyone in our community.

Notable grants received this year include:

Arnold Clark
£2,500 for the Pantry and £500 for Hub Projects

GroundWork
£29,818 for a new boiler system

Local Giving
£4,683 for new radiators for the 'Green Room'

Feeding Britain
£7,500 for the Pantry

Quartet Community Foundation
£4,000 for the Pantry, £5,000 for Hub Projects,
and £797 for the Pantry

BANES
£10,800 and £19,000 for Hub Projects
to help with salaries

Social Media Highlights



“ Billy’s Story*

I’m a volunteer at the Pantry.

Around two years ago I was recovering from surgery on my hip and I was finding it very hard financially. I heard about the Pantry so I applied. After a while I offered my services of volunteer - in the mornings I help with the deliveries and then in the afternoon I help ensure the customers are cared for and all of the shelves are restocked.

During the winter months I also volunteered in the evenings at Oasis Living Room, which is a place for people to come along to one evening a week. It offered games, social environment and a free meal, and it is a bit of respite for people that maybe have social anxieties, who are on their own during the winter times, struggling with the financial cost of heating, which we all know about, so it’s really good to get people together and just have that sort of respite and social aspect.

I started volunteering at the pantry around 14 months ago. I found it great to meet new people - I’ve made so many new friends, the volunteers are beautiful people and from different backgrounds, as also are the customers that come here.

It’s given me a boost of confidence - and lot of the jobs that I’ve been applying for more recently have been jobs that I wouldn’t have initially thought about applying for. The knowledge that I’ve gained from volunteering here, for instance learning a lot more about the benefits side of things from Citizens Advice, and all the signposting that the Pantry does, has enabled me to apply for and start a job working in the Civil Service. I feel that a lot of this is because of the skills that I’ve learned from volunteering at the pantry.

The pantry team offered to write a reference for me, and I know that like many other people that are working here as volunteers, who’ve also been going through the same thing, it’s really very beneficial to be able to put this on their CVs.

It’s been very helpful in enabling me to find a job, and hopefully I’ll be able to give something back to the community as the pantry’s been doing.

What People Say About Us



“

This place helped me with my electricity bills, I saw someone who helped me. It was amazing. She was so helpful, non judgemental. Life is hard. Everything is.. I trust the people here because they care, they take the time. It's all the little things...

”

“

The Oasis Hub is a very worthwhile project that provides vital support to the local community. The staff at the hub were very welcoming and grateful for our help.

They were passionate about their work and also very professional, as they ensure that all members of the hub are treated with dignity and compassion.

”

Volunteer from
Wessex Water

“

I feel like this place here, this is my community.

Everyone here smiles, looks and listens to each other....some people come and go I've noticed, without speaking to people, but thats fine, that's up to them.

I look forward to coming here every week. There's tea and biscuits, too. That's good because you can sit and take a breath for a minute while you're waiting... that's nice.

”

“

Thanks so much for allowing me to visit the pantry yesterday, it was brilliant to see it and witness all the work that goes into running it for members. I was so impressed with the way that you're managing the price rise. The way that Oasis Pantries is doing it seems so considered and engaged, and I was really impressed with the openness of communication with members. I found it so valuable to visit.

”

Anna Lopez
Feeding Britain



“

I just wish they all (food pantries) offered the same things.

I wish they were all like this one, it would make life so much easier.

”

Pantry Member

“

My dog Habs is an 8 year old Border Collie who needs a lot of protein in his diet. The Pantry pet food is fantastic. It offers a good combination of dry food, canned and soft packets. The Pantry has been extremely generous and extremely helpful, especially since the Cost of Living Crisis.

”

Pantry Member



“

I think for the people that have been coming for a long time, this is part of their life and they rely not just on the affordable food, but it is the advice and support that they appreciate.

For some people, going to the OneStop may be just too much of a task. Having Citizen's Advice come here is great. I think it has opened people's thoughts up to saying 'yes' to more.

”

Volunteer



“

I think the relationships and trust is built here by us taking the time to speak with people individually.

I try to remember everyone's names, and if I can't, I'll make a joke about it and still acknowledge them.

”

Volunteer

Join Us - Get Involved

How do I get involved?

Whether you're curious about our community projects or considering joining Oasis Church Bath, we'd love to help you take the next step. We believe everyone has something valuable to bring, and we're excited to see how you might get involved.

Join us on Sundays at Oasis Church Bath

We'd love to welcome you to one of our Sunday gatherings. Whether you're new or just curious, you'll receive a friendly hello and a welcome pack full of helpful info about who we are and what we're about.

You're welcome to join us at the church or watch live via our Upcoming Sundays page.

<https://oasisbath.org/sundays/>

Come as you are

If you've ever felt like you didn't quite fit in elsewhere, we hope you'll feel right at home here. The banners at the front of our church say "Come as you are" - and we truly mean it.

Got questions?

Our team is always happy to chat - just speak to someone on the day or drop us an email and we'll get back to you.

Oasis Pantry

Interested in volunteering with Oasis Pantry? We'd love to hear from you.

We're always looking for friendly, reliable volunteers to help with:

- Unpacking and setting up our weekly food deliveries
- Supporting our members during opening hours

Not sure what it involves? No problem - we're happy to arrange a visit so you can see everything in action before you decide.

Just email us at **pantry@oasisbath.org** and we'll take it from there!

Could you be a virtual volunteer?

We're looking for people who can support us from home with occasional, one-off online tasks. These small contributions make a big difference, helping to ease the load on our busy staff team.

This might be perfect for you if:

- You're juggling work or life commitments and can't commit to regular volunteering
- You prefer to help from home, at your own pace
- You have limited mobility or health concerns that make in-person volunteering tricky

If that sounds like you, we'd love to hear from you!

Just email us at **welcome@oasisbath.org** and we'll be in touch.

**Oasis exists to
build stronger communities**
where there is no one left out.

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