

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

Christmas seems a long time ago now but we are delighted to report that we packed 165 hampers, Nicky and her team did an amazing Job!

Also we have recently implemented phase 2 of a bespoke referral system which is making all our lives a lot easier, automating some of our manual processes.

We have many other things to give thanks for too...

Read on for more details:

Karen Kendall – Project Lead

Referral Statistics:

I am not going to give you referral statistics in detail (although I have them of course if anyone is interested of, please do ask).

Deliveries in November and December were up 21% on previous year and the number of individuals fed up 39%. The last week before Christmas we delivered 44 food parcels, 14 of which were doubles (to cover the Christmas week off) PLUS our regular drivers also delivered 34 Christmas Hampers to go with the food parcels (that is on top of all the other Hampers being delivered directly from Camberley Baptist Church!).

I am relieved to report that January and February 2025 were a lot quieter than pre-Christmas (75%) but almost identical to those same months in 2024!

Time Givers:

Since I last wrote Jane Bocutt (who took over the Project Lead Role in 2020 for a time during lock down and was our dedicated referral admin until early 2024) formally retired. We bade her a very fond farewell and we will be looking for a second person to help to fill the gap she has left, so if you are proficient in IT, have an eye for detail and willing to share this role with an existing Time-giver, please do get in touch.

Referral Admin Role (50/50 Job Share):

Requires approx. 1-2hrs each afternoon:

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 and send to Shift leads

To communicate the number of daily referrals to the teams via WhatsApp as necessary

The full Role description is on our website on the “Get Involved page OR scan QR code:



We are very sad to report that we said goodbye to one of our regular drivers, David Mallac, he was still driving in December, was in hospital over Christmas and by the end of January in Phylis Tuckwell, he passed away on the 31st January. His memorial service was at St. Paul’s on the 6th March & we learnt so much more about him and his life well lived. The Thursday team especially will miss him, we will remember him fondly.

Since my last report we have three new packers who are all doing exceedingly well!

MORE to give thanks for (there is a lot!):

Christmas 24:

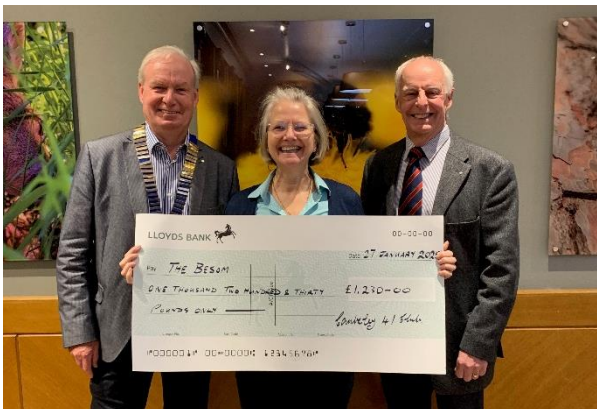
We are truly thankful for all the donations that we received that enabled us to pack & deliver 165 Christmas Hampers to a combined total of 365 adults and children (205 Adults, 160 Children) & for Nicky and her team of helpers who did such an amazing job!



We are grateful as always to Camberley Baptist Church but especially this year as Rev'ds Fran & Richard Bellingham only just took over the keys to the church in November and embraced what we do with open arms!

Camberley 41 Club:

Last issue I told you all about the 41 Club who were collecting for us before Christmas, we were delighted to receive a cheque for £1,230



which was formally presented to us at their January club lunch, which I was able to enjoy along with Leads from 2 other charities, who

also received cheques, Surrey Heath Home Start and Surrey Heath Age Concern!

Amazon Fresh:

We also had a very delightful donation of £1,000 of food and cleaning products from Amazon fresh, who have a distribution warehouse nearby, there were 42 bags to unpack – this is Nick and Tom who instigated this donation! It took 5 hours to unpack and distribute around the warehouse.



Bespoke Referral Management System:

We may not have told you much about this as yet, but Martin Bocutt (notably husband of Jane) who worked for Oracle, offered his time and expertise back in 2023 to developed a bespoke system. We have been using it since April 2023 but in February it received a significant upgrade, meaning the process of inputting referrals and managing the data is much easier for us all!

NEW PROJECT: "LENT Challenge 2025"

Hopefully you will have received information through the churches about our lent challenge, if not you can find all the details on our website or Facebook page:

The BESOM in Camberley 2025 LENT challenge						
Please help us pack a food parcel for someone in need!						
Mon 03-Mar	Tue 04-Mar	Wed 05-Mar	Thu 06-Mar	Fri 07-Mar	Sat 08-Mar	Sun 09-Mar
	Shrove Tuesday	Small Jar of Coffee		£1 towards a pack of spread	Tin of Fruit	
Mon 10-Mar	Tue 11-Mar	Wed 12-Mar	Thu 13-Mar	Fri 14-Mar	Sat 15-Mar	Sun 16-Mar
£1 towards a loaf of bread	Tin of peas	Tin of Sweetcorn	Bottle of Squash		Jar of pasta Sauce	
Mon 17-Mar	Tue 18-Mar	Wed 19-Mar	Thu 20-Mar	Fri 21-Mar	Sat 22-Mar	Sun 23-Mar
Jar of Jam or Marmalade or		£1	Pouch or packet of	Tinned meat meal (Chicken in White sauce)		

SPOTLIGHT Karen Kendall

(Project Lead and Trustee):

A little bit about me first, I am married to Gary. We have lived in Camberley since 1987 and I have attended St Paul's church since 1990. We have 2 daughters, the eldest has 2 sons (living in Windlesham), our younger daughter lives in Dubai and in February we went to visit her, this is me relaxing on her balcony (you can ask me about the trip & the cuddly toys when you see me):



I first got involved with Besom in 2012 when I worked for Churches Together in Camberley as the Partnership Development Officer. At that time Besom was operating out of a garage, I helped them to find the property that is our warehouse & also set Besom up as a Charity with all the necessary governance that this involves. Grace had been the lead since it started in 2009, I looked at what she was doing and said to myself: *"I wonder who on earth will take this on when she decides to give up, no way would I do that it's far too difficult as a voluntary role!!!"* famous last words! There has been a lot of water under the bridge since then including the COVID pandemic, I took over as Chair in October 2021 and Grace retired officially September 2022 and I took on the lead role after almost a whole year's handover. I am now looking for people to help me in my role and I am attempting to delegate some of what I do. So, we are looking for either existing time-givers to pick up some additional

responsibilities OR for new people to come on board to help.

If you feel you have some time to offer, please do get in touch and I can share with you what that would entail!

Giving time to the Besom, (as well as being all consuming & a challenge), is such a huge blessing, working with such amazing folk and making a difference to those less fortunate in our community.

Closing thoughts....

It recently dawned on me how amazing it is that Besom is one of a few Christian organisations that still contacts 100's of people each month and knocks on doors in our neighbourhood approximately 200 days of the year and we do that all in the name of Jesus!

Dates for your Diary: Waitrose Bagshot:

21st March is our next Friday collection day, *if you would like to be part of the team & can do any 1 hour slot 12 - 3pm let us know.*

Email : camberleybesom@gmail.com

Easter Closure: 18th – 25th April Inclusive

Prayer Thanks & Needs

1. Thank God for what we have shared above & for Shift Leads who deal with increasing demands.
2. Pray for our Trustees to have wisdom in the decisions they take to keep us in line with God's will.
3. Pray for those referred to us, especially many who struggle with mental or physical health conditions.

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

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