

# STATS AND STORIES



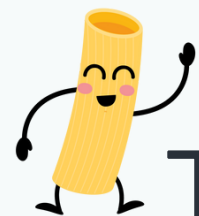
2023  
-  
2024

# No child should need to go to bed hungry



While the year brought many challenges, St Mark's Meals remained committed to providing Meals for a record number of local families. We've provided schools with food for an additional 2263 families this year and responded to a 54% increase in demand.





# Thank you

**Because of you, we've been able to provide vital Meal boxes to children and their families facing tough times**

Your generosity has brought comfort and relief to those in need, showing them that they're not alone. So, from all of us here, a huge heartfelt thanks for being such amazing supporters! We're excited to share the impact with you.



A family recently lost Grandma and Mum is now on her own with her child, she is struggling to make ends meet as Grandma was the named tenant on social housing. Mum feels comfortable to ask us now if she needs a St Mark's Meals box, which we are happy to deliver.

- MK School Teacher 2024



# 30%

**Of children in Milton Keynes are living in poverty**

\*According to the latest MK Community Foundation Vital Signs report 2024

In Milton Keynes, we know that many families struggle to put food on the table. Shockingly, 20.0% of households with kids report facing this challenge, while 45.4% of those on Universal Credit feel the pinch even more. These statistics from the latest Food Foundation food insecurity tracker show the widespread issue of food insecurity in our communities. Despite these challenges, we continue to hope that we are able to make a difference. St Mark's Meals exists to help make sure that no child goes hungry, providing vital support to families in need. As you dive into this report, you'll see the real impact of our work and why it's so essential.

**Together, we're not just addressing hunger; we're building a stronger, more caring community where everyone has enough to eat.**



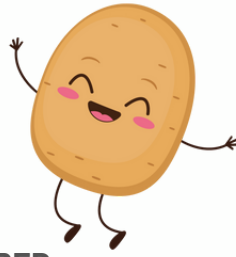
A mum came in to school in tears as she had no food at home and no means of buying any. We gave her a couple of boxes and she was so grateful.

