

# HORIZON LIFE TRAINING

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”*

Philippians 4:4

## Easter at Horizon

**Our Saviour is risen, Hallelujah — and that changes everything!**

As our residents place their trust in the risen Saviour, they step into a new life of renewal and restoration.

At Horizon Life Training, the men learn to put their new found faith into action and work out how this shapes their daily living and working.

Their discipleship is crucial and we are tremendously encouraged to see this outworking in the harmonious living culture being built in the centre. As new residents arrive, this culture is being intentionally passed on. Recently, we noticed a sign the men created and placed in the dining room themselves: “No phones.” Their desire is to foster conversation, connection, and meaningful mealtimes together. We love to see our residents helping and supporting each other in countless ways as they develop their relational skills.

From our starting point a year ago without any residents, we are thrilled to have walked alongside eleven men. Two more are due imminently and there is now such life and vibrancy in the centre. Several other potential residents have already visited and are preparing to join us once they have completed their current programmes. We are so grateful for your ongoing prayer and financial support which has helped us to reach this stage and hope that you will be encouraged as you hear some of our updates and personal stories.



We celebrated 12 months since our first resident arrived with tea and cakes in the dining hall, praying together and giving thanks to God for a successful year.

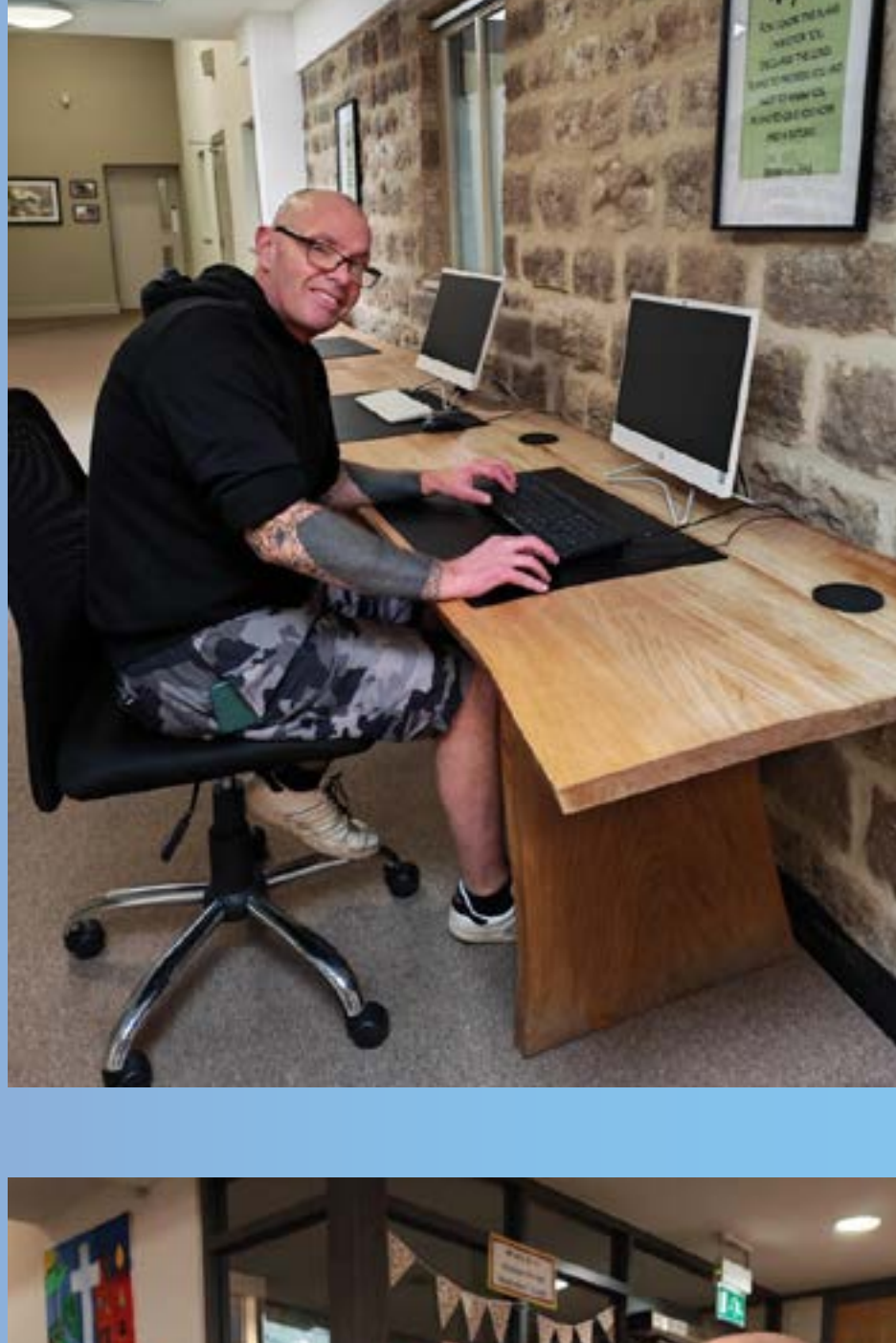
## Called to help Others - John's Story

John says “I struggled from lots of trauma. This was conducive to my addiction to illicit substances. I struggled with life and I had trust and insecurity issues, low self esteem and self-worth. I eventually reached a point where I knew I couldn't go on in my desperation and brokenness. Someone gave me details of a residential discipleship and rehabilitation programme at Whitechester House. I was accepted onto their programme and this was the start of my Christian walk.

