

November 2023

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you all well. Autumn is beautifully under way and is a reminder to us that things change, to make way for the new growth. There are a few changes afoot with Morning Star and alongside our Trustees, we are quietly excited about the opportunities God has given us.

Exciting news! We are currently negotiating a rent-free five-year lease on the Former Bowls Club in Victoria Park in Salisbury with the local Council, we hope soon to sign the tenancy agreement. The park is the oldest in Salisbury and rather spectacular (especially at this time of year) and a very peaceful place to base ourselves. We anticipate it will provide us with much needed confidential space to see people, to build community and run a three day a week programme to support and help those who need it. It will provide some office and storage space and opportunities for some of those we journey with to volunteer. We hope too that it will enable us to partner with other agencies. There are some financial challenges to sustain the project beyond two years, but we step out in faith that God will provide what is needed. We are on week eight of our twelve-week Recovery Course, running from St Francis Church in Salisbury. Mike has also been running a modified course for those in supported accommodation. Both these groups remind us week after week, how much more is needed on a weekly basis for those in recovery who are trying to make good choices.



Thank you! It was great to meet some of you at the Thanksgiving event in September – we were able to meet in the proposed new building on a very hot, sunny day. It was wonderful to thank Dave and Bev for all they have done in the first 20 years of Morning Star and Bev in turn reassured us of God's provision from their experiences. Sadly, Dave wasn't very well on the day. They were able to buy some lovely big plants for their patio and some crafting materials with the generous gifts sent- thank you!

It's a marathon! Thanks to Mike, Mike, Rosie, and Vicki for running the relay in the Clarendon Marathon and the team who manned the water station. We raised about £1500 – it was a really great day and a very well organised event. Our water station was near the end, at the top of a steep incline, so we were quite busy with those hurting mentally and physically. One lady was 73 and running her 325th marathon!





Grateful! We were recently asked to support someone who had to be rehoused at short notice with a fridge freezer. When we arrived at their new home, this family had only a TV and two air beds. Through the generosity of so many, we had the joy of delivering most of what they needed to make it home and for them to recover. Dad wanted to thank you in his own words... *'This is a thank you all. My child and myself had to move suddenly due to my child coming to live with me full time. We stayed in hotels for a month then we got a temporary flat at least my child was safe. Next, we had to make it a home. As we had nothing. Then we got in touch with (Morning Star) and they help us to furniture it now looks like a home. And their kindness will never be forgot by us. Once again thank you for all the stuff and help. '*

So, all in all, challenging (but exciting times) as we pack up the office and prepare for a New Year and a new season in the life of Morning Star Salisbury. We are continually grateful to God for his grace and his faithfulness. I am reminded of a poem by Annie Flint.

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase,
To added affliction He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

His love has no limit, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men,
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half -done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

Although Annie was born in 1866, her words are still relevant today – Annie had huge challenges and we know God does not change. We know these words to be true for the Charity but also in the personal and family challenges we face. Thank you all for your ongoing prayers, support, and encouragement. It means a lot to us and those we serve.

Kerry and Mike Badger

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Donate at: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/16834> Charity No: 1094618 Company No: 4476953

Do please remember these dates in your diary (details to follow)

Prayer Meeting (last Wednesday of every month online – contact us to join– all welcome)

Thanksgiving Event (Victoria Park) 23rd June 2024 (afternoon)

Barn Dance (Salisbury Rugby Club) 6th July 2024 (evening)

Quiz night (Aldbury Village Hall) 14th September 2024 (evening)

Clarendon Marathon 6th October 2024