- MK School Teacher 2024



6,386

MEALS BOXES DELIVERED



25,544

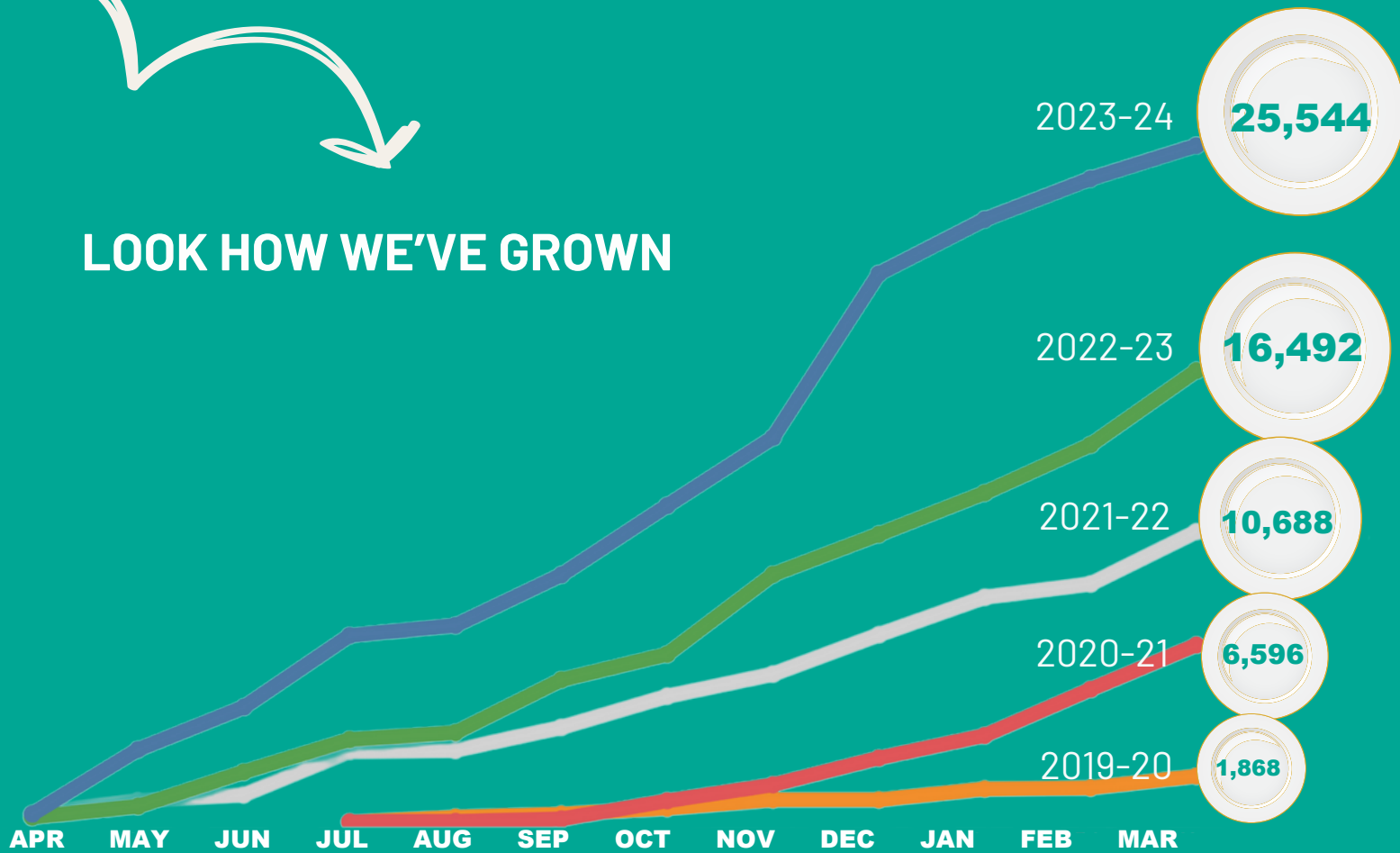
PLATES OF DINNER  
CREATED

17

NEW SCHOOL PARTNERS



## LOOK HOW WE'VE GROWN



# Our survey said....



**We asked our partner schools and children's centres to tell us about their experiences working with hungry children and St Mark's Meals. Here's a summary of their responses.**

- Teachers and support staff gave Meals boxes to children as support during difficult times. Such as families experiencing bereavement, domestic violence, sudden loss of support or financial hardship.
- They were given to provide practical assistance during transitions (such as changes in accommodation or financial support.)
- School staff tell us that the boxes provided both practical and emotional support for families. Reducing stress and providing precious moments for families to cook and eat together.
- Parents consistently expressed gratitude for the support provided from their community.

- St Mark's Meals boxes served as a lifeline for families facing various hardships, offering not just nourishment but also stability, comfort, and a sense of care and support during difficult circumstances.

A family had to flee their home due to domestic violence and the mum was worried about making ends meet and asked about having some of our pre-loved clothes. We then were able to mention St Mark's Meals. She was so thankful she said it was such a weight off her shoulders knowing they had some dinners.

