**Manager’s report for January 2024**

After the busy month of December, January has been a calmer month. We have seen a decrease of only 14.8% in demand by household, which is a much smaller decrease than in recent months. We have given out food to 318 adults, 184 children in 138 households which compares to 327 adults, 203 children in 162 households last year. We have had 8 new clients referred to us and one new referrer.

We have received amazing amounts of donated food this month. Especial thanks to the students and staff of Wallingford School who kindly and helpfully waited until after Christmas to deliver a minibus full of food. Amazingly generous!

I can now report that our fundraiser in December raised £4015. We are very grateful to the donor who funded the visit of Waterperry Opera which allowed all the ticket sales to be used to support the food bank. We are also grateful to the trustee who funded the refreshments in a similar way. Finally thank you to all of you who came along to support the food bank. It was a wonderful evening.

Since that event we are also very glad to have had several new people making 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 would like to make a regular donation, of any amount please visit our web page, <https://wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk/donate/> where you can Gift Aid your donation as appropriate.

If you are considering donating food, please do check our app, Bank the Food, which can tell you exactly what we really 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 Hub 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, skillful, committed volunteers and I am regularly amazed by their willingness to help.

With my best wishes for 2025 and many thanks for all your support

Alice Penney