**Food Bank analysis for December 2021**

December is often a busy month for many people, but my first month with responsibility for our food Bank has been very hectic indeed. It contrasts sharply with the experience of the first December the foodbank was operating, back in 2011, when they supported 16 families in the month. This year we supported 22 households just on the second Thursday. In total we helped 282 people this month, 184 adults and 98 children. Interestingly this is almost identical to last year’s December figure, though last year there were 174 adults and 112 children.

The final few sessions were the busiest. Huge amounts of food coming in and out, mean a huge effort by both our donors and our volunteers. I must therefore start by thanking all those who brought us food in December, you were hugely generous. I am also extremely grateful to all the volunteers, both packers and drivers who succeeded in sorting, packing, and delivering hundreds of bags of food across South Oxfordshire. It is hard, physical work and can be exhausting. But then we find a phone message from a client overwhelmed at what they have received, and it is all worthwhile.

We received not only food but toiletries, small gifts, crackers and wonderfully some beautiful new children’s books. It is a real pleasure to be able to send those out into homes where books are unaffordable.

I am very aware of the need for our services. We have more space now than we have had previously but it is all currently full! We are grateful to Waitrose who now deliver weekly the donations you leave in the box in store. We also have a regular supermarket delivery to the food bank paid for with your donations. The size of the operation is significant. I am very grateful for all the support from you and from our volunteers. We seem always to be given sufficient, to help those who need it.

This comes with my very best wishes for a healthy and peaceful Christmas, and the New Year.

Alice Penney