Things were good for 6 years but then I distanced myself from God and I forgot his grace and mercy. I found myself trapped in addiction again for 5 months before rejoining Whitechester House and renewing my relationship with God. During this time, I had a life transforming experience with God and decided that I never want to go back to those dark days. I came to Horizon Life Training in November and since then, God has opened many doors for me.”

John has a heart to share his story and experiences with others. In January, he had the opportunity to share his experience of homelessness with a group of teenagers in Knaresborough who then went on to sleep out in tents on a cold night. He is also attending a drop in centre at Bridge Community Church on a weekly basis to share his story and encourage others to start a journey of restoration, helping those interested to apply to a Rehabilitation centre. John has just been accepted onto a Chaplaincy course to further his skills and is hoping to shadow a local Chaplain to gain further experience.

**WestBrook Academy are generously supporting John's Chaplaincy course with a 50% bursary but we are hoping to support him further. Would you consider encouraging him by donating towards his course fees? A specific donation could be made using the link below and the reference; resident's training. Thank you so much!**



## Ripple Effect...

We give thanks to God when he continues to surprise us with His provision.

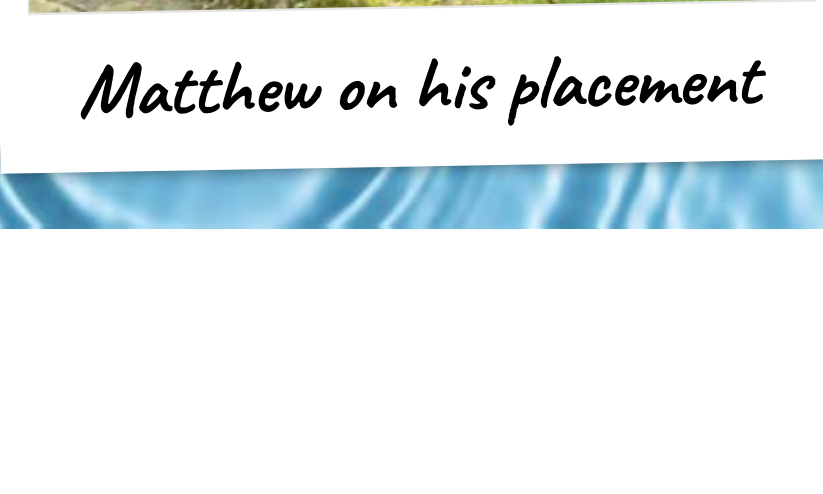
Steve had a placement at RHS Harlow Carr back in 2015 and was inspired to set up his own gardening business. He had a chance meeting with a local horticultural expert, Fleur who generously shared her experience and vast plant knowledge. Steve became a skilled and busy self-employed gardener, continuing to benefit from Fleur's help and advice. He went on to train and employ an HLT resident who has now also set up his own business.

Amazing as this is, the knock-on effect does not stop there. Steve is now a support worker at HLT and due to his successful relationship with Fleur, she has agreed to take one of our residents on placement. Matthew now has the amazing opportunity to work alongside Fleur; benefitting from all the expertise that she is sharing with him.

This is so encouraging but.... we are in desperate need of more placements.

