



65 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4QU
Tel: 01902 399955

E: office@gsmwolverhampton.org.uk
W: gsmwolverhampton.org.uk

Newsletter

Issue 002/06

Message from Brothers Stephen, Charles and William

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Good Shepherd.

To start, we would just like to provide a bit of background about the Good Shepherd and who we are as part of the international religious Order of Brothers, the Brothers of Saint John of God.

Saint John of God was born in Portugal in 1495 and died in Granada in Spain in 1550.

He provided food, shelter and help for the sick in the city of Granada, and that work has continued ever since with caring for the poor, the sick and the disabled.

Each Brother is called to recognise the presence of God in every person he encounters and every person who is in need of help, and the Brothers provide various health services in every continent.

The Order runs projects across the world to meet all kinds of social need, with a particular spirit of an attitude of hospitality and welcome to all.

There were Brothers helping people in Wolverhampton from all the way back in 1972,

in what was an old cinema on Thornley Street, and it was in 2003 that we first set up at Darlington Street Methodist Church thanks to an invitation from the Superintendent Minister, the Reverend Tony Kinch.

We set up a programme to provide food for the poor and marginalised people of Wolverhampton, providing daily food packages with the help of the City of Wolverhampton Council who have always supported our service provision.



Immediately people within the community showed interest in the service and provided donations of food and clothing, and volunteers came forward to help.

Many service-users came to us with mental health problems, without a GP and in need of treatment, and we had other enquiries about washing facilities, clothes and requests for help with benefits advice and accommodation.

Individuals with drug and alcohol illness issues was another significant feature which remains to this day, a complex challenge, and we have had visits from many ambulances needed to assist people under the influence of drugs.

Continued overleaf

From front page

Recovery Near You, an addiction counselling and support service, operates in Wolverhampton to provide treatment, counselling and support to people with drug-related illnesses and provides significant support to our guests.

As time has moved on there has been a need to expand aspects of our service beyond just being a dining service.

The project was in need of expansion to assist clients with health issues and help them reach a dignified life and as much independence as possible.

We have now acquired our own building close to the City Centre, suitable for the Good Shepherd to operate our services and work

with various professional agencies to help people deal with the significant daily issues which they face and give them the support and assistance that they need.

Our work has developed and changed in various ways over the years but we have always tried to follow our basic mission.

Things have been going well in our new building so far and we have a lot more storage space and extra rooms and have been able to design facilities to suit our needs.

We have every

hope that this move will see a major improvement in our provision of immediate help to our service users (food and showers) and long-term assistance, including support with housing, jobs and health. Many thanks for your continuing support of the Good Shepherd.



MISSION OF THE ORDER OF BROTHERS

To continue the healing work of Jesus Christ

OUR VISION: We provide healing and hope and a form of care that promotes a sense of dignity among the poor and the sick.

OUR VALUES: Reflect our heritage and guide our behaviours

HOSPITALITY: Offering a welcome to every person who comes seeking help. Strive to foster and communicate a welcoming towards all persons.

RESPECT: Recognise the richness of God's gifts and presence in each person regardless of age, situation, culture or religious belief.

COMPASSION: Responds to the needs of the person's body, mind and spirit, energising new hope.

JUSTICE: A balanced and fair relationship with self, neighbour, creation and with God.

EXCELLENCE: Striving for excellence in the care and services we provide.



VOLUNTEERS

We have been missing almost all of our volunteers during the lockdown, as we adapted our services and followed all the necessary regulations from the government and Public Health.

We hope everyone has been keeping well and healthy, and look forward to seeing you again and life hopefully returning to normal over the coming months.

COVID-19 SUPPORT

The Good Shepherd has adapted its services during the Covid-19 pandemic, continuing to provide a daily takeout service.

We have seen even more demand for this service, with a 40 per cent increase to approximately 170 people attending each day.

Our key workers have also continued to be a part of a multi-agency response to the pandemic by continuing to visit our service-users in their emergency accommodation organised by the City of Wolverhampton Council.

We were also delighted to house four of our clients in their own accommodation right at the start of the lockdown, and more have since followed.



There have been some breakthroughs with many people during such a difficult time, and there are high hopes that the teamwork and multi-agency approach may signal a more positive future for the homeless and vulnerable from the city.

REGULAR GIVING



“We support the Good Shepherd with a monthly donation because we recognise the value of their work as a vital hands-on service to people in our own local community.”

The words of John and Wendy Bate, who are among those who provide the Good Shepherd with a regular monthly donation, which can help us plan for the future.

“We remain so very appreciative of those who support us in different ways, whether by giving their time or via fundraising, and are just asking whether anyone else would consider making a small regular monthly donation to the charity,” says Admin Manager Helen Holloway.

“If people are even able to afford just a small donation every month, it brings us more stability and helps us with our budgeting to ensure we can plan ahead for the food service and meaningful activity programme which aims to help those we support return to a normal and fulfilled life.”

Anyone who feels able to support the Good Shepherd in this way is asked to email Helen on admin@gsmwolverhampton.org.uk or call on (01902) 399955.



STEPHEN'S STORY

Many of our volunteers – and all those who attended the first ever Molineux sleepout last November – will recognise Steve, one of our key workers.

At our new website, gsmwolverhampton.org.uk, Steve has kindly told us his story, about how he has come through his problems with addiction to now have a job helping others who are going through the same experiences.



“By rights, I really shouldn't be here today. By rights I should probably be dead,” said Steve.

“I want to be here for these people, the hard to reach people, I want to help them.

“At the Good Shepherd we are here to give them a new start, and try and take them away from that life, we want to give them something they can enjoy, to see life as an adventure and not a chore.

“I am still so grateful for the experiences I have had in life because they have made me what I am today, and I am so grateful to be part of this fantastic team at the Good Shepherd.”

HARVEST



The last few months have challenged and tested many of us as we have adapted to new ways to do things. We have reconnected with friends and realised the importance of small acts of kindness which are so important.

With this in mind, we have been thinking about our Harvest celebrations and have decided it may be easier for us to set up an online harvest appeal where individual can donate on line or to your local church/club/school who can do a one-off collection and you can donate in that way. That way we can ensure we have the finance in place to purchase all tinned and packed items needed by families and individuals. Working at present with no volunteers puts additional strain on staff so the money raised from this appeal can be used through-

out the year to keep our stores stocked up.

We will also be producing a Youtube video clip which can either be played in schools churches or the link can be sent to congregations to give you an insight of the work we are doing and the impact it has on society and those struggling from financial poverty.



£3 pays for one individuals to enjoy a hot wholesome meal
 £10 pays for four takeout meals
 £40 pays for a family food parcel



2019/20 summary

Number of Individuals attending the service **1081**



Activities



837
 meaningful sessions delivered



115
 Rough sleepers engaged

Health interventions

302 Mental health interventions 

153 Physical health interventions 

75 Addiction interventions 

117 Emergency accommodation

10 Temporary accommodation

34 Long term accommodation

21 Private rent scheme accommodation



Housing support **219** | Homelessness support **168** | Employment support **65** | Benefits support **51** | Immigration advice **66**

CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

There are many different ways to support the Good Shepherd, whether via volunteering, holding a fundraising event, shopping via Amazon Smile or Easy Fundraising, the Big Give campaign, making a one-off text donation or regular giving.

For a one-off donation, text GSMWOO £2/£5/£10 to 70070 selecting your preferred amount.

CONTACT

Please email office@gsmwolverhampton.org.uk with requests for any more information about the Good Shepherd.

