**Manager’s report October 2024**

We have been overwhelmed again 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 steady. This month we have fed a total of 237 adults, 128 children from 115 households. This compares to last October where we fed 278 adults and 237 children from 157 households. (Last year October was +46% on the previous year.) It remains to be seen what impact the budget has, and of course the weather is still very mild.

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, or the Co-op in Benson and Woodcote. Equally you can use it to check what is needed and shop wherever you like. 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