**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR MAY 2022**

In common with many people, we have met our first guests from Ukraine this month. Liz, the deputy manager and her husband have welcomed Marta into their home, and she has been helping at the food bank already. She has even done some translation for us to assist other Ukrainians access our help.

There are increasing numbers of refugees reaching Wallingford and the surrounding villages and many are waiting for benefits or to find a job. We are offering supermarket vouchers to those without income at this tricky time, hoping that this will allow them to choose food that is perhaps more familiar than what we offer in the food bank. If you are hosting, or supporting a host, please do let them know that there is help available from us for Ukrainian nationals who are waiting for Universal credit. They should email [ridgewayfood@outlook.com](mailto:ridgewayfood@outlook.com). They will need either an email address or a mobile number (it can be Ukrainian) to receive the electronic voucher.

We are glad to be able to offer something to those fleeing conflict. Over the last 3 weeks we've been contacted by 24 families - a total of 30 adults and 27 children. They are staying with hosts in Wallingford, Brightwell and North Moreton. The total cost of food vouchers for all these people is going to be around £2,400 per week. This would not be possible without the significant financial support you have given us in the past.

This is in addition to our continuing work with local people. This has been the busiest month since Christmas: 154 adults and 75 children from 98 households. In addition to the rise in requests for food, we are also seeing significant price rises in the food that we buy.

I would particularly like to acknowledge two friends, who each month bring the food bank a very generous amount of food. They always ask what is needed – and then give just that. We are extremely grateful to them.

Sadly we are more needed than ever. Thank you all for your support. We could not do it without you.

My best wishes to you all.

Alice Penney