**Manager’s report August 2022**

August brings the opportunity for many to take a break from routine. This year is no exception, and perhaps with all the sunshine and heat, a chance to forget about the winter to come.

So, no gloomy reflections this month. We have sent parcels to 118 adults and 99 children in a total of 76 households – in general slightly down on the previous few months – but a record number of children as we have been sending food to families missing the term-time support of free school meals.

We have continued to send electronic supermarket vouchers to Ukrainian refugees too. In August we had requests from 15 new families/individuals fleeing the war. These include 24 adults and 14 children, the youngest is only 2. We have sent out over £3000 worth of vouchers to them, this month, to buy food in supermarkets whilst they await Universal Credit or other help promised by the government. We know these are very welcome - here are some of the comments we've been getting: -

‘You are incredible! Thank you 🙏🏻’ Nadiia

‘Thank you very much. You have no idea how you helped us 🙏. Sincerely Marina and my children.’

‘Hello. From all my family Thank you very much !!!🙏’

We have been busy in the food bank on days when we have not been open. We have replaced the metal cabinets that housed the food, with new, stronger shelving. The cabinets were ideal when we shared the room in the building on the Bullcroft, as they were lockable. But over the years, the weight of many tins of baked beans, potatoes and the like bent them out of shape and meant that on occasion, a tin would leap from a shelf and attempt to injure a volunteer. Happily, this was never successful, but we felt it was the right time to replace them.

A number of volunteers helped to clear the room, and get the cupboards out. Others then built the shelving having planned, measured, and ordered the right parts. The stock is all back in now and we have had a few shifts with the new arrangements. It works really well, and we have increased the space we have to store food. Thank you to all those involved, principally Ant and Gaby Clements and David Tole. We are ready for Harvest!

I hope you are all refreshed after the summer. The future is certainly going to be challenging.

With many thanks for all your support

Alice Penney