- MK school administrator

# Our survey said....

Meals Boxes packed  
& delivered

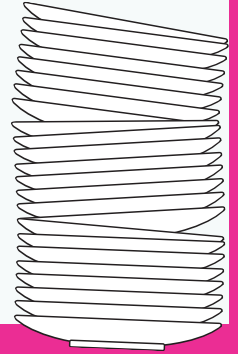


**6386**

Which Provides

**25,544**

Plates of  
delicious  
dinner



**17**

NEW  
Partner  
Schools and  
Children's centres

**118** total  
partners



## Most popular box

51 % of schools  
sureveyed reported  
Bolognese as a  
favourite

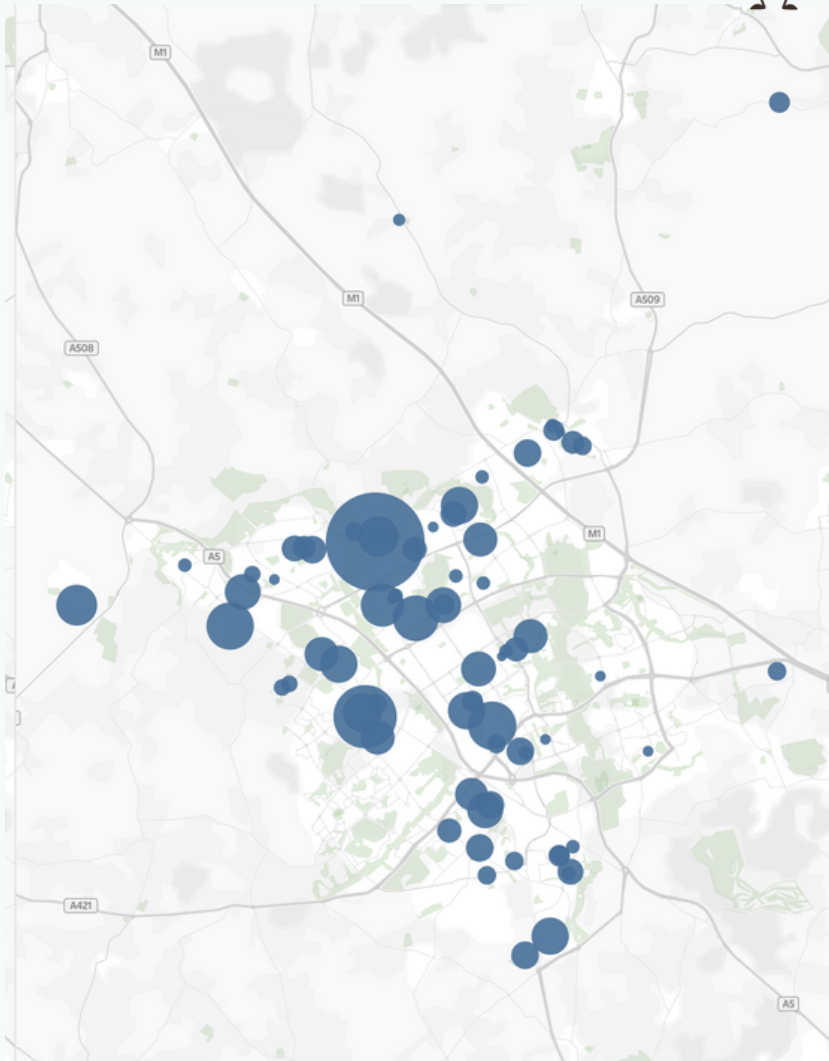


## Most ordered box

Brilliant Bolognese



# We now cover 118 schools and children's centres in MK



**This year we have added 17 more schools and children's centres in Milton Keynes who store our boxes, order regularly and step in to give them away whenever they spot the need**

We really want to thank our local teachers, TA's, family support workers, pastoral leads, and school office staff are the ones who have a relationship with the children and spot if they are going hungry. We onboard each new school with guidelines to help. We end up learning so much from them. Every setting is different. It's been great to meet so many caring people in Milton Keynes.

“It is very rewarding to be able to offer support to relieve some of the day-to-day stresses that our families face, we are also very grateful to be able to offer the boxes to our families to support them.”

– MK teacher



# Volunteers make it happen

There was a time when we packed boxes by ourselves! We can't even imagine that now. A fantastic team of regular volunteers cheerfully help us to create the volume of Meals we now get to distribute. They are what makes this operation work. We can't thank them enough.

