

## Farnworth Baptist Church



Farnworth Baptist Church is located in a small town between Bolton and Salford, and in recent years the church has become a growing and thriving congregation, under the ministry of John Bradbury, who here, shares about the church's work and vital provision to the community through their foodbank...

"Last year, Alex Malone was invited to talk to the Rotary Club of Worsley about her role as Community Development and Outreach Worker, and in particular her management of the Trussell Trust Foodbank. So effective was her presentation, six members and three of their wives volunteered to help at Farnworth and Kearsley Foodbank, both at The Well (Farnworth Baptist Church's building) and Cleggs Lane Methodist Church in Little Hulton.



Working at the Foodbank under Alex's direction, the Rotarians became aware of not just her role in the organisation, but everything else beyond the day to day running of the sessions, including the collection of food at the local Tesco stores and from other donors but also the many other tasks involved.

In addition they learned about her work at Farnworth Baptist Church which hosts the Foodbank. There she tackles many of the social problems that resulted in the need for the Trussell Trust's assistance. Alex's work in the church includes practical help such as sessions on computer skills, how to produce a CV or to prepare for an interview, in addition to pointers to outside agencies who could actively assist.

The Rotary Club were so impressed by Alex's contribution to helping those in need in the community, linking as it did to the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self", that they decided to nominate her for the movement's Paul Harris Fellowship.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, Alex was invited to return to the Worsley Club to give an update on the work of the Trussell Trust. At the end of her talk a very surprised Alex was presented with the Certificate from Rotary International recording the award of the fellowship. Alex is only the fifth non-Rotarian to have received this award in 38 years. An Honour very well deserved."

***'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.  
Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.  
(Isaiah 55: 1-2)***

### For your thoughts and prayers:

- How could your church bless and serve its local community? Would your church consider getting involved in running a foodbank?
- Where and how could your church profile the work it is doing, to raise awareness and support 'outside' of the church itself?