**Manager’s Report July 2024**

This month we have fed adults, children in households. This compares to 216 adults, 154 children in 129 households last year.

(Last year at this date we had already fed 18% more households than in the **whole** of 2021/22 – and 23% more children.) This year, for the second month in a row, it seems as though demand may be levelling off, which is encouraging. Overall, we are ‘only’ approximately 35% up on the year to date in numbers of requests per head. However, this is the summertime, when, despite the regular rain, it is warmer, and the heating can be switched off. We must hope that once the colder weather comes, we do not see a surge in demand.

We have continued to talk to referrers this month about some of our clients who seem dependent on food bank for food. No one should have to rely on the food bank for months at a time. It is better than nothing, of course, but it is not healthy in the long term. Referrers are encouraging clients to seek other advice and support so that clients can achieve independence.

We are so grateful for the donations we receive. This month we have benefitted from a large financial donation from the Thames Side singers. They held a concert, which raised £800 and collected several large bags of food. A wonderful effort and very generous of them and their supporters.

We are grateful too, to those of you who have increased your regular donations to the food bank. Our financial future looks a little more positive now, but it is still not secure. Please visit <https://wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk/donate/> for suggestions as to how to support us.

We have a plan for a fundraising, candle-lit performance of the Messiah on the 8th December. Please put it in your diaries now and watch this space for more information.

We must remain hopeful that the situation continues to improve. Thank you for your support which allows us to help those who are really struggling.

Alice Penney