

Good Soil

Growing lives. Releasing potential



NEWSLETTER Summer 2019

A few days ago I received my first delivery of groceries from Good Soil. What a great selection of delicious fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruit it was, and I look forward to many more! Thank you to Nev, Loreta and all those who work on the farm for making this possible. We hope that this is a service that can expand in the coming months and years.



When Good Soil Trust was officially launched, we planted a number of acorns to celebrate the occasion. This picture is the fruit of one of those acorns – a small oak tree, now 3-4 years old and its appearance differs from season to season. It reminds us very much that life is a journey, with significant events and different seasons. As we provide a home and opportunities (both physically and spiritually) for our residents, we are conscious that this is a personal journey for people. It is full of challenges, learning new ways and skills in a safe and caring environment. Since we started over 12 months ago, a number of residents have moved on for differing reasons. Please remember these people. It does not mean the journey has ended with Good Soil; in fact, it can be a very important part of the process. We hope that they will return to the house one day – the Project remains an option for them. Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we look to impact the lives of those we journey with. At present we have 5 residents living in Oak House and a further 5-6 that we have relationship with at the farm.

The Feeding Station & Worcester Cares

The teams of volunteers continue to provide hot and cold food and drinks to between 30 and 50 people in the city every Saturday night. Good Soil is represented at the regular meetings of the Worcester Cares Forum that seeks to address the issues around homelessness in the city. It is encouraging to see so many individuals and organisations coming together to try to meet the needs of these vulnerable folk.

House no. 2: Willow House

A local family have generously offered to purchase a house to support Good Soil in our vision – an amazing and miraculous provision. We hope the sale will be completed by September and this will enable us to provide a home and support to another four residents. The past 6-9 months has been a difficult time for us as a charity and we have had to make some hard decisions due to financial constraints. Supporting our current infrastructure and staffing levels with one house has not been possible, despite some generous donations, but with a second property it becomes more feasible.

Resident Story

"I moved into Oak House in October 2018. I had been in prison for over 10 years and was really struggling to find accommodation and move forward with my life. My Probation Officer arranged for me to attend the farm project at Good Soil and I really enjoyed the work and being occupied. I was looking to change my life and when a vacancy came up at the house, I moved in. It is the best thing I have ever done – I'm slowly building my life and it is exciting. I have had a problem with alcohol, but I am working through this now I live in a safe place. Occasionally I go out with a painter and am learning new skills. I attend church on a weekly basis and find the 'Thought for the Day' interesting and challenging."

NEWS FROM THE FARM

This is always an exciting season for us at the farm – there is lots and lots to do. This year we are growing a great deal more produce and plants, including tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, carrots, broad beans, spring onions, beetroot, potatoes, courgettes and more – and that's before listing any of the fruit! Loreta is providing 'Produce Boxes' on a weekly basis to about 12 customers on a trial basis. Check out the boxes which have been made at Good Soil from pallet wood by volunteers and residents.



Notice in the photo to the left that the soil is covered with wood chip. We have recently been inspired by a Christian market gardener from the States. The woodchip helps reduce watering, protects and improves the soil quality and, in turn, produces better crops. If you would like to know more, take a look at the video 'How to grow a vegetable garden – back to Eden' on Youtube.

Aside from work on the farm, Nev continues to take some of the residents out for further work opportunities – on the Good Soil gardening round, landscaping jobs, building sites and with a local painter. These are great opportunities for the residents; working with Nev and our sympathetic business partners is really inspiring. If you have any gardening or landscaping jobs why not consider Good Soil? For further information please email: nev@goodsoil.org.uk

SIGN UP!

We would love you to pray for us, so if that's for you, please email info@goodsoil.org.uk and ask to be included in our monthly prayer and praise points email.



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