**Manager’s report for January 2023**

After the intensely busy month of December, we have found January to be a slightly calmer month. We have given out food to 195 adults, 113 children in 113 households. (That is a remarkable coincidence which I’ve checked). This compares with the same month last year when we helped 151 adults and 60 children. We do seem to be seeing a significant uplift in the number of families seeking help. We have had 8 new Ukrainian families newly arrived also requesting support.

We continue to receive large amounts of donated food and very generous gifts of money. This is so appreciated. We are well stocked and are grateful every day for the support we receive.

We have a number of new volunteers starting with us now, with a view to possibly increasing capacity in the later part of the year, and easing the workload of those on each shift. We would welcome more drivers, for lunchtimes on Mondays and Thursdays. We pay mileage to those volunteers.

Food inflation has been in the news again. A wholesaler interviewed by the BBC last week said, ‘"Baked beans are up over 50% in a year, tinned tomatoes from Spain, also up 50%. Pasta, a basic staple for so many, has risen 24%." We actually have really large amounts of pasta, baked beans, and tomatoes. If you are thinking of donating to us, please do consider getting the Bank the Food app for your smartphone. You can download the free app from the ‘App store’ if you have an iPhone or from ‘Google Play’ if you have an Android phone. Then register on it and ‘follow’ our food bank (you can easily find us if you enter OX10 in postcode search).

When you shop at Waitrose in Wallingford, the app will ping your phone with a list of the most urgent items we need **when you arrive**. Those using the app already are making a real difference as they donate what is urgently needed. If you are one of those, thank you – and ask a friend to get the app too!

Earlier this month we held two volunteer lunches, to thank volunteers for all their efforts over the last year. These were hosted and prepared by young people from the Beacon project. The food was delicious, and it was good to meet volunteers who perhaps we had not met before.

With best wishes for 2023 and many thanks for all your support

Alice Penney