

**"Unlocking God's purpose in you through meeting the needs of others"**

January brought us a bit of calm after a hectic & productive Christmas and gives us a chance to take stock and reflect on this new year!

Back by popular demand we will be running the Lenten Challenge again.

Please also see a number of opportunities we have for people to give their-time!

Read on for more details:

Karen Kendall – Project Lead

## Christmas 2025:



What a busy festive season it was at Besom hamper HQ! Across Surrey Heath, our Christmas hampers brought much needed festive joy to:



Referrals came to us from numerous organisations and charities such as:

Citizens Advice      Barnardo's  
The Hope Hub      NHS teams  
SHBC      Housing Associations  
and many more..

It is always great to hear the delight and appreciation of the clients or the referrers collecting, upon receipt of them. It takes a whole community to make the hampers possible, so our heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated no matter how big or small. Every little bit helps and we could not produce them without your support.



So, to our volunteer packers and wrappers, our wonderful drivers, all those who donated packed hampers or organised collections for us, thank you. To those individuals and companies that made a financial donation towards the Christmas hampers thank you so much! I must give a shout out especially to the following businesses: Stihl, Genesys UK, Terumo and Waitrose for their support. The impact you made makes a real difference to the number of hampers we can produce.



## How to get involved with Christmas Hampers 2026?

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. We are always on the look out for extra packers, help organising or to hear from any local groups or companies who would like to help support the Christmas hampers. You can email Nicky at [camberleybesomhampers@gmail.com](mailto:camberleybesomhampers@gmail.com)

## Message of thanks from a client

"Thank you for my food parcel. It's very hard for me to take charity and I only do when I really need to, today was one of them days. I really didn't expect to get what I did and words would never be enough to say how grateful I am. Neither would I expect to be called and asked if I had dietary needs or if I had a pet, you truly are amazing people bringing light and love where it is needed in a world that suffers so much. Thank you to all that help those who really need it"

## Time-givers:

We are delighted to report that we have filled the Communications Role we were promoting last year and welcome Jenny & Denise!

## ❖ OPPORTUNITIES ❖

We continue to seek new time-givers to assist in the running of the Besom:

### Referral Admin Role (Backup)

(can be done remotely):

Requires approx. 1-2hrs, 1 or 2 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.

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*These next 2 roles would suit someone already familiar with the warehouse BUT could be someone coming in fresh (and prepared to start with packing initially).*

### Back-up / Deputy Shift Leads:

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

### Stock Management/Shopping:

We are looking for someone to oversee the stock in the warehouse, ensure there is always enough for the upcoming shifts, organise shoppers/shopping & take a lead on ensuring the stock is date sorted appropriately and that Teams are aware what stock is to be used next etc. Hours are ad hoc to suit the time-giver, but ideally to include Friday afternoons.

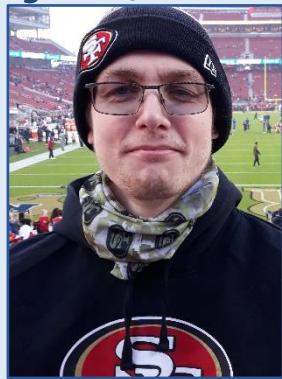
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**If any of the above are of interest to you:**



[Camberleybesom@gmail.com](mailto:Camberleybesom@gmail.com)

## SPOTLIGHT: Arran Bocutt (Thursday Packing Team)

I was first involved with the Besom when I was at the Beacon Church & helped out during lockdown, sorting out the hampers for delivery but had to give it up due to work



commitments as I couldn't do both at the same time.

I got involved again in July 2025 as a way of getting back into a working environment. I have been out of work since March 2024 as I was diagnosed with and have now been treated for Aplastic Anaemia.

I was made redundant from my previous job due to organizational changes.

I couldn't ask for a better team to work with on a Thursday & will be looking for a new job this year whilst still helping at the food bank on a Thursday, it's something I look forward to.

The reason I got involved was to help people out who have got into difficulties through no fault of their own.

**Besom**

The BESOM in Camberley  
2026 LENTEN Challenge

Please help us pack a food parcel for someone in need!

Mon 16-Feb	Tue 17-Feb	Wed 18-Feb	Thu 19-Feb	Fri 20-Feb	Sat 21-Feb	Sun 22-Feb
	Shrove Tuesday		Small Jar of Coffee		Tin of Fruit	
£1 towards a loaf of bread	Tin of peas	Tin of Sweetcorn	Bottle of Squash	Jar of pasta Sauce		
Mon 2-Mar	Tue 3-Mar	Wed 4-Mar	Thu 5-Mar	Fri 6-Mar	Sat 7-Mar	Sun 8-Mar
Jar of Jam or Marmalade or marmite	£1 towards Fresh Fruit		Pouch or packet of Rice	Tinned meat meal (Chicken in White wine sauce)		

## Lenten Challenge 2026:

This was so well received in 2025, so many people told us how much they liked it, we decided to do it again. The Calendar will be sent with this Newsletter to the Churches so if you didn't get a copy, please ask your Church Rep, Administrator OR email us.

## Referral Statistics:

In 2025 we delivered :

- Food & non-food parcels to 384 households, (886 unique individuals)
- 235 Households were new to us
- 1,445 Food parcels (that was over 10k days of food and nearly 31k meals).
- We also sent out 169 x Single & 63 x Family 24-hour emergency bags.
- On top of that 63 Household packs!

This is the breakdown of the Wards that we delivered to, with Town, St Michaels and Old Dean having the greatest demand:



## Financial Donations:

### The Camberley 41 Club:

We were delighted to receive a donation of £1,270 from the 41 Club who collected for 3 charities again this year and split the proceeds between us, Surrey Heath Age Concern & Homestart Surrey Heath.



### Camberley Rugby Club:

Also gave us a £1,000 donation.



Our Chair Greg Reeve receiving the cheque

## Message of thanks from a client

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you for the food deliveries we have had over the last month, and especially for the Christmas hamper and presents we received yesterday. They were a lovely surprise and we are delighted with the chocolates and treats. Happy Christmas to you all."

## Dates for your diary:

### Waitrose Bagshot Collection day

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 9am - 3pm**

If you would like to be part of the team and can do any 1 or 2 hour slot, please let us know.

### "Music for a summer afternoon-a light classical concert" @ St. Paul's Camberley ~ Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June PM

In aid of Besom & Connect Counselling with tea & Cakes, more details to follow!

## Prayer Thanks & Needs

1. Thank God for all the wonderful donations, especially over Christmas and for all that we have been able to deliver, & thanks for dedicated Shift Leads, packers & drivers.
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.

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

## CONNECT WITH US



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