

Good Soil

Growing lives. Releasing potential



NEWS & PRAYER LETTER Autumn 2018

We apologise that we have not produced a newsletter for some time. The exciting development of opening our first house (see below) has taken a great deal of time and energy.

We are so grateful to our many supporters for your practical and prayerful support of the Good Soil (GS). We held two Open Mornings at the farm in July and September this year and last Sunday afternoon we celebrated Harvest which was a great success with a record turn-out. We really enjoy these times and they provide great opportunities to chat with existing supporters and make new ones. Thank you to all who joined us; and for those who missed them, we shall be planning some more events soon!

The Feeding Station (aka soup run) continues to provide a hot meal to members of the homeless community on Saturday nights in the city centre. Our teams of servant-hearted volunteers do a fantastic job of preparing and administering the meals, whilst also trying to provide wider support and friendship to those who come along. We are continuing to review this provision in terms of considering an indoor location and also to ensure this facility is co-ordinated with other similar services being provided by other agencies across the city. With this in mind, the GS is represented at meetings of the Worcester City Vulnerable People & Homeless Forum, a fairly recently constituted group made up of many statutory and voluntary organisations coming together to address the issue of homelessness in our city.

MEET LORETA

“I was a volunteer at The Good Soil for the last couple of years wishing one day it could become my daily job. The dream became a reality back in August this year. I discovered my passion for horticulture at the very young age. I grew up in a self-sufficient family, making the most of every inch of land available to us. We grew a variety of vegetables and fruit during summer months, foraged berries and mushrooms in autumn. It’s fair to say I was and still am an outdoorsy girl. I truly love my job! It’s highly rewarding, challenging at times, filled with happy memories and sometimes painful discoveries, but when the day is up, all I see is change and the value in what we do.

I see The Good Soil as a place of transformation. Everything and everyone gets a chance to renew, grow and bear fruit. I am very lucky to be part of it all.”



OAK HOUSE



In June this year, by God’s grace and through the generosity of supporters, the GS opened its first residential home in the Tunnel Hill area of Worcester. There is a huge need for the provision of supported accommodation in the city, giving vulnerable and recovering people somewhere to live in a safe environment whilst providing the support they need to rehabilitate their lives. The house is currently home to four residents, who sign up to a behavioural contract and are allocated a key worker who works with them on an individualised support plan.

The idea is to build a family atmosphere and would be residents have to show a willingness to make the changes to enable themselves to move on. Living at Oak House means a structured week with therapeutic time at the farm and other meaningful activities.

We have also introduced a 4 step work programme and Nev is facilitating paid work opportunities for residents with local sympathetic contractors from within our church family.

We are grateful not just for the provision of the house, but also for the efforts of so many volunteers to get the house ready for occupation. We are convinced that this is a wonderful opportunity to show God's love and compassion to those in need and we very much hope to be able to open more houses in the future.

If you are interested in becoming a Good Soil Landlord, we would love to hear from you!!



ON THE FARM

As well as residents from Oak House, the farm continues to receive other clients, who may be referred via other agencies or are known to Dave, Nev or other members of staff. Farm participants look after the animals, collect eggs for distribution through local churches, work in the polytunnels or complete other activities on the site and are provided with a hot meal by our excellent volunteers, predominantly using produce from the farm.

We have been blessed by a generous donation from the Morrisons Foundation that enabled us to purchase a new minibus. This is much in use to transport clients to and from the farm, as well as other tasks.

PLANT A POUND

We are encouraged by the start of our 'Plant A Pound' campaign. The clue is in the title! If you are not already giving to Good Soil, perhaps you could consider sowing a £1 a week to help us grow lives and release potential. Email us for a brochure and forms info@goodsoil.org.uk

This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we have asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15

PRAISE & PRAYER

- Praise for provision of land and facilities at Top Barn Farm and the peace and beauty of the place.
- Praise for the opening of Oak House.
- Praise for our continuing partnership with Exaireo Trust who are helping us expand into housing services.
- Praise for Loreta's appointment.
- Praise for the provision of a new minibus.
- Prayer for the residents of Oak House, for positive friendships between clients and with keyworkers.
- Pray that clients will continue to attend the Project and receive blessings and healing.
- Pray for financial provision as recent outgoings have put the GS's finances under some strain.
- Pray for the Feeding Station on Saturday nights, for safety of clients and volunteers.
- Pray for the Worcester City Vulnerable People & Homeless Forum, that God would bless the efforts of all agencies to reduce homelessness.

Please feel free to join us for our monthly prayer meetings, at 7.30pm on the last Monday of each month. (Email alison@goodsoil.org.uk for details.)



We need some volunteers to help with some very important practical roles. Farm Day Group Volunteers. Web Site/Social Media Tech. H&S coordinator. Contact alison@goodsoil.org.uk or call 07541 701823 for more information.

www.goodsoil.org.uk

Contact us at info@goodsoil.org.uk;

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