**Manager’s report for February 2024**

Demand continues to go up and up. This month we have fed 343 adults, 242 children in 181 households an increase of 82.8%. This compares to 154 adults, and 122 children in 99 households last February (which was an increase of 30% on the year before.) In the first quarter of the food bank year, we have already fed a third of last year’s total.

This month we have been able to offer support with energy bills to clients who had help from us in December and January. This is money from the government which we applied to distribute. Clients are so glad of this money, you can hear the relief in people’s voices when they understand how we can help.

We continue to be grateful for all the support you offer us. We have had such positive responses to our requests for help – especially for Easter Eggs.

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, or the Co-ops in Benson, Woodcote and Dorchester, 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!

With many thanks for all your support

Alice Penney

A hand holding a phone

Description automatically generated