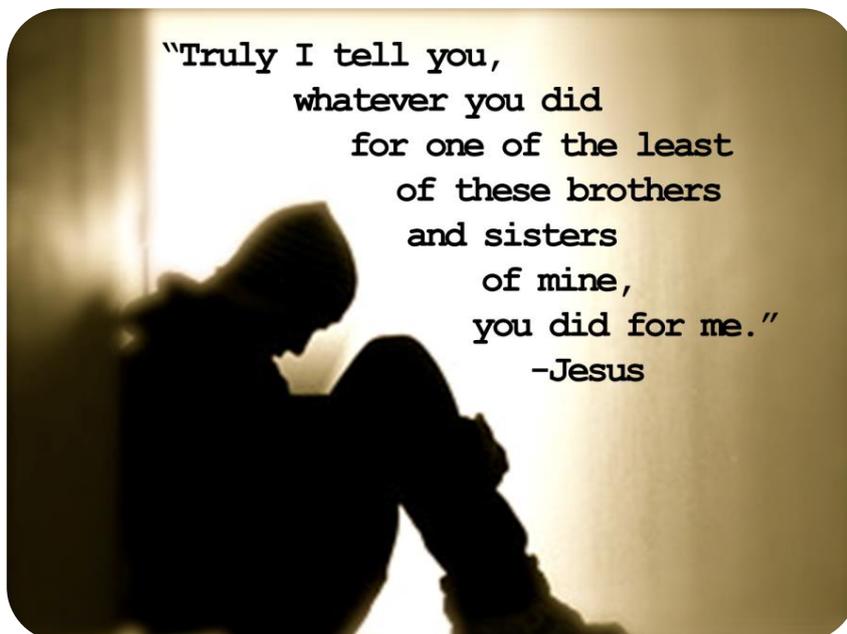


Besom in Basingstoke is 10 years old!

Yes, our very first Besom project was on 5th May 2005 – clearly remembered as it coincided with Election Day. However, the seeds of Besom in Basingstoke were sown the previous year when God spoke to several people from various churches in the town about serving the needy in our community.

Amongst those people, Gordon Scutt and Diana Cox (from the Warham Trust) had both met and worked with the inspirational James Odgers who founded Besom. James' call was clear and challenging, from Matthew's gospel Chapter 25 verse 40.....



..... several others from churches in Basingstoke had the same calling from God to serve the needy in our town. Amongst those were Andy Taylor and Bob Smith who with Gordon, Diana and others formed the first Besom steering group. And so Besom in Basingstoke was born. Our first office was a room donated free by the Malshanger Estate.

WHY "BESOM"?

The name 'Besom' derives from a broom made of twigs - hence Besom's strapline of 'sweep away suffering'. James Odgers was nicknamed Besom by his sisters when he was a boy as he was often to be found sweeping up the leaves in the yard of their family home outside London. While researching whether to use the name for establishing the Besom Foundation, James went to the Shorter Oxford Dictionary to find an example of its earliest use. This turned out to be 'sweep thy soul clene with the besom of the drede of God'. He has since then discovered that, albeit spelt 'byssome', the word was to be found in an early edition of St. Matthew's Gospel from 1000AD.



We have a new van

from this.....



to this.....



Earlier this year our van, which has served us so well over Besom's first decade, finally needed to be replaced. Within weeks of our prayers starting, money was donated for a new vehicle! We now have a van which is larger than the original one and, most importantly, has a tail lift to save the backs of our willing workers.

“ Many thanks to you and all your comrades.
God bless. My shelter is now a home ”

QUALITY CONTROL

The Besom ethos is simple. We give *good quality* goods to those who, for whatever reason, can't themselves afford to buy them. If a potential donor phones and begins the conversation with "I want to get rid of....." – we probably won't want to take it! We love to pass on new or very nice goods so that those who receive them have a sense of self-worth. Recently an ex-soldier tearfully said how much a person's generosity meant to him – he had never had a new bed before.

everyone loves to receive these.....

..... starter pack

this is an old favourite. A storage box is filled full of all those things – kettle, mugs, cutlery, toaster, etc – which make a house a home. The goods in these packs are mostly new. Our most regular giver always makes up a food pack to go with it.



..... pamper pack

a new idea, this pack is for women who move to a new home, often at short notice. The goods inside – toothpaste, toothbrush, toiletries, mirror, towels, flannel, slippers etc – will hopefully make them feel valued and at home in the face of upheaval

..... baby pack

If a baby is moving into the new home, or if the woman who is moving is pregnant, this pack contains many of the things the baby will need – nappies, toiletries, bottle, towel, changing mat etc.



“ ...the mother I gave the pack to was very pleased and grateful for your kindness. It is such a relief for her to know she has the items she needs to bring her baby home. ”

WANTED

If you have any skill in carpet-fitting, electrical work, gas-fitting, DIY or decorating and would like to donate an occasional hour or two to Besom we would LOVE to hear from you.

besominbasingstoke@gmail.com 01256 460060

“ I would like to thank you so much and all the Besom team for all the help you've given to xxx. You're all amazing. Please pass the message from me to all of the team. I appreciate so much what you've done for a lovely lady and her 2 lovely children. ”

and finally – Christmas is coming!



look out for our hamper leaflet

last year we gave out 180 hampers



If you would like to prepare a hamper this year to make Christmas special for someone in Basingstoke, please let us know at besominbasingstoke@gmail.com

BESOM DVD

A short film has been made showing the work of Besom in Basingstoke. This can be accessed at <http://vimeo.com/56093024>. We have several copies in DVD form. If you would like to see one of these, please contact us at besominbasingstoke@gmail.com or phone 01256 460060 (answerphone)

How you can be involved:

- ✓ Let us know if you would like to give time to do Besom work
- ✓ Contribute food, goods, money or new home packs
- ✓ Organise a Christmas hamper
- ✓ Encourage your house group, family or friends to offer to do a gardening or decorating job

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT OVER THE PAST YEAR