



UPDATE: NOV 2021



THANKFULNESS & HOPE

I wish to start by saying thank you so much to all those at Busbridge and Hambledon Churches who have given through Besom over so many years. Your kindness has made a real difference to so many – beds to children sleeping on the floor, wardrobes and chest of drawers to those living out of black bags, gardens cleared, homes decorated, lovely Hampers at Christmas and so much more. Thank you!

For those who don't know much about Besom, Besom simply provides a way for members of local Churches to give to those in most need in their neighbourhoods, through giving household items, clothes or food or practical help such as garden makeovers and decorating.

For those giving, it can feel like a real privilege to be able to put your faith into action and do something really positive to love your neighbour.

For those who receive, they are often overwhelmed with the hope that it gives and that someone actually cares.

Besom, which is part of a National Network, has been operating now in Guildford and Godalming for the past 19 years.

We were so grateful that we could continue in some way through the Pandemic and, at times, we were the only group of our kind operating.

There are two words that I take from our time during the Pandemic.

The first is Thankfulness, thankfulness that we could provide a way for people do something to help others during one of the most difficult and challenging times in our nation.

The second word is Hope. Very often on the phones we speak to people who are about to move from a Hostel or Refuge into an empty flat. They generally have nothing and are given only a few days to move. The sense of despair is often tangible and as we offer to provide beds, toasters, microwaves, plates, TVs and more we can sense the despair lifting and hope rising. When we visit, we are often able to pray with people too, if they would like to, to bless them in their new homes.

We have many stories.

One man, "Matthew" (not his real name), moved in the middle of lockdown last year. He had been homeless, living in hostel accommodation, and was given a flat with very little in it. Charity shops and furniture projects were all closed and he had virtually nothing. He also struggled with significant health problems.

We were able to help him with a bed, a chair and stool, sideboard unit, towels, glasses, Hoover, cups, a rug and kitchen utensils that had all been kindly donated.

In addition, some people have given us some money specifically to buy household

“Starter Pack” items and using this we were able to buy pots and pans, plates and cutlery.

He was so very grateful. We helped another family – a single Mum, “Sarah” with 2 children. They were moving out of a women’s refuge after escaping domestic violence. Very tragically one of her sons had recently passed away.

We were able to give the family a double bed and mattress, 6 duvets, pillows, duvet covers, sheets, pillow cases, plates, cutlery, a Hoover, and an iron and ironing board. The iron and ironing board were donated by two different people just a few days apart. With our “Starter Pack” fund we were also able to buy them a toaster, a kettle, pots and pans, kitchen utensils and pillows.

After all the trauma that the family had been through, “Sarah” was so very thankful for all our help and sent us this text, “Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. God bless you.”

Besom runs on prayer and we often see some lovely things happen. We had a TV to give to a man who had recently moved out of a hostel. He was borrowing a friend’s TV but needed one of his own. A Besom helper accidentally gave the TV to a

single Mum instead that we had been helping with food parcels. Amazingly her TV had just broken a couple of days before and she couldn’t afford a new one. She was going to phone us to ask for one and so was really pleased and surprised to be given one out of the blue! And we very soon had another TV to give the man from the hostel.

We were helping a young mum with two small children who had escaped a traumatic situation. Amongst other things, she had asked specifically for stainless steel pots and pans and a white kettle. We had been given a large set of stainless saucepans and frying pans just the week before and a few days before our delivery someone gave us a brand new cream/white kettle, which they had been meaning to give to Besom for several months.

Besom starts with us having something to give, but as with the miracle of the loaves and fishes, God is able to do so much more.

If you would like to know more, please do get in touch either on our message line 07929 037101 or via email info@guildfordbesom.com.

OUTWARD GIVING

Our role is to provide a bridge between our church and its members, mission and the groups we support and pray for.
See bhcgodalming/mission/outward-giving

If you would like to be involved in this group or would like to find out more about our bursary scheme for short mission projects, please contact mission@bhcgodalming.org

4 WAYS TO GIVE

1. By BACS transfer:
Bank: NatWest, Godalming Branch
Sort Code: 60-09-04
Account name: **Busbridge PCC**
Account no: 00705349 | Ref: <charity>
2. www.bhcgodalming.org/giving
3. Cheque payable to Busbridge PCC.
Please use the giving envelope available from both churches for OG Appeals.
4. The GoodBox contactless card reader at Busbridge Church will divert donations to OG when an appeal is running.

