

“Unlocking God’s purpose in you through meeting the needs of others”

We have lots of news to share with you about recent donations, a slight decrease in demand, PLUS some opportunities to get involved (if you aren’t already a time-giver OR are looking for more to do!!.

Read on for more details:

Karen Kendall – Project Lead

The Lent Challenge - a great success:

We have had so much positive feedback regarding the Lent project that we will definitely be doing it again next year! This was just one of the contributions:



Alcon Donation:

Alcon, a global leader in eye care, based in Watchmoor Park donated an incredible 50 single person packs which also included toiletries & cleaning products, each bag had a card & message of encouragement.



FareShare deliveries:

In July we have been trialling deliveries from FareShare & it has been amazing with a variety of fresh produce coming from

farmers & ambient food from manufacturers enabling us to give our clients a bit more variety. Although this does bring with it some extra challenges in where to store chilled & frozen items & making sure the quality of fresh produce is still good enough. We will have to pay a subscription for this but dramatically less than the value of the delivery.



We are currently trying to decide if the benefits outweigh some of the additional pressure it puts on the teams.

School talks:

I was fortunate to have been given the opportunity to speak at a couple of primary school assemblies during their community weeks & also to host a stall at a wellbeing fair in another. It is wonderful to see so many schools engaged in teaching these youngsters about the importance of being involved in & supporting their community.

🔗 OPPORTUNITIES 🔗

Referral Admin Role (50/50 Job Share)

(can be done remotely):

Requires approx. 1-2hrs, 2 or 3 afternoons, a week to check the Besom mailbox, to acknowledge new referrals & respond with any queries (i.e. if information is missing)
To accurately enter new referrals into the referral system
To generate client letters from the system & send to Shift leads
To communicate the number of daily referrals to the teams via WhatsApp as necessary.

Harvest Project Lead *(can be done remotely):*

Harvest is coming soon & we are seeking a project lead, from the beginning of September until all donations are in – to engage with schools & churches to co-ordinate Drivers & collections.

Back-up Shift Leads / Deputy Leads:

Taking the lead or deputy role in the warehouse, as required (8:30 – 1pm), able to phone clients and referrers, with a keen eye for detail & IT skills to manage the mailbox & maintaining client records for the morning. Co-ordinating with drivers & overseeing packers. Willing to achieve Level 2 Hygiene certificate *(short online course)*.

Packers:

Packing food parcels, restocking shelves & helping maintain Warehouse cleanliness.
(9:30 – 12:30 one day a week).

There are many other skills we are looking for, to help with the smooth operation of the warehouse, if you think you might have something to offer please do get in touch OR if any of the above are of interest to you:

Camberleybesom@gmail.com

SPOTLIGHT :

Margaret Cox:

(Trustee & member of the Thursday Packing Team)

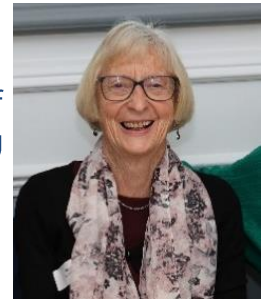
I have been involved in Charity work for many years as my husband was Chair of the charity Children of the Dump - educating & providing a Children's Home & school on the edge of Payatas rubbish dump in Manila, Philippines.

When my husband passed away in 2015, I stepped back from the work in Manila & felt my calling was to support a charity nearer to home. I experimented with 2 or 3 local charities & through Heatherside Church became involved in Besom. I was a time-giver. I packed food boxes which would be sent out immediately to those in need locally. The idea of supporting people who, through no fault of their own, needed a helping hand, prayer & re-assurance that someone cared for them, appealed to me.

Grace was the Project Lead when I joined & she took time to explain how it is that families suffer the indignities of being short of cash. I had no prior knowledge of this, living in leafy, well-off Surrey! I became a Trustee in 2022 & have enjoyed being part of a great team of like-minded people, all offering different skills.

On a personal note, I am proud to be called a Brummie - living & working in Birmingham 'til I married & then we moved to Letchworth, Herts. We lived there for 10 years, then we moved to Camberley in 1981. I have 3 children, & 6 grandchildren - now all reaching out to create their own careers. My family are very supportive of the work I do with Besom.

Long may it last!



Pets at Home Donation Drive:

We have spent 3 x 3 hr session outside "Pet's at Home" in Bagshot over the last 10 days, raising the profile & bringing in some donations, thank you to Nicky for co-ordinating this:



Messages of thanks from clients & a referrer:

I would just like to say a big THANK YOU to you. I would not have been able to eat if it wasn't for the very kind hearts of the donations & the people sorting & delivering the food. There is probably a lot more to it than that. So Thank you everyone involved in the process of this great thing you do!

Thank you so much for your parcel yesterday. It helps greatly & is very much appreciated!

I wanted to thank you & your team once again for your prompt support in responding to my request regarding a food parcel.

Time Givers:

We have been very sad to say goodbye to Peta King, who joined us in Lock down as a shift lead. She has battled with cancer for a couple of years now & very sadly has lost her fight at the beginning of August, she will be very sadly missed she had such a positive attitude to the very end.

