**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR DECEMBER 2020**

So we come to the end of a stressful and demanding year for us all. The Foodbank closed its doors for the Christmas/New Year break on the 24th December (re-opening on Monday 4th January) having had the busiest month – with the exception of April at the beginning of the pandemic – in the nine years that we have been open. The last three sessions of the month were, to say the least, extremely hectic. We had masses of food coming in and masses of food going out. By the time we locked the doors on the 24th we had given food to 286 people – 174 adults and 112 children. At this point I should like to say a big thank you and well done to the team on duty during this period and also to the drivers, who left the premises with cars bulging with bags of food and other goodies to give out to the people in the locality.

This year we were given lots of toiletries and small gifts for the children which were collected by a couple of schools and other organisations. Although our storage is limited we were able to distribute donations quite quickly and, from our point of view, it was a real pleasure to be able to include extras as a treat for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. On behalf of our clients I thank you all for your generosity at this time of the year, it has been overwhelming – in every sense of the word!!

I should like to make special mention of Moulsford Prep School who rang me to say they would like to donate some gifts for the children and families in need. I was expecting perhaps a couple of bags but the reality was a mini bus and car packed to the roof with bags of food! This is the first time that we have received a donation from them and I was told by one of the staff that they were amazed at the response from parents who were very anxious to help.

In all honesty, I can’t see the call on our services dropping very much in the near future, which is very sad, but I am so grateful that I live in such a caring and sharing community. I sincerely hope that 2021 will bring happier times and so I send you all my good wishes for the New Year.

May God bless you all,

Jean Burt