

NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN/WINTER  
2016



Jesus said...  
"when you give  
help to anyone  
in this way, you  
are helping me"

*I was hungry and you gave me food  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me  
I was naked and you clothed me  
I was sick and you visited me  
I was in prison and you came to me*



**BASINGSTOKE** is the largest town in Hampshire, and is an important economic centre in the UK. It is regarded as a prosperous place and many residents enjoy a good standard of living. But, as with any town or city in the UK, that is not the whole picture. There are many people living here who struggle day by day to meet their most basic needs. There are people in Basingstoke who can't afford to furnish their homes adequately, who can't manage to decorate their homes or get their gardens in order. Some face a crisis which leaves them short of food and other essentials.

But how do you find out where those people are? You want to help – but where do you go to make your giving as effective as possible?

Besom's simple aim is to help people give in a way that reaches the most needy. Besom simply acts as a bridge between those who want to give and those who need what is offered.



## Besom - Emily's experience



“ I've been attending Besom over the summer holidays in my time off from university and have really enjoyed it. Everyone is very friendly and made me feel welcome when I first arrived there. We usually meet on a Thursday morning at about 9am for refreshments and chat, then have a prayer time at 9.30 and set about our various tasks at 10am. Some of the men go out in the van to collect and deliver furniture, whereas I have mostly stayed at the church to help make up starter packs and sort through bedding, food etc.

The generosity of people is quite amazing, and I am glad that Besom can make good use of the majority of items donated. Although going through masses of bedding isn't the most fun thing to do, it is rewarding to know that people less fortunate than me are receiving what they need completely free ”



Over the past year Besom in Basingstoke has collected and delivered hundreds of items of furniture. Our Core Team, which meets on Thursday mornings at Wessex Christian Fellowship, is made up of members of many churches across the town and has taken on several projects including garden tidying, de-cluttering and decorating.

*"It's such a pleasure when the BESOM van comes for a collection - and to know that the goods will go straight to a family in need"*



Check out our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/thebesominbasingstoke](http://www.facebook.com/thebesominbasingstoke) - and "like" it to spread the news!

*"a lady from my Church who recently donated a bed to BESOM also received a letter from you and she was thrilled - she has it posted on her wall unit in her lounge. She is confined to her house owing to poor health and is aware that there is little she can do to help others, so being able to donate the bed gave her great pleasure and your letter made her day"*

*"Bob (a man of mature years) had two suitcases of his stuff and that was it, so he was very appreciative of everything we took, particularly that it was either new or nearly new."*

*"The BESOM gift meant so much to me at a time when I was very vulnerable and depressed"*



It has been good to give furniture recently to a number of parents after separation, enabling them to accommodate their children



*"I would like to say thank you for all your help and kindness in helping my client. She was a victim of domestic violence, and when her ex left he took all of the televisions in the house so the children didn't have anything to watch at all. With all your help you managed to get her a television and take it to her house as well. You have really changed the children's lives. They all sit together now to watch television. You have made a big difference in their lives. I would like to say a very big thankyou to you all at BESOM."*

## Some questions to consider:

?? Are you planning to replace a suite, dining table, chest of drawers, wardrobe, bedding, etc....and will be left with good quality goods which you would like to give to someone who would be delighted to receive them?

?? Would your house group, family, friendship group or club like to do something different...

...help someone sort out a mess?

...do a starter pack? (contact us for details)

...decorate a room?

...make a Christmas hamper?

...do a garden makeover?

...simply befriend someone who is lonely?

?? Would you like to buy a new fridge, freezer, cooker, washing machine, vacuum cleaner or tumble drier for someone who desperately needs one of these?

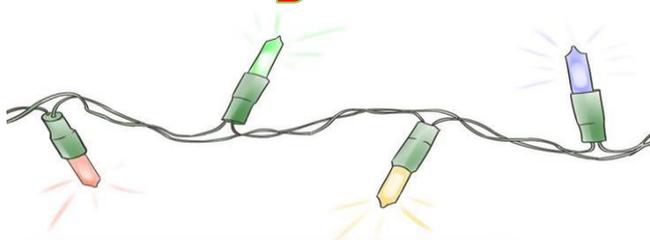
?? Do you have skills in DIY which you would like to be put to good use?

?? Is there any other way that God is prompting you to help people?

If your answer is yes to any of these – contact us at

[besominbasingstoke@gmail.com](mailto:besominbasingstoke@gmail.com) or 01256 460060 (*answerphone call will be returned*)

## and finally...



## another year....another opportunity to light up someone's Christmas



pick up a leaflet and make a hamper of Christmas food and luxuries for a family that needs a bit of help to make Christmas special. Why not buy a children's book about Jesus' birth and put it in?



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](mailto:besominbasingstoke@gmail.com) or phone 01256 460060 (*answerphone*). We are always happy to come and speak to churches or groups and share our ethos and our stories.