**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR FEBRUARY 2018**

I spoke too soon in my last report when I said that the Food Bank had calmed down a little! This month food has been given out to 148 people (73 adults and 75 children). This number includes a Syrian refugee family who are living in Wallingford. When the gentleman came in for the first time, he showed us some pictures of his home in Syria which had been completely destroyed. It made us think again of how hard it must be to have to leave your country with nothing, move to a new country that is completely alien to them where they can’t speak the language, where the way of life is completely different for them and not to mention the food which must take some getting used to. Having said all that, the gentleman in question is a really lovely man and despite our having difficulty in communicating with him we were able to pick up that he is really very grateful for all the help that has been given to him and his family.

With this very cold weather at the moment we are very aware that a large proportion of our clients are struggling with whether to heat or eat. Having delivered to some of the homes, we have seen the hardship they are having to endure and I say again, I am so very grateful to all of you who provide goods and money which enables us to give them a good supply of food. We wish we could do more but can at least feel that we can give them some help to keep a little of the cold out.

No news on the container as yet but I will keep you updated. In the meantime all of our stored food has been date checked and boxed up accordingly. Could I just remind everyone that donated food should have at least a three month sell/use by date on it. We have had to start shopping again for items that we run short of. These are cereals, milk, hot dogs, sugar, rice, corned beef, jam, honey, pasta sauce, tinned fruit and fruit juice. Sorry it’s a long list but I’m often asked what we are in need of.

My thanks again for your support and to the volunteers who heroically endure the freezing temperatures in the office and kitchen!!

Jean Burt