

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

**Christmas is coming!!!** and the Hamper packing will soon begin if you are interested in helping out on various mornings from 20<sup>th</sup> November please email Nicky: [camberleybesomhampers@gmail.com](mailto:camberleybesomhampers@gmail.com).



Details on how to contribute to the Hampers has been emailed to all churches, please check with your church reps if you wish to know more!

Read on for more details:

Karen Kendall – Project Lead

### Referral Statistics:

From August to October '24 we delivered 391 food parcels, (at least 2,775 days of food which equates to at least 8,325 meals), to an avg. of 66 individuals each week. This is slightly down compared to the same period last year. (Hopefully indicating that the general financial situation in the country is improving a little). We had 46 **new** households referred to us in this time. We experienced a lot of fluctuations during this time, one week only 15 deliveries and others as many as 40.

In these 3 months we also provided:

### Non-Food:

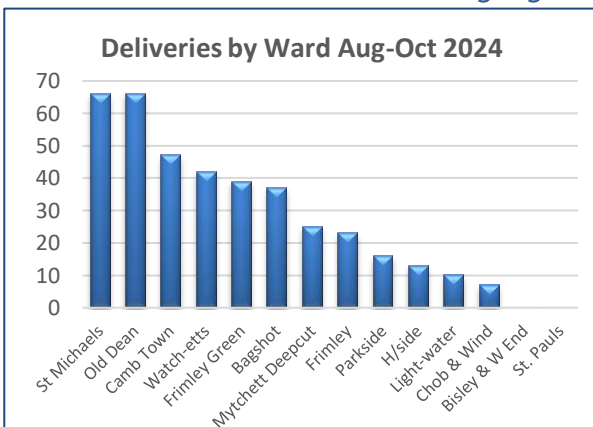
12 Household & 4 New Mum packs.

### 24 hr Emergency bags:

71 x 24hr bags (21 of these were for families of 4) & 11 Homeless Hygiene packs.

### Deliveries:

After 18 months of Town ward being highest,



St. Michael’s & Old Dean have overtaken it during this period in terms of deliveries. Citizens Advice Surrey Heath (CA-SH) still continue to be our biggest referrer.

### A few recent messages of thanks:

Thank you so much for today’s Food Parcel the contents of which are a true life saver.

Please also thank the driver for braving the rain and delivering the food parcel to my front door.

*Thank you very much for sending the parcel. It helps a lot. My dogs are so happy and they love the fish dry snack!*

### Time Givers:

We are delighted to say that since our last update we have appointed Andrew Pepper (a member of St. Barbaras Church) as our Back-up Referral Administrator.

He has been in training for a couple of months and just about to “Fly solo” whilst I go away for 7 days.

We have also promoted Pat Stone, one of our Thursday Team to Shift Lead!

We still have a good number of Drivers **but if you would consider joining one of our team of packers**, we would really like to hear from you!

### **SPOTLIGHT Sue Rackham:**

I have been married for 56 years and I have a son and a daughter, plus four gorgeous grandchildren, three boys and one girl. Prior to retirement four years ago, I was a Dental Receptionist for thirty-seven years in the village where I live, it was a job which I thoroughly enjoyed which entailed meeting patients and keeping them calm before their treatment which most people hated! I run the Friday shift, at The Besom, initially being part of the packing team, and I am also a Trustee and the village rep. which entails emptying the donation boxes in the village. I also enjoy long walks with my other half, travelling (we have just completed a round the World cruise), seeing family and friends, and I have recently joined U3A. I am also a driver for Lightwater Care, taking residents to various appointments. Then one Sunday morning about ten years ago, two volunteers from the Besom gave a talk about their work in Church, and it was as if a light came on in my head, as I was interested in getting involved in some sort of volunteering work. So, after the service I chatted to the ladies, received a reference from the Vicar, and as they say, the rest is history! >>>



>>> I think the part of my volunteering role I enjoy the most is chatting to clients on the phone as part of my Shift Lead role. They are all very different and it is quite challenging sometimes!

In my opinion, The Besom is an amazing organisation providing a much-needed service to people in need, and I hope to continue being a volunteer here for many years! Sue

### **Schools Breakfast club:**

We have continued to deliver crates of breakfast provisions to Kings International College breakfast club but at our November Trustees meeting took the difficult decision that **after 3 years** we can no longer sustain this, having been unable to find a specific volunteer to help and a reduction in our finances (a lot of what they needed still had to be purchased). Additionally, the government in their October 2025 Budget committed to tripling its funding for School breakfast clubs and we hope that some of this may trickle down into the school.