**Do you know anyone who would be willing to share their skills and knowledge with one of our residents? Please let us know if anyone you know could offer a voluntary placement in joinery, painting and decorating, building, cleaning, landscaping, admin, finance...etc.**

Contact us by email [volunteer@horizonlifetraining.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@horizonlifetraining.org.uk)



Matthew on his placement

## Willoughby House visit

Our Partnership Manager Gordon Stewart was invited to Willoughby House, a Teen Challenge rehabilitation centre to speak at their residents 'Chapel' session.

We also had an impromptu visit from the management team who were pleased to see the progress made by Tom, Joe and Louis who successfully completed their programme there. They were keen for Tom, Joe and Louis to join Gordon in encouraging the men currently at Willoughby House, to share how their lives have progressed since moving on, and how God has been faithful every step of the way. We are so thankful to our partnership with the rehabilitation centres and to God for breaking the chains of addiction.



We are so thankful for the recent donation of a multi gym which has been added to the gym equipment and is very well received.

We are continuing to improve this area towards a professional style gym so if you have any expertise in this area to help us achieve this, please get in touch.



## Sharing Food, Building Community

We love our food at HLT and the residents take turns to cook the evening meal. One of our trustees, Anne and her husband Jim recently came for dinner, they loved the delicious beef casserole and spending some time getting to know the residents.

We are thankful to our volunteer Gloria for conducting an induction to Food Hygiene with each new resident and for sharing her expertise in cooking and baking. We have recently been treated to steak pie, scones and flapjacks!

The residents are also experimenting with our recently donated slow cookers, enhancing their cooking repertoire as they continue to learn from each other, from staff and volunteers. Our residents often express a desire to experiment further with cooking and baking.

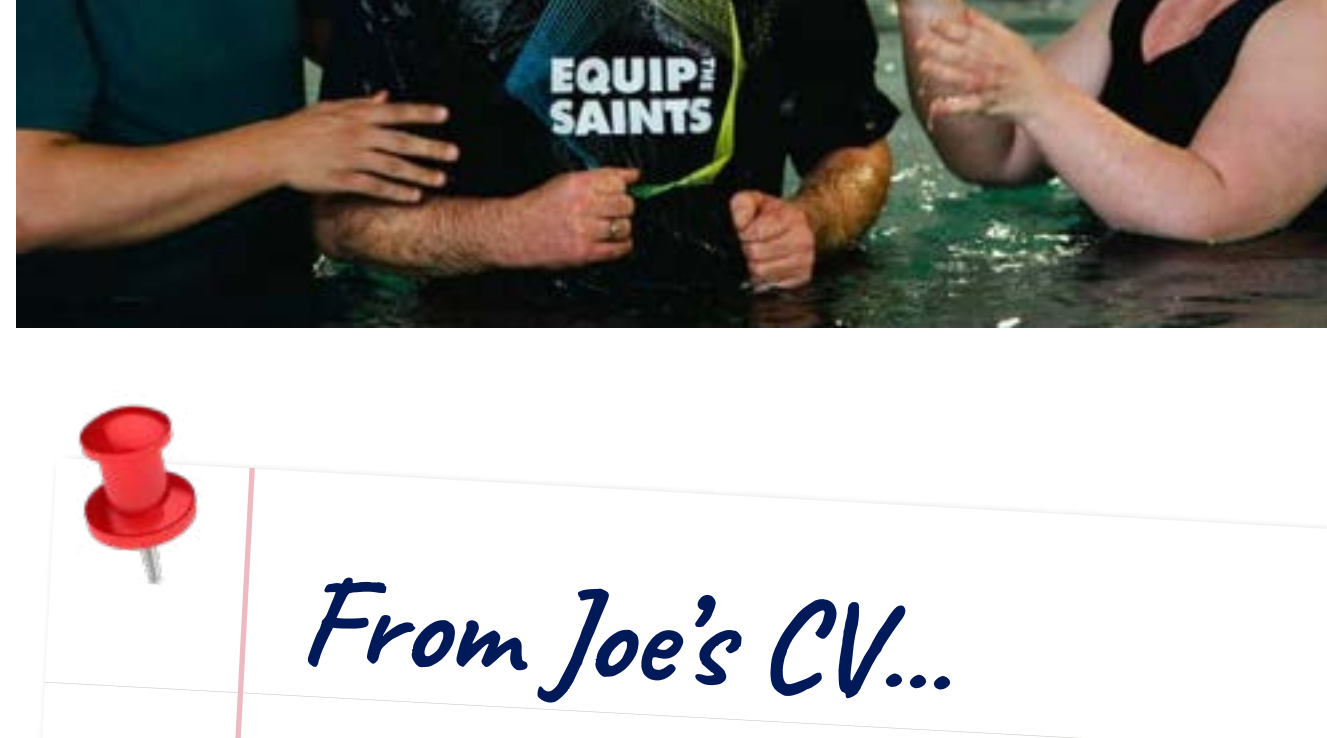
*Do you have the necessary time and skills to help facilitate this?*