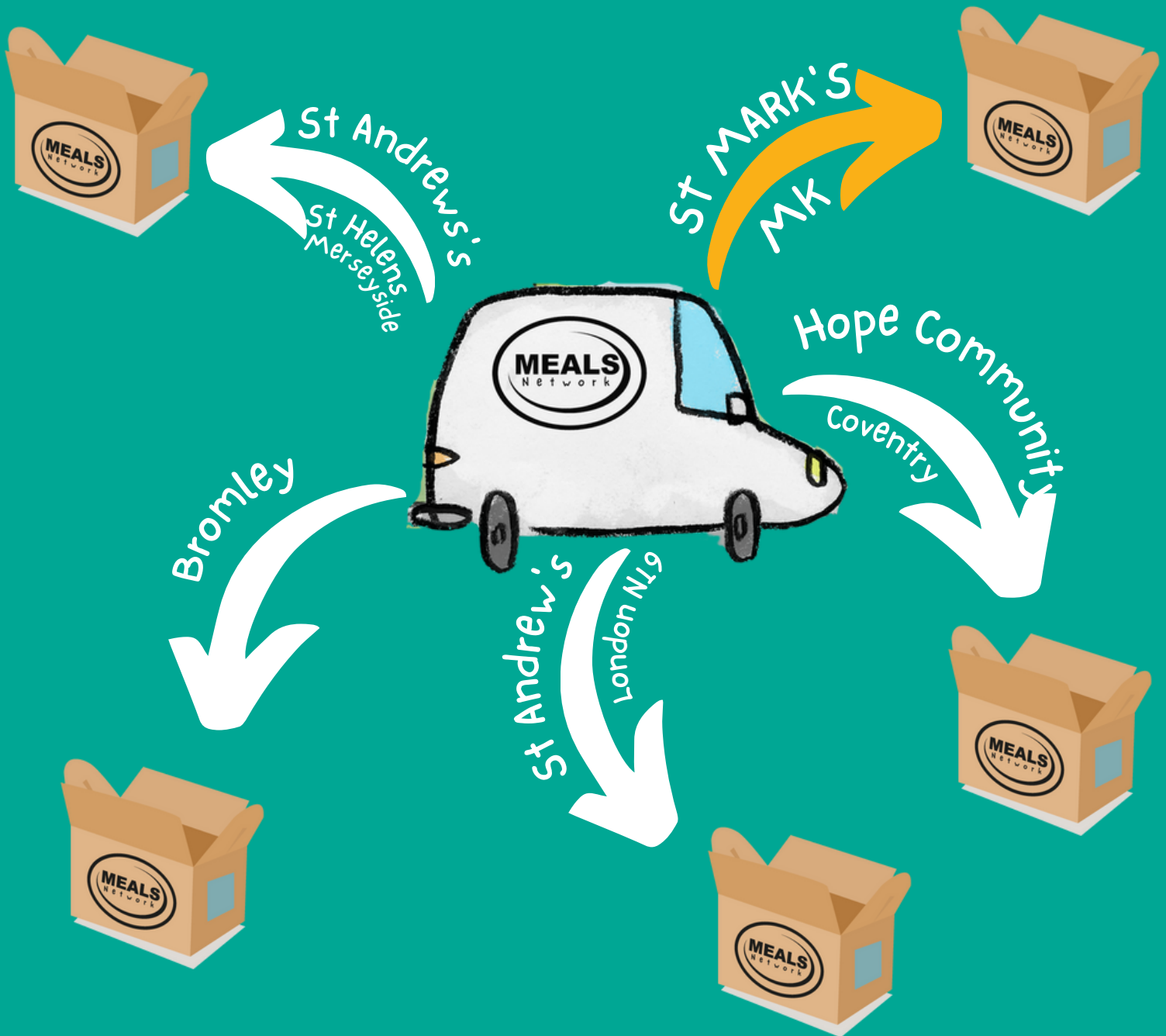




# GIVING IT AWAY



## Our Network of Meals Hubs



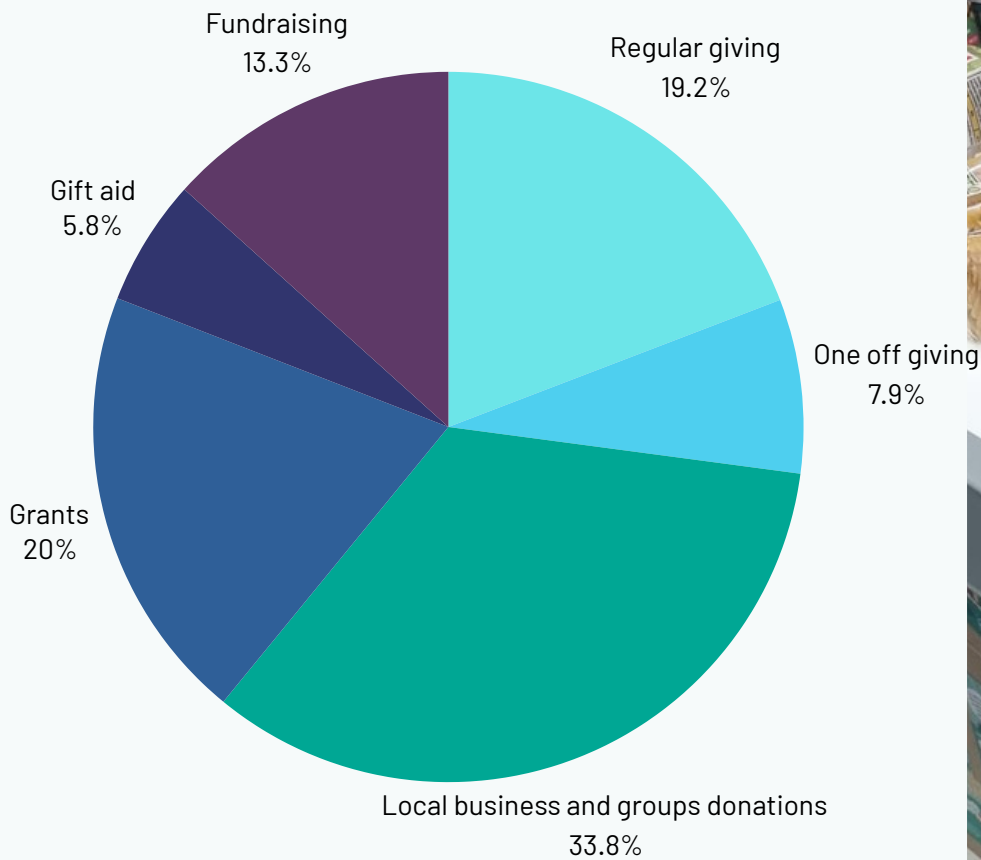
St Mark's Meals makes such a difference here in MK, we wanted to resource charities and churches in other areas to do the same. Our hubs are operating at small scale without much input from us since they began. Using our initial training and systems they're creating connections with local schools and continuing to provide them with Meals boxes for local children who need them.



