**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR JANUARY 2016**

It seems no time at all since I was writing the December report and here we are at the end of January! It’s been a very steady month of people coming in and ‘phone calls from outlying agencies being received. We have helped 39 adults and 28 children and it’s been a joy to give them so much food with lots of treats – all thanks to those who donate so generously. There was an article written about the Food Bank, in the Wallingford Herald and since then we have had enquiries from a number of people who are interested in the work. The Herald seemed to major on the fact that we needed volunteers rather than the main point we were trying to get over which was endeavouring to reach those in the community who were having difficulty in deciding whether to ‘heat or eat’. This was brought home to me in a very forceful way when we made a delivery to a gentleman who opened the door to us in his outdoor coat with a hat on who commented on the fact that he couldn’t afford to put the heating on after paying rent, council tax etc: His main concern was that his son should have enough to eat and as long as he personally was able to make a cup of tea he was ok – which so obviously was not the case. He was so uncomplaining and so grateful for the food, I found it very hard to come away and leave him there whilst I could come back to my nice warm house with all the food that I needed in the cupboards. Please, if you know anyone in this situation then point them to us and at least we can help out a little.

We were sad to see Sandy leave us at the end of December, Eileen and I will miss her at the FB.

As I intimated at the beginning, we have been inundated with food but could I just gently say that we make a point of not giving out of date food to our clients, so if you could make sure that all goods have a good sell by date on them that would be really helpful, otherwise Neville has to empty various tins and packets before we can put them in the recycling. Many thanks.

Jean Burt