### **Give as you live:**

With so many people shopping on line these days we wondered if you would consider signing up to **“Give as you live”**. This is a really simple way to make financial contributions to BESOM quite literally as you shop online, the retailers will give a percentage of what you spend to us. To sign up see the QR code at the end of this newsletter.

### **Food Donations (Harvest):**

Since I last wrote we have received an incredible response to the Harvest Appeal & our warehouse is now overflowing again. We had donations from 17 Churches & 18 Schools, Nurseries and a Care home! Thanks go out to all the Drivers who did many extra shifts to collect these donations.

Here is a small selection of the many Harvest photos we have!



However, if this year is anything to go by we had run out of many essentials by April/May.

### **Pets at Home Donation Drive:**

We had a great couple of days in August raising our profile and collecting cat & dog food at the Bagshot store. It was a very timely event as we had been running out of dog food quite routinely up until then, for so many people their pets are as much a part of the family and to have to give them up when they may be facing a period of hardship would be a double whammy.

Some families have reported that they had gone without food themselves to ensure their dog or cat had food!

Whilst we do not buy pet food, we are obviously very happy to have it donated and to be able to pass it on.

Thanks go to Nicky Lynch especially for co-ordinating this.

### **Camberley 41 Club:**

We are delighted that the 41 Club will be collecting for us again this Christmas (also for Surrey Heath Age Concern & Home-Start Surrey Heath) look out for them:

- Sat 30 Nov - All day Longacres
- Fri 13 Dec - All day The Meadows (Tesco)
- Sat 14 Dec - All day Waitrose Frimley
- Fri 20 Dec - Early evening collection at three locations in Heatherside

• Sat 21 Dec - All day Waitrose Bagshot

The Club is a group of Ex Round Tablers who meet monthly to socialise, listen to interesting speakers, organise days out for members, partners and guests, and raise money for local charities with our Christmas Santa Float. For the past 50 years, Camberley Round Table and 41 Club, has toured Surrey Heath with Santa and his Float, collecting donations. Over the years they have collected in excess of £250,000, all of which has been given in full to small charities based in Surrey Heath and serving local citizens. Most of their members are now in their Seventies!



*Time-givers Liz & Jeanette at Pets at Home:*



### **Frimley Fuel Allotment (FFA) litter pick:**

A small group of our Core team joined with other groups & charities (who had been in receipt of FFA funding) to do a litter pick on the Fuel Allotment land. We met in the car park of Pine Ridge Golf Course and were allotted different areas going out in small groups. Thankfully the rain held off for the morning and an amazing amount of rubbish was collected, we were rewarded with a warm drink in the Golf Club afterwards!



### **Dates for your Diary:**

#### **Waitrose Bagshot:**

**29<sup>th</sup> November** is our next Friday collection day, if you would like to be part of the team on & can do any 1 or 2 hour slot 9am - 3pm let us know. Peta King (Tuesday Shift Lead) who organises this will be delighted to hear from you! Email : [camberleybesom@gmail.com](mailto:camberleybesom@gmail.com)

### **🎄 Christmas Hampers 🎄**

Final reminder: your church administrators & Besom Reps have all the details with regard to packing hampers and their contents.

The deadline for donations is the

**29<sup>th</sup> November!**

But if you want to get in touch for any more information please email:

[\*\*camberleybesomhampers@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:camberleybesomhampers@gmail.com)

### **OR scan this code for the hamper flyer:**



### **Sign- up to “Give as you live”:**



### **Prayer Thanks & Needs:**

1. Thank God for his abundant generosity & for all those that give, be it in “time”, “money”, “skills” or “things”.
2. Thank God for the very generous Harvest collections that have recently come into the warehouse.
3. Pray especially for Shift Leads who deal with increasing demands.
4. Pray for a time-giver to help with School breakfast club provision.
5. Pray for some more Time-givers to pack parcels in the warehouse.
6. Pray for our Trustees to have wisdom in the decisions they take to keep us in line with God’s will.
7. Pray for those referred to us, especially many who struggle with mental health.

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

#### **Contact Email:**

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