

Encompass is a Rushden-based charity that is involved in helping the community in a wide range of activities.

Food Bank: the food bank has seen huge increases in demand since 2020 with the lockdown and then the increased cost of living. Items are donated by other people through direct gifts, some are obtained directly from local supermarkets and quite a lot has to be bought (mainly items that are essential but not high on the donors list).

Other areas: Encompass also provides sanctuary for men and women who cannot remain at home for various reasons, who are homeless or who are on a 'recovery' path from prison or addiction.

Whitefriars Church has been financially supporting the food bank (and continues to do so), enabling the acquisition of some of the items that are not always donated. Should church members wish to help in this way, donations of long-life milk, jars of jam, small bags of sugar, and tinned items are always welcome and can be given to Melvyn to be handed on or taken to the delivery warehouse (at the back of where Peter Crisp was). The church also helps in providing minibus support at a much reduced rate, enabling those in Recovery House to access the large range of activities made available to residents. We have also provided some support to those moving on from Recovery House into their own flats by supplying items of furniture suitable for a single-person accommodation.

Prayer Points: protection for all staff and volunteers; continued generosity from donors of food and financial support; thanks to God for the provision of times, resources and expertise in helping people to 'get back on track' with their lives.