

## OPEN FOR A NEW ERA!

The Good Shepherd recently officially opened the doors of its new premises on Waterloo Road, as it looks to step up the campaign to help Wolverhampton's homeless and vulnerable find a pathway to a brighter future.

Having become well known as a vital provider of food for the homeless and vulnerable, serving almost 30,000 meals and food parcels every year, the Good Shepherd is now at the hub of a multi-agency approach to provide a wide range of support to people in need from across the city.

One key feature of the new facility at 65 Waterloo Road, which has been renovated to the tune of £300,000 thanks to grant funding and donations from the public, is a link-up with Enterprise Homes Group who now run their Church Shelter on the site.

Currently the Good Shepherd are renting the new premises but have an option in place to purchase the building outright and will be continuing to look for further funding to achieve their ambition.

"With the increased space we have to work with so many other services, we can now serve as a one-stop shop to support the homeless and vulnerable," says Tom Hayden, Head of Operations at the Good Shepherd.

"Our overall vision is to end homelessness in Wolverhampton, and this move brings us one step closer to achieving our goal."



Brother Stephen, one of the Brothers of St John of God who are instrumental behind the Good Shepherd, is pictured with Pauline, one of the charity's longest-serving supporters, at the official launch event.

Pauline was present at the very start back in 1972 when the Brothers were first involved in setting up a Shelter at a derelict cinema on Thornley Street, and was among one of the first official helpers at the charity.

## MAREK'S STORY

Marek approached the Good Shepherd as a rough sleeper with a history of alcoholism, joining the charity's user-volunteer programme. He volunteered in the kitchen and dining room and distributed food parcels, helped set up a Polish-speaking AA meeting, and moved into a supported housing placement.

Then, Marek started to demonstrate his carpentry skills, and was actually employed to come full circle and take on some of the work involved in the refurbishment of the Good Shepherd.



"There was a time when I was sleeping on a bench and I was thinking, maybe tomorrow I die – it's not life.

"I came to the Good Shepherd, and now I am two-and-a-half years without drinking and I feel good."

## A MARATHON EFFORT!

Wolverhampton MP Stuart Anderson has been a regular volunteer at the Good Shepherd over the last year and is now putting his feet firmly forward to support the charity at this year's London Marathon.

Good luck Stuart. Please visit his Virgin Money page to support him if you can -

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=StuartAndersonMP&pageUrl=1>

Local MPs and councillors have been very supportive of the Good Shepherd over many years and Pat McFadden MP also visited the centre after the official opening.



## LEANNE'S STORY

In 2016, Leanne was homeless, sleeping in a tent on the outskirts of Wolverhampton City Centre and dealing with addiction and anger issues.

Now, after help from the Good Shepherd, she lives in a flat, has rekindled her childhood love of art and is studying a course with a view to heading to University in September.

"When you come to the Good Shepherd, as I did when I needed help, you don't feel like just a service-user," Leanne explains.

"You feel like part of a family.

"I never thought I would be a person that could go to University – if you had told me that would happen when I was homeless three years ago I would probably have just laughed!"



## NEW WEBSITE!

Thanks to the very generous support of Solihull-based Jask Creative energy, the Good Shepherd now has a new website.

Visit [gsmwolverhampton.org.uk](http://gsmwolverhampton.org.uk) to see our new site.

## OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Number of Individuals attending the service **716**

**485** Individual Parcels

**6683** Hot meals

**327** meaningful activity sessions delivered

**55** rough sleepers engaged in meaningful activity



## 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 [admin@gsmwolverhampton.org.uk](mailto:admin@gsmwolverhampton.org.uk) with requests for any more information about the Good Shepherd.