We also said farewell to Greg Scott who has been our regular Booker shopper & backup shift lead for many years, but has now moved away from Camberley; Linda & Nigel Ashworth have stepped into the gap to help with the shopping, for which we are most grateful they also come into the warehouse on a Wednesday & help with stock management.

Joy Stinton retired as a Back-up Shift Lead but is happily still looking after all our New Mum/Baby stock & preparing baby packs.

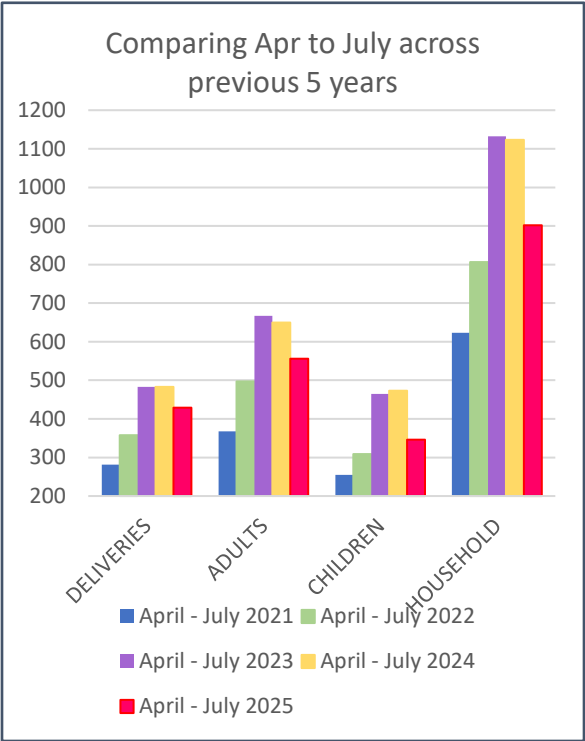
Lee Roberts who has been one of our regular Thursday drivers for many years has retired for health reasons, will also be missed although thankfully 2 new regular drivers have come forward to fill the gaps & a couple more about to begin induction.

Prayer Thanks & Needs

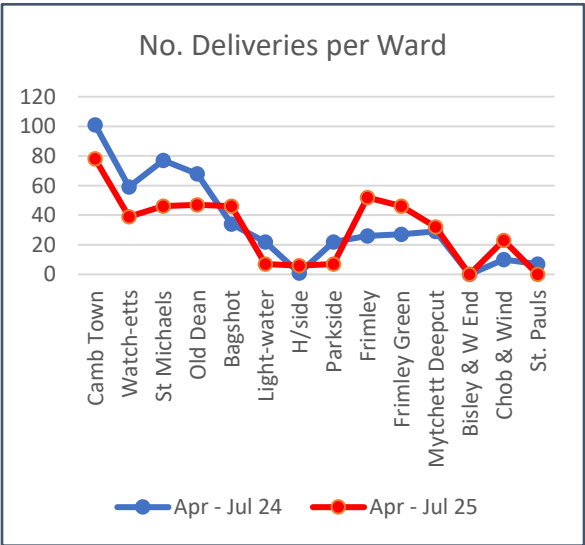
1. Thank God for all the wonderful donations & for all that we have been able to deliver, for Shift Leads, packers & drivers, so dedicated each week.
2. Pray for our Trustees to have wisdom in the decisions they take to keep us in line with God's will and the objectives of the charity
3. Pray for those referred to us, especially many who struggle with mental or physical health conditions.
4. Pray for new time-givers to step into some of the opportunities we have shared in this newsletter.

Referral Statistics: (Apr-Jul 25)

Food deliveries have now settled down after a couple of really demanding years, numbers are more manageable although still vastly higher than in 2021! Notably the number of children is down 27% on this time last year! Overall, there has been a 20% reduction in the number of individuals we have fed & 11% reduction in deliveries, all of this is great news especially for the time-givers who work so hard each day to pack & deliver.



The balance of wards has also changed, with a reduction in deliveries to Camberley & an increase in Bagshot, Frimley, Frimley Green. Chobham & Windlesham.



During these 4 months we have also packed 10 household starter packs, 1 new mum pack & 85 various 24 hr bags for Citizens Advice.

Dates for your Diary:

Summer closure: 25th August, we will be shut the week commencing the bank holiday.

Waitrose Bagshot: 12th September 9am - 3pm, is our next Friday collection day, if you would like to be part of the team & can do any 1 or 2 hour slot please let us know.

Harvest: Various dates, if your church donates to the Besom, we will be getting in touch at the beginning of September to find out when churches are holding their services & letting you know what our current needs are.

AGM: 8th October 10am more details will be shared nearer the time.

Christmas Hampers: Packers Needed! If you would like to help us pack our Christmas Hampers this year, please email Nicky at: Camberleybesomhampers@gmail.com to register your interest. In mid October we will then send you a form to sign up to any of the various dates. Don't miss the boat. Register your interest now at the email above'

☞ Thank you for reading this – please share it with your church/friends ☞

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