**Manager’s report December 2023**

December is a busy month for many people, but this year, Wallingford Emergency Food Bank has had a rather steady month. We have fed 248 adults, 139 children in 126 households. This is a significant decrease on last year when we fed 380 adults, 330 children in 212 households. Good news! We have however had 6 new clients this month so while some households seem to be getting back on their feet, some are finding life hard.

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.

Beyond the food bank room, early in December we enjoyed a glorious performance of the Messiah by the Waterperry Opera company. Thank you to everyone that attended: those who made donations alongside their ticket purchase, those that made donations for the mulled wine and especially to those who have committed to making a regular donation for the first time. My particular gratitude to the team of trustees who organised the event, especially Victoria Parry who master-minded the arrangements.

I must also thank all those who brought us food in December, you were hugely generous once again. Your generosity is so appreciated. We are also very grateful for the financial donations, which allow us to buy those items not donated. Many of these were from organisations with Christmas events arranged to support the food bank.

In addition, I am 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.

I am very thankful 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