Manager’s report June 2025

I am saddened to report that June has been a busier month than we have had for some time. The significant increase over last year is in part due to the fact that last year June saw the first decreases in numbers of adults, children and households over the previous year for about 18 months. This year we supported 342 adults, 212 children in 159 households, including ten new households. Last June we served 239 adults, 155 children in 133 households. These figures are each significantly higher than December and are very similar to May.

We are looking at ways of identifying those who no longer use us as we have seen between 6 and 10 new households being referred every month.

You may know that Wallingford Emergency food bank is an independent food bank, one of at least 1172 independent food banks in the UK. There are also 1699 Trussell Trust food banks operating as a network. (There are more food banks in the UK than there are branches of MacDonalds!) It was established in 2011 by Jean and Neville Burt, just a year after the Trussell Trust opened their first food bank. We believe we are unique in Oxfordshire in being entirely supported by the public, either in kind with donations of food or financially. We do not have any corporate backing or any commercial arrangements with supermarkets. It is entirely run by around 70 volunteers.

This month I would like to highlight the Ridgeway church and all that their community does to support Wallingford food bank. They offer us a room from which to operate, at very low cost, and accommodate the deliveries all through the ground floor on delivery days. We are grateful for the friendship from the leadership of the church and those who volunteer in the café. Tim, who works for Ridgeway is very helpful to us in so many ways. However, we are not a Ridgeway project and currently our email address (which mentions Ridgeway food) can suggest that. From July we will be using new Gmail addresses so look out for them!

I also want to thank all our volunteers who despite the heat continue to talk to clients, pack bags of food and deliver those parcels to local people in need.

Thank you all for your support. We so appreciate it.

Alice