

**From:** Anchora  
**Sent:** 26 January 2022 09:18  
**To:** Bookings <[Bookings@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Bookings@witney-tc.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Event at the Corn Exchange to raise funds for local charity Anchora

Dear Hollie,

Many thanks for taking the time to show me around the Corn Exchange the other day with a view to our charity, Anchora, holding a fundraising event there later this year.

As requested, please find details about Anchora below.

### About Anchora

Anchora was founded in early October 2021 by Emma Bishop and me (Katie Lewis). Emma Bishop had been using a food bank the previous winter and wanted to help others who found themselves in the same predicament this year. She began posting on social media asking people to make a donation by buying Christmas presents for children on her Amazon wish list. She then packaged up bespoke boxes for every family. Colleagues at the Town Council may have seen her posts, and she has become somewhat of a local hero in Witney. I reached out to her a couple of weeks after she started collecting donations in late October, and Anchora was born. Anchora means anchor in latin, and we think it symbolises stability and hope. I'm attaching our beautiful logo to this email.

### Our mission

The mission of Anchora is to support those local families who find themselves in the greatest need with boxes of nappies, sanitary items, toiletries, cleaning products and other essential items. We also advise on where people can get help (church groups, CAB, Baby Bank etc.) and at our discretion we provide supermarket vouchers (which cannot be used for the purchase of alcohol, tobacco or gambling) and funds for electricity and gas metres. In the run-up to Christmas we also provided bespoke Christmas presents for children, as many parents were extremely distressed that they were unable to give their children a proper Christmas.

Our mission post-Christmas is to continue helping with boxes of necessary items and to support struggling families in other ways. We are particularly concerned about the rise of fuel poverty and the exacerbation of this problem when the cap on energy bills rises in April.

Anchora only helps those in greatest need. Most of the people we help are single mothers, and many of them have experienced domestic abuse or serious illness. Many families sleep in one room because they can't afford to heat the rest of their home, and parents don't eat so that their children can eat. These are the people we prioritise in our work. Anchora is based in Witney and supports surrounding towns and villages within about a 15 mile radius.

### Why we are asking for your help

To date, Anchora has delivered over 400 boxes of toys and essential items and has provided about £500 in supermarket vouchers and fuel funding for local families. However, there were over 100 people that we had to turn away before Christmas due to lack of funding, we are getting new people reaching out to us regularly, and most of the families we helped before Christmas now require our assistance again. Up to Christmas, we relied on generous donations from the local community via

Facebook posts on 'I Love Witney' and 'Spotted Witney', and donations from friends and family. However, this is not sustainable.

We now find ourselves in desperate need of funding as we are in touch with hundreds of local families and we are unable to support them.

#### How you can help

We would be extremely grateful for the following help from Witney Town Council:

- Free use of the Corn Exchange to hold a fundraising event on a Saturday evening in late spring/ early summer (we have some experience of running fundraising events so we can do it well)
- Promotion of our event and charity on social media
- Advice and support regarding local businesses we may be able to pair up with for sponsorship, both to sponsor the event and for long-term sponsorship
- Advice and support regarding other local charities we can pair up with so that we are complementing each other's work and working efficiently and in tandem
- We have both signed up for the OCVA charity-running workshops, and the first one was great! Any further support like this would be much appreciated

Thank you very much for considering our requests. We would be delighted to meet you, either in person or over Zoom, to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,  
Katie Lewis  
Anchora, Co-Founder