

Besom in Dorking

That was the year that was!

First, apologies for not doing a newsletter for a year! It certainly has been a strange one with many challenges. However, we have been guided and kept safe throughout. Praise the Lord.

2020 Overview

We started off at a run in the first 2 months or so of the year with many referrals.

The virus then hit. The local needs had not disappeared and, as a charity helping people in need, we could continue to operate but had to rethink how we did things following the Government guidelines.

There was an initial surge of activity due to people already in the process of moving being pushed through and also the need to provide accommodation for rough sleepers. It then went a bit quieter as the many referral agencies also had to work out what they could do when most of their staff were working from home.

Due to shielding requirements there were fewer volunteers available at times but we did have a few extra volunteers willing to fill gaps. We managed to keep in contact with the isolated volunteers via zoom meetings and by phone.

We have continued to provide furniture, white goods and household items every week apart from one week in September and Christmas week. We have helped at least 96 households and some we have revisited over a number of weeks as items were donated to fill gaps. As ever, items became available as we prayed. Jehovah Jireh, my Provider.

Besom in Dorking website

One of the windfall benefits of the lockdown was that one of our volunteers was able to work on putting together our website – www.besomindorking.com

Please do take a look and let us know what you think.

Financial position

Most of our regular financial donations have continued and these partially cover our overheads. We have also had a few one off donations that have enabled us to meet our financial obligations. All surplus funds we receive are used directly to assist local recipients, particularly by purchasing white goods and paying for gas/electrical cooker installations and repairs.

Donations can now be made direct through the website.

Donation of Christmas Hampers

We had a very nice surprise when we were made aware by the Dorking Foodbank that some Christmas hampers may be available to give out to some of the households we had helped during the year. We collected 24 hampers on 22 December and our volunteers delivered all of them by Christmas Eve. The hampers were a great surprise to our recipients, some of whom were quite overcome with gratitude.

The source of those hampers was also an inspiration to us all. They came from employees of Amey, the company who operate the refuse collection locally. They each received a hamper at Christmas but some had decided they would like to donate these to local people in need. We are so grateful for their generosity especially at this time of year.

Outlook for 2021

We already have 4 new referrals and will deliver to recipients early in January, so we will be starting off the new year at a run again.

Volunteers (known as “time-givers”)

We will have a new lady volunteer starting with us soon, which is an answer to a need we have been praying for the last year. The team now comprises 14 volunteers, from seven different local churches, with various skills and levels of involvement.

So, what is Besom?

Besom exists to be a bridge that enables local Christians to give – time, money, skill or things – to local people who are struggling to get the essentials for living. All are referred by local agencies, such as Social Services, Mental Health Teams, housing associations, home/school link workers and domestic violence support units. Prayer is at the heart of everything we do.

For more information please call Paul on

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form on our website www.besomindorking.com

