**Manager’s report October 2022**

We have been quite overwhelmed this month by all the Harvest gifts that have been generously given to the food bank. We are very aware that the increases in prices and other costs affect everyone, so it is even more humbling that so many still found time and money to give food to the foodbank. Thank you for all that you have done this month to support us.

Many volunteers have done extra shifts this month, driving to collect donations, or spending time date checking, sorting and organising the stock. It is really a significant effort by many and means that we feel better prepared for the winter months.

The shifts where we gave out food have been just as busy. We had a Thursday in the middle of this month, that was just half a dozen people short of the numbers we supported on the 16th December last year. We now have more volunteers in on Mondays and Thursdays to pack all this food. This month we have fed a total of 161 adults and 109 children from 107 households. We have a helped a further six new Ukrainian families, comprising 9 adults and 8 children.

Now, if you like to donate food to us and have a smart phone, we have news! Wallingford food bank has registered with a new app, called Bank the Food. If you download it to your phone, register on it and ‘follow’ our food bank, it will prompt you with what we need as you arrive at Waitrose in Wallingford. There is no charge to either you or us. Tell your friends as the more people who use it the better!

Finally, as we head into November, we are all starting to plan for Christmas. If you would like to donate Christmas goodies, please do so as soon as you can, so we can get them to families in good time.

So as one of the Ukrainian refugees put it in a note of thanks, ‘*Thank you so much for the support … the Foodbank… is essential for us in this uneasy time. Once again we were convinced of the kindness of British people’*.

Alice Penney