**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR MARCH 2022**

It has been an unusual month at the food bank. While we have fed a similar number of people over the month, in total, the demand has varied dramatically from week to week making it tricky to maintain stock levels. In March we fed 150 adults and 76 children from 87 households. That figure sadly is higher than January, though we are not yet approaching December’s figures.

This time in 2020 we had of course just gone into lock down and the food bank had had to change its methods overnight. At that time, we were one of the few places left with any dried pasta! Now we are facing a different crisis, but what is in common is that our community continues to support us so generously.

We are seeing many new people being referred for food. We are glad that the government vouchers for children eligible for free school meals are being continued this Easter. Many families are under huge pressure just now and we had offered help to those families who qualify for free school meals if it was required.

One of our volunteers has taken over the online shopping for the food bank. This is a responsible role as she spends your donations. As food prices rise and the cheapest ranges are often out of stock, we are glad to have someone focused on this task.

It is wonderful to see Easter eggs arriving in the food bank in good time for Easter. It is lovely to send out some treats, amongst the essentials during a challenging time.

Thank you all for your support, whether as a volunteer or as a donor; it is very much appreciated.

I hope you have a blessed and peaceful Easter

Alice Penney