

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

What a few months we have had, since our last newsletter, with quite some peaks and troughs! One week in April we delivered 44 food parcels (feeding 101 individuals) plus 12 x 24 hr Emergency bags and one household pack, then another week in June only 17 parcels (feeding 40 individuals), plus one household pack.

We also experienced a significant drop in our finances over the period April – June!

\*\*\*\*\* Breaking news - we have almost run out of pasta \*\*\*\*\*

Read on for more details:

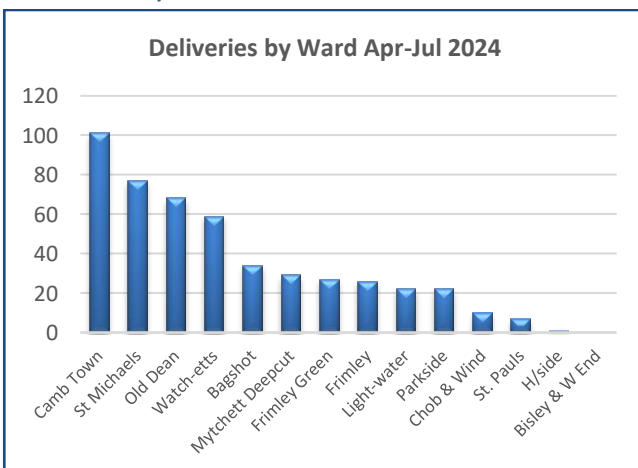
*Karen Kendall – Project Lead*

**Referral Statistics:** From April to July '24 we have provided at least 3,369 days of food which equates to at least 10,107 meals. Notably we have had **79 new** households referred to us in this time. Although we did experience quite a dip in demand in June, due to the Government’s Household Support Fund.

In these 4 months we have also provided: **Non-Food:** 16 Household packs & 4 New mum packs.

**24 hr Emergency bags:** we 75 x 24 hour bags & 12 homeless Hygiene packs.

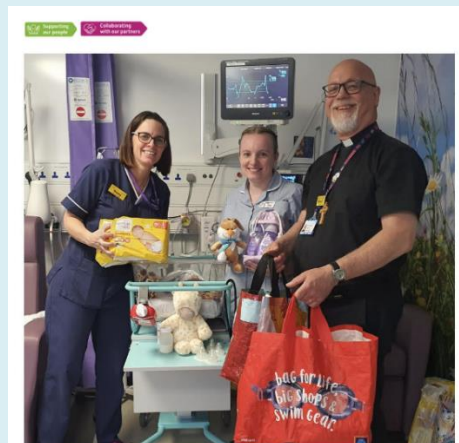
**Deliveries:** Town Ward continues to be the top ward in terms of delivery numbers, followed by St. Michael’s & Old Dean.



Citizens Advice Surrey Heath (CA-SH) still continue to be our biggest referrer.

### A few recent messages of thanks:

We made it into the Frimley Park Hospital staff Newsletter when we sent out a New Mum pack for a new baby who was being fostered...



### **Chaplaincy sources charity support**

The chaplaincy team at Frimley Park Hospital received a request from the maternity department to help source clothes and supplies for a newborn baby who was going into foster care.

The chaplains contacted The Besom in Camberley, a local charity that provides a variety of support packs for people in need in Surrey Heath. These can include people moving into emergency accommodation, who have new babies, or refugees. Referrals for support come from Citizens Advice, local churches and other caring organisations.

Chaplain Bruce Nicole is pictured presenting supplies to the maternity team earlier this month.

### **For a Non-Food pack:**

*“My family and I want to say that we are very grateful to you! Everything is new, everything is so beautiful. When I unpacked, I cried with happiness that there are such kind people, that help others for whom this is very important and necessary.”*

### Thanks Cont'd:

*"I would like to thank you for the food delivery I had the other day, it is really helpful!"*

*"Thank you so much for this morning's Food Parcel delivery, your service is an absolute life saver..."*

**Time Givers update:** We still have a good number of Drivers & Packers but if you have **admin/data input skills to offer**, we would still really like to hear from you! Our referral admin has needed to take 6 months compassionate leave and we would really love to find someone who can help us with this admin role, which involves daily transferring the new referrals into our database and then also making updates as we get them from clients. Ideally someone proficient with IT and with a keen eye for detail. Please do get in touch if you could help temporarily or possibly could consider this as a role share more long term.

We would also like help us with facilitating the breakfast club, please let us know. We would be particularly interested in anyone who has children at the school!

