

## Prayer Letter for The Besom in Taunton

December 2020

*I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul in downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*  
Lamentations 3: 19-26 NIV.

We give thanks that at our AGM the annual review reported that Besom remains in a financially satisfactory position and well placed to respond to anticipated demands once Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted. There was much to report of God using the channel of Besom to witness his love of all his creation. We as time-givers, prayers and supporters are truly blessed!

**Crisis Food Boxes.** November saw the anticipated increase in demand for our Crisis boxes 19; in total were delivered, 8 into family situations and 11 to individuals. There was also an increase in the number of social working agencies now working with us and requesting our help and supplies (praise God!). The revised Covid 19 restrictions are not changing our response, we continue to deliver promptly and only as far as the front door (not inside) and offer to pray with or for recipients.

- We give thanks for our time-givers who continue to be willing and able to respond almost immediately to these crisis needs.
- Please pray for the health and safety of recipients and our time-givers in the crisis food box team.

**Furniture/white goods and Starter packs.** Although van runs were basically stopped during November, we did continue to collect and deliver where the need was absolutely necessary; for example where recipients were the subject of domestic violence and have been moved to a new home and starting with absolutely nothing . 4 van runs were undertaken delivering 33 items plus 3 starter packs and 1 crisis food box.

- We give thanks to the time-givers willing to continue their giving in these exceptional times.
- Please pray for the health and safety of recipients and our time-givers in the van team.

**Decorating and gardening projects.** Covid 19 continues to prevent this part of our work being delivered. It is frustrating for all, key workers, recipients and time-givers, but we cannot realistically undertake the work and comply with current restrictions.

- Give thanks that referrals for projects have not been coming through recently, as we would be unable to respond and our 'waiting list' is already long.
- Pray that those restrictions will ease early in 2021, enabling us to return to providing support to those who need help with gardening and decoration projects

As we prepare and plan for December please pray for

- Guidance and patience as we work through the practicalities of complying with new safeguarding guidelines. Also, for our time-givers as we ask them to again fill in forms etc.
- Key workers to be blessed as they continue to both give and organise support for their clients.

**We thank you for your continued prayer support for The Besom.**