

**12 Fairwater Grove West  
Llandaff  
Cardiff  
CF5 2JQ**

Dear Friend,

Vicki has given me this opportunity to share with you a new initiative that comes from my work at St Teilo's Church in Wales High School. I am enormously grateful for this opportunity to share our strategic vision with you and to ask you to consider supporting it.

St. Teilo's Church in Wales High School works with quite amazing young people but they are also amongst some of the poorest in the City of Cardiff. Many of our families subsist on low incomes, and over one in five of our pupils receive free school meals. The last lockdown taught us that many of our families can go hungry for all sorts of reasons ranging from loss of work or ill health to receiving an unexpected bill for a cooker that has suddenly blown or a fridge that has given up the ghost. That's why we have launched Puffins to provide our families with emergency access to fresh food and practical support when they face a crisis.

### **About Puffins**

Puffins was the vision of Ellie Williams, our previous Head of English. Ellie believed God was calling St Teilo's to provide practical support for families who found themselves in immediate crisis. It was her firm conviction that no family should have to go hungry or be forced to face a crisis on their own.

Ellie's vision was of a pantry that would be there to support our families in practical ways. Ellie sadly died of cancer at the age of 37 in December 2019. Puffins is our way of capturing her kindness and honouring her desire to see our young people flourish.

*"A puffins parcel made a big difference at a time of crisis and real darkness."*

### **Why Puffins**



Ellie never wanted the pantry to be named after her. She loved the outdoors and she particularly loved Puffins because of their sociability, colourfulness and their life-long faithfulness to one another. 'Puffins' seemed an apt name to give to this provision and we know that Ellie would have approved!

### **The Work of Puffins**

We work alongside our families by providing:

- An emergency fresh food Puffins-parcel;
- A slow cooker for families to keep, together with a four-day supply of fresh ingredients and suggested menus for a period of six weeks;

- Breakfast snacks to children who would otherwise go hungry; and
- An emergency packed lunch for children in school whose families have hit crisis.

In addition, with the support of our friends from the *BrekFlex: Rotary Club of Cardiff*, we also offer a backpack of nutritious food for children at risk of weekend hunger. These backpacks we hand out to pupils who make us aware that they face a weekend where they will be without access to food (perhaps because of a sudden crisis in the family or a breakdown in a looked-after placement). We also work with other partner agencies to:

- Provide qualifying vouchers for Cardiff Foodbank;
- Arrange access to organisations who provide white goods and household items; and
- Signpost to other food services for ongoing support.

In addition, we also help by providing good quality school uniform and equipment for those in need and offer an 'Encouragement Box' to those who just need reminding that they are loved.

### How Puffins is funded

Puffins was initially funded through donations made at Ellie's funeral. The on-going funding of our work is through the monthly giving of staff at our school.

*"Puffins are welcoming and understanding and we have been overwhelmed by their kind support".*

We also work closely with *Morrisons* who support Puffins with subsidised fresh produce. The *Rotary Club of Cardiff* also support us by funding and preparing our backpack provision.

If you would like to help us make sure that none of our families go hungry, then gifts of financial support, time, and food would make a real difference.

For more information, please email me at [puffins@stteilos.com](mailto:puffins@stteilos.com) or telephone 029 20547180 and ask for Puffins. If you are in a position to give monthly to our work or gift us a one-off donation then the account details are: **BANK: NatWest, ACCOUNT NAME: St Teilo's Church in Wales High School Amenities Fund, SORT CODE: 52 21 63, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 12333077**

We are a new initiative and will do all we can to mitigate the effects of austerity and hardship in our community and aim to support our children and their families with dignity and hope. We want our families to know that they "are loved with an everlasting love" and that God embraces them "with unfailing kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3).

As ever,

Gareth

