**Manager’s report December 2023**

December is a busy month for many people, but this year, Wallingford Emergency Food Bank has sadly been even busier than in the past. We have fed 380 adults, 330 children in 212 households, an increase of 6.5%. The increase was across the month with some very challenging days. However, I am glad that it is a much smaller increase than we have seen in previous months. Last December saw very nearly double the demand compared to December 2021, so perhaps we are starting to see a plateau in demand.

Included in the above figures, are supermarket vouchers sent to families who will be particularly missing free school meals for their children over the holiday and support for CAP clients.

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 continue to cost 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.

The size of the operation has continued to increase 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 New Year.

Alice Penney