**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS NOVEMBER 2021**

The end of November also marks the end of the Foodbank year and this year marks the 10th anniversary for us. When Eileen and I opened up the doors in the Bullcroft on 1st December 2011 we had absolutely no idea of what the need would be, or for how long we would be operating. It is a sad fact that not only have we been needed but we are busier now than we have ever been.

In our first year of operation we gave food parcels to about 400 people. In this month alone we have helped 272 people – 195 adults and 77 children. The total for the year is 2388 but this figure just highlights the amount of poverty – for whatever reason – that there is in this country. This Foodbank, which serves Wallingford and surrounding villages, is comparatively small and we are so well supported, but I am also aware that there are others, especially in our cities, that struggle to meet the need. A sobering thought.

This is the 120th monthly report that I have written and sadly it is my last. Eileen, Neville (chairman of the Foodbank) and myself are stepping aside to allow a younger team to take over headed up by Alice Penney. This has not been an easy time for me as the Foodbank has been my passion but on behalf of Eileen and myself I should like to say a huge thank you for all the support that you have given to us over the years. I should also like to thank the volunteers who have come in so faithfully over the last 10 years – either to the Bullcroft or Lidl’s car park or here, where we are situated, in Ridgeway Church.

Eileen and I send our best wishes to the new team and to all of you reading this: we pray that you will know the love of God and that the coming days will bring you peace and happiness.

God Bless,

Jean Burt