## Pathway Beyond Sobriety - Joe's Story

Joe arrived at HLT in June. He says “I prayed about coming to Harrogate and felt an immediate connection. This is now my home, and in this town, in this year, I decided to ask my church to baptise me to complete my journey. Since being at HLT, I have felt spiritual clarity, the penny has so dropped and now I know for sure that I am a child of God. My baptism was a significant and emotional experience, and I thank God for his grace and mercy every day.”

“I was born in London in 1973 and I had everything going for me. I excelled in private school, was good at sport, went to university. I had a good job and a lovely family, I had it all, but I put myself under such pressure to succeed. There was no spiritual element to my life, I was not bothered and ashamedly, I went as far as mocking God. My mum was an alcoholic and this left me scarred. Eventually, I found myself feeling empty and started secretly abusing alcohol in my mid 40's.”

Joe shares his regrets but realises that without travelling the broken road, he would not have met Jesus. He says, “When I ended up homeless and drinking on the streets, I sought out a church and they offered me hope. Someone from the Foodbank mentioned Teen Challenge rehabilitation and that's where I stayed for 10 months. Unfortunately, I relapsed and returned to chaos. I went back to Willoughby House for another 10 months and it was as if God released the pressure valve! I am now a new creation and I now feel a duty to spread the word starting with my family members who can't help but see what God is doing in my life.”



### From Joe's CV...

“I have been making the most of diverse work opportunities at HLT and now feel ready to re-enter the workplace.

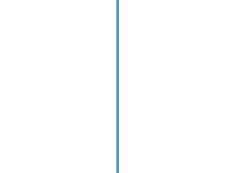
I am a naturally customer driven, loyal individual with a strong background in sales and key account management across administrative, retail, sales and financial services sectors so if you have any connections in these areas of work, I would love to be given a new opportunity. Thank you”

## Cedarwood FESTIVAL

Our residents are keen to attend the Cedarwood Festival [cedarwoodfestival.com](http://cedarwoodfestival.com) in July and we are hoping to facilitate this. This will be a fantastic opportunity to gather with Christians from all around the country to worship God and it is so local for us.

*Do you have any camping equipment that you no longer use or could you donate towards sleeping bags/tents etc or could you sponsor the event?*

Contact us by email [admin@horizonlifetraining.org.uk](mailto:admin@horizonlifetraining.org.uk)



### Please join us in giving thanks to God

- That since re-opening just less than a year ago, 11 residents have been welcomed through our doors at HLT.
- That our residents with some gaining employment and confidence with some continuing development.
- That the staff and volunteer team are unified in passion for the work.
- For the strengthening of essential links with rehabilitation centres and churches.

### Please continue to pray with us

- That our residents will discern God's will in their lives and develop a deep reliance on Him.
- For individual work placements and new opportunities.
- For resilience in life skills to support the eventual move on to independent living.
- That as new residents join us, God will equip and sustain the staff and volunteer team and provide for all our needs.

*We really appreciate your support for the ongoing work at Horizon Life Training.*

Please forward this newsletter to anyone that may be interested and encourage people to sign up for further newsletters [here](#) and to [follow us on Facebook](#).

As we are now in the position to open our doors to more residents, our need for staff and resources is growing. Would you consider joining our regular monthly supporters so that our residents will continue to be supported in the best way possible?

<https://horizonlifetraining.org.uk/donate/>



Scan to donate

### New Bank Details:

Don't forget our recent bank account change to:

Horizon Life Training (Barclays)  
Sort code: 20-98-98  
Account: 43470881



Please feel free to contact us;

Horizon Life Training, Ripon Road, Killinghall, Harrogate, HG3 2AY

01423 560841

[admin@horizonlifetraining.org.uk](mailto:admin@horizonlifetraining.org.uk)

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Matthew Nice  
Centre Manager  
07738663283