



Guildford News

February 2023

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers." 1 Thess 1v2.

Guildford Besom has just celebrated 20 years !

Guildford Besom started in 2002 to help local church members to give to those who are most in need. We began with a decorating project for a family in Bellfields. Within a few months we had been given a van, a phone and use of a garage and meeting room. Since then, the van has been out and about almost every week collecting and delivering, and hundreds of people have taken part in gardening and decorating projects.

As I look back over the years, there are two words that come to mind :

The first is **Thankfulness**, thankfulness for God's amazing provision over 20 years and thankfulness to all those who have given through Besom and made a real difference to someone's life.

The second word is **Hope**. Very often on the phone we speak to people who are in despair - but as we are able to offer items for their home, or groups to help with gardening or decorating, we can sense the despair lifting and hope rising. When we visit, we are often able to pray with people too.

So a huge thank you to all those who have given through Besom over so many years. So appreciated !

God bless, Simon Chedghey

Where do the requests for help come from?

Here are some of them ...

- Homeless Hostels
- Families Hostels
- Riverside Floating Support
- Social Services (Adults and Children)
- Guildford Action - Day Centre & Family Workers
- Christians Against Poverty
- Home School Link Workers
- Guildford Borough Council
- Waverley Borough Council
- A Women's Refuge
- Domestic Abuse Outreach Service
- Children's Centres
- Community Angels



Trying to look after a large garden when you are a single parent with 4 children, including a new baby, is challenging. Thankfully a group from a local church was able to help. Here is the difference they made in just a few hours!



Imagine moving into a home with no curtains or rails at any of the windows so that people can see in at all times of the day and night. This is the case for many that we visit.

We have been able to help several homes with rails and curtains giving much needed privacy.

We have a new website!
We have just launched a new Guildford Besom website :
www.guildfordbesom.com

Do take a look to find out how you can give and be involved. You can also make money donations through the website.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Besom and Christians Against Poverty were thrilled to be given c.140 Christmas Hampers this year from many different churches and other groups.

It was especially lovely that many of those making up the hampers were also able to deliver them in person, making it much more personal. It is so encouraging to see the look of joy on the faces of the recipients!

And not only were we able to help those that we have met over the last year, but also deliver to a number of hostels in the area.



RECENT STORIES

We received an emergency call from a single Mum and her 9 year old daughter who had moved to an empty flat with nothing in it except a washing machine. We were able to help them with a microwave, kettle, toaster, bedding, mattresses, a chest of drawers, wardrobe and heater. We were also able to put up blinds for the windows. The Mum was so grateful, she burst into tears.

We pray regularly for the work of Besom and we love it when things come together. Recently, someone phoned in asking for a food parcel and the very next call was someone offering a food parcel. They received the much needed food the same day!

We were able to give two single mattresses to a Mum whose children were in care. With the single mattresses, it meant that the Mum now had beds for her children and they were able to stay with her just a few weeks later.



SOME ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN :

Kettles	Toasters
Microwaves	Crockery and cutlery
Duvets and bedding	Beds
Towels	Curtains
TVs	Coffee tables
Chests of drawers	Wardrobes
Bedside cabinets	

BESOM EXISTS TO HELP YOU TO GIVE. HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS THAT YOU CAN GIVE :

- Give some time on the van or in cars collecting and delivering.
- Help sort, clean and prepare donated items.
- Use your DIY skills (eg putting up curtain rails).
- As a group, help a home with gardening or decorating.
- Give good quality household items.
- Give some money to buy new household essentials (eg kettles, microwaves and duvets)
- Help fund the Besom itself so that it can continue to provide a free service.
- Pray

PLEASE PRAY ...

- That items given through Besom will bring God's love into people's lives
- For God's continued grace in providing the right gifts to match what is needed.
- For more people to give their time, things, money and skills to those in need.
- For safety for all those involved in Besom activities.

Contact us via email info@guildfordbesom.com or phone 07929 037101 and we can tell you more about what we do and how you can get involved.