**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR OCTOBER 2019**

With the Harvest donations just about over, we have once again been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Wallingford and surrounding district. Three areas of our house have been totally taken over by the amazing amount of food that has come in and we have also received some very generous monetary donations. On behalf of all of us at the Food Bank I would like to express our very sincere thanks to you all. As a result of the very varied amount of food received, our clients have been able to have some extra ‘treats’ – which have gone down very well.

This is the last report written from the temporary accommodation in Lidl’s car park. As from the 25th November we shall be operating from our new ‘home’ at 22, St. Mary’s Street, Wallingford (next to the Fountain Bookshop). This has been a real answer to prayer as we had reached the stage of saying that it was more than likely that we would have to close altogether as nothing suitable was on the horizon. As it stands it looks as though we shall be able to operate and hopefully accommodate all or most of our excess stock at No 22. We plan to close the Food Bank for a week from 18th November, during which time everything will be re-assembled at our new venue. This will be quite a big job as our food stocks are at their greatest just now and new cabinets will have to be bought and shelves fitted, where appropriate. If anyone would like to help with the move perhaps you could let us know, especially if you are able to carry a few heavy boxes!

October has again been a very busy month with 177 people seeking help – 104 adults and 73 children. We had an emergency food parcel to make up for someone living without any form of heating or cooking equipment (not even a kettle). Another client told us about an abusing partner who caused severe injury and yet another told us they were likely to be evicted from their home as their partner had absconded with what money there was. It really is heart breaking to talk to some of these people but it’s so good that we are able to supply just a small amount of comfort by giving them a bag or two of food, thanks to all of you.

I should like to thank Lidl for allowing us to take up a little of their car park. The Portakabin has worked very well, but I must admit it is now rather cold to work in and on rainy days it is also quite dark so we all look forward to our new ‘home’, from which the next report will come!

Jean Burt