**Schools Breakfast club:** We continue to deliver crates of breakfast provisions to Kings International College breakfast club, & welcome contributions particularly **Variety packs & Breakfast biscuits/bars!**



**Finance:** We don't often write about finances here other than if we have had notable donations, but at our July Trustee meeting the Finance



report indicated that our bank balance had **dropped by £13.5k** in 3 months, which is rather notable. Maybe you are not aware that as a Besom we are not permitted to do overt fundraising or apply for grants BUT we were able to call in funding that we had been offered to us previously (we had turned down when we did not need it!). So, we are delighted to report that Frimley Fuel Allotment gave us £12k & Surrey Heath Borough Council £4k which has plugged the gap, with Waitrose also donating an unexpected £1.2k! Finally New Look Camberley also contacted us to say they will be collecting money for us during the summer months.

### Waitrose Collection Day:

As most of you will know, 3 times a year we have a collection day at Waitrose Bagshot. Our next Friday collection is the **13<sup>th</sup> September if you would like to be part of the team on that day & 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!

Every week we still get extremely good amount of food donated by Waitrose customers which is fantastic, so to give up some time to raise our profile there is really worthwhile.

## Food Donations & Shopping:

We have 2 NEW Collection points, one is in Places Leisure Camberley



*This is Charlie Cable who initiated this!*

and the other in Co-op at the top of the Frimley Road (A30 end).

Plus we have a new improved collection point in Tesco.



*This is Ali the Community Champion at the Meadows store and her colleague Lynne*

As reported in the summary remarkably we are down to the **last crate of pasta**, recently we have needed to do a couple of bulk orders from Aldi (worth £1,000 & £500), as they are still one of the cheapest places to buy ambient foods, even comparable to Bookers Wholesale. Each week we still shop at Bookers for Eggs, sliced meat and spread plus various other ambient items. We are buying virtually every item that goes into packs other than baked beans, tuna & tea which we still have a reasonable stock. We use Aldi and Lidl for much of the basic tinned and packet foods and we also order weekly from Sainsburys.

### Current Shopping List:

- tinned meat meals
- tinned fruit & vegetables
- tinned pulses/tomatoes
- jars of sauce (pasta/curry/Chinese)
- soup
- pasta
- rice (dried & pouches)
- custard & rice pudding
- long life milk
- squash & long-life fruit juice
- jam or marmalade
- cereal

### Special dietary requirements:

- Halal
- vegan/vegetarian
- gluten free
- diabetic

### Cleaning materials & toiletries:

- Bleach
- Surface spray
- Washing powder/tabs
- Antiperspirant/deodorant
- Shampoo/Conditioner

**SPOTLIGHT Katy Batemen:** I am married with two children aged 8 and 11 and I run my own business with my husband. I'm the Treasurer and a trustee of Besom. I first heard about the work of Besom at St Paul's church, where I am a member. My youngest child had recently started school, so I had some free time and volunteered in the warehouse on a Friday morning. I really enjoyed getting to know the team and discovering more about what Besom did. Unfortunately, this only lasted a few months though, as the country entered a second lockdown in January 2021. With schools closed again, I had to leave to home-school my children. Fast forward to September 2021 and having stepped down as Chair of the school PTA I was prayerfully looking for another project. A few weeks later, Karen asked if I would be interested in taking on the role of Finance Officer at Camberley Besom, as the previous time-giver had handed in her notice. I had done a book-keeping course some years before and felt God was calling me to take on this role. In 2022 I became a trustee & changed my role title to



Treasurer. I am constantly amazed by God's provision, through the generosity of the many people who give to Besom financially and by food donations.

### Dates for your Diary:

**AGM** (Camberley Baptist Church):  
9<sup>th</sup> October 10am

**Waitrose Collection Day \*\*** (Bagshot):  
13<sup>th</sup> September 9-3pm

**Pets at Home Donation Drive \*\*** (Bagshot):  
12<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> August 10-4pm

Please contact us if you can help with these\*\*

## 🌀 HARVEST 🌀

**If you have dates for your services and/or need us to help with collecting the donations please do get in touch!**

### Prayer Thanks & Needs:

1. Thank God for his abundant generosity & for all those that give, be it in "time", "money", "skills" or "things".
2. Pray especially for Shift Leads who deal with increasing demands.
3. Pray for a time-giver to help with School breakfast club provision & another with admin/data entry skills.
4. Pray for our Trustees to have wisdom in the decisions they take to keep us in line with God's will.
5. Pray for those referred to us, especially many who struggle with mental health. *(in particular a couple the lady has had breast cancer for a year, man has had a breakdown, is bi-polar, diabetes and recently in hospital for 3 weeks with a UTI, all affecting their ability to work and benefits taking so long to come in 3 months without wages!)*
6. Pray for a balance of donated ambient food stock

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

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