# Finances

## ST MARK'S MEALS - INCOME

**£93,556.63**



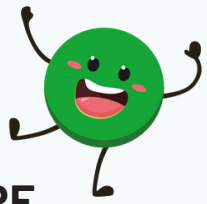
(As a teacher) it can be tough, its hard to know in 2024 people are struggling to feed their families. You want the best for all and a simple thing like providing a meal can go a long way.

- MK School teacher 2024



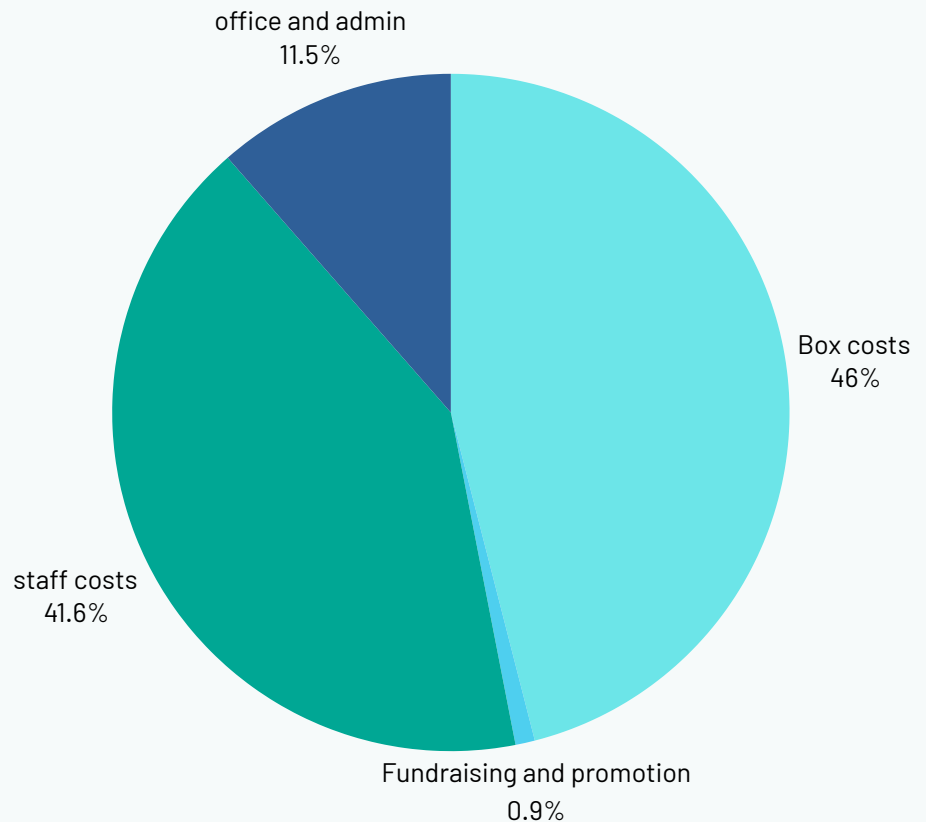


# Finances



## ST MARK'S MEALS - EXPENDITURE

**£99,170.45**



This year's deficit of £5611 is largely due to the increase in demand. Our income has almost kept pace with our outgoings. We need to continue to meet this increasing need and so will be looking at ways to increase our income and reduce our costs over the next year. We hope to receive a little extra in grant support and continue to engage our community of generous givers. We also hope to find alternative ways to purchase some of our food items to keep the cost low without sacrificing quality. We are delighted that we have been able to grow so much this year and help so many families.

# It's a team effort - thanks to all of you for your generous support

You have cheered us on, helped pack boxes, sent messages of support, donated money and got behind the mission of St Mark's Meals. Thank you to our volunteers, regular givers, and all of our friends and supporters in this brilliant community.

**Thank YOU from us:**

Paul Becky  
Jo Rachel  
and Angie

