**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR NOVEMBER 2017**

And so we come to the end of 6 years of operating the Food Bank. I think it’s safe to say that when we opened the doors for the first time on 1st December 2011, we had no idea that it would grow as much as it has. We have fed literally thousands of people – from 400 in our first year to over 1300 this year – and it’s still growing! This month alone we have helped a total of 161clients (a record in itself) made up of 94 adults and 67 children.

We are still receiving lots of food donations. This month we collected a very large amount from Wallingford School. The head girl had arranged a competition between the houses to see who could provide the most food – there was a lot! It’s really good to see how the children and young people are getting involved and are beginning to relate to those not as fortunate as themselves. We have had two visits to Brightwell School. The first was to see a presentation that the school council (made up of 6 primary children) had done where they had researched food banks and put together a very well thought out slide show. The second visit from Eileen and myself, was to tell them how our food bank works. At the end of this visit we were treated to a song, which was lovely.

I am very conscious that every week we receive food donations on a regular basis and I would like to say a big thank you to you all. This month we have also received some very generous monetary donations. We are very grateful for all that is given to help us and particularly as we seem to be getting busier by the week and are therefore having to stock up on a very regular basis.

This month we are also helping out with the CAP hampers. As the CAP clientele has also increased this has meant that we have made significant inroads to our storecupboard and our bank balance, so again, I just say thank you that you keep us well stocked up, both materially and monetarily.

As this is the last report before Christmas I should like to wish you all a very happy, joyful and peaceful time.

Jean Burt