**Manager’s report for January 2024**

After the intensely busy month of December, January has been a slightly calmer month. Nonetheless, we have seen an increase of 43.4% in demand. We have given out food to 327 adults, 203 children in 162 households.

This compares with the same month last year when we helped 195 adults and 113 children in 113 households. Of course, last year we were still only open two days a week in January, so we have been able to manage the uplift in demand reasonably well, as we now operate on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings. The 80% increase in the numbers of children we are helping, shows how many more families are really struggling at present.

We continue to receive good amounts of donated food and regular gifts of money. This is so appreciated. We are very glad to have enough for those that need it and are grateful every day for the support we receive. If you are considering donating food, please do check our app, Bank the Food, which can tell you exactly what we need. You can shop anywhere, but the app will prompt you (if you want!) when you enter Waitrose in Wallingford, or the Co-ops in Dorcester, Woodcote and Benson.

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 the volunteer team at the Fountain café in Ridgeway. The food was delicious, and it was good to meet volunteers who perhaps we had not met before. The food bank is blessed by some wonderful, skilful, committed volunteers and I am regularly amazed by their willingness to help.

With best wishes for 2024 and many thanks for all your support

Alice Penney