**Manager’s report October 2023**

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. I would especially like to acknowledge the work that Gaby Clements has done in organising all the checking and sorting that is needed. 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. This month we have fed a total 278 adults and 237 children from 157 households. This included the Thursday before half term which was the busiest day of the year except for Thursday 14 December. (For historical reasons the food bank year runs from December to December). This is an increase on October last year of 46.7%. We are currently ahead of the whole of last year by 41.9%, with a month to go.

Now, if you like to donate food to us may I remind you about the food bank 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. We would be grateful for Advent calendars as soon as possible so that children have them for the start of December.

With many thanks for all your support

Alice Penney