**Manager’s report December 2022**

December is a busy month for many people, but this year, food Bank has sadly been exceptionally so.

Last December we helped 184 adults and 98 children, which was very similar to 2020. This year those numbers have leapt to 282 adults, and 200 children in 163 households an increase of 70.9%. The increase was across the month with some very challenging days. Not included in the above figure is an extra day this week where we sent out food to 36 households, including 96 children, who will be missing that free school meal over the holiday.

The final few sessions were the busiest. Huge amounts of food coming in and out, were the result of a terrific 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 once again. Food, heating and petrol are costing everyone more, so your generosity is especially appreciated. We are also very grateful for the financial donations, which allow us to buy those items not donated.

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 thank Waitrose who continue to deliver weekly the donations you leave in the box in store. We also have regular supermarket deliveries to the food bank paid for with your donations. The size of the operation has increased significantly over last year. 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