**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR DECEMBER 2016**

This has been an overwhelming month in more ways than one. Firstly the amazing number of people that have thought about the Food Bank and have either offered their services as a volunteer or have been part of the extraordinary number donating an enormous amount of food for us to give to those in need. The Christmas goodies have been exceptional and apart from a few packets of mince pies, have all been given out. Secondly, we have been rushed off our feet dealing with those who are really struggling at this time of year. The total number we have helped in December is 160 – comprising 90 adults and 70 children. On the last morning that we were open before Christmas we gave out food to just over 50 people. This is obviously a record for us, but I take no pleasure in stating this as it means that more people than ever are having difficulty in making ends meet. Quite a number of our clients do have jobs but unfortunately their take home pay just doesn’t cover everything, so once again I say THANK YOU for helping us to help them.

Our stocks at the moment are quite substantial, with the exception of the very staple items such as sugar, milk, fruit juice, tinned potatoes, carrots, corned beef and hot dogs. Our real and very genuine need now is for a permanent place in Wallingford where donations can be taken, sorted, date checked and stored and that has easy access for us. Please pray about this if you are able.

I would just like to say a public thank you to all the volunteers who help at the Food Bank, you do a great job and particular thanks to Eileen and Liz for all their support.

Finally I should like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2017.

Jean Burt