

Bringing Hope to Broken Lives

Easter 2025

Dear Friends,



Easter seems to have come around quickly, and we have been busy at the centre making Easter gardens to bless others. We have been reflecting in our little Sunday gathering about events of Easter week and what it means for us.

It is hard to believe the Centre has been open for over a year. We were interested to note that over the past year, we have had **621 visits to the centre**, **460 (75%) from those seeking support**. We have had over **39 different individuals** attending with between 1-7 people coming each day. Most are in recovery, all but one had mental

health issues. At the end of February, we were supporting 20 different people, both at the centre and in outreach. Those we week to journey with are often very complicated and sometimes they don't get along well together. With a few more volunteers, we have been able to spread people out a bit more and ensure everyone gets to be seen and heard.

The solar panels, infra-red heaters and new doors are all installed, and the centre has settled back down! With the better weather, there has been much to do. The things we have planted are growing well and the things we haven't are also thriving! We have a lot of seedlings in progress at home and we are grateful to one lad who has loved the responsibility of watering everything at the centre. I am not sure any of it would survive without him!



We have beetroot, onions, garlic, radishes and raspberries growing now, in the

raised beds the lads have built. We have sweet peas, pansies and other flowers. We had eighteen sleepers donated and we are building three raised beds on the former Bowling Green. Sadly, the nine inch slope to the green prevents it being used for bowls anymore. We hope to soon finish them and get them planted. If any of you have any spare time to help, we could use some gardening expertise. Any spare plants would also be useful!

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2-4pm Service of blessing with Bishop Andrew- do join us!

It was great to meet some of you at the fundraising coffee morning we held at St Thomas Church. We hope to see those who can come for a relaxed and informal service of blessing with Bishop Andrew and a strawberry cream tea. Bishop Andrew has been supportive of Morning Star, and we are delighted to welcome him. **Do let Kerry know by 1**<sup>st</sup> **June if you are able to come and if you might be willing to help.** 





We recently collected spare beds from a lady whose husband had gone into care with dementia, and she was downsizing. One of our lads helped collect and deliver the beds. He has grown up in care, with lots of challenges, has lived experience of homelessness and is now rebuilding his life, without alcohol. He volunteers for us, comes to our recovery group and attends our small service on Sunday. During the visit, the lady got chatting with him about life, love, faith and hope and he was really impacted by it. He was moved to tears by her hopeful faith in difficult circumstances and he told her he had lots of questions and wasn't sure of his own commitment. She held his hand and reminded him that God loves him very much

and that he only needed a little faith to have a relationship with God. He said later 'Mike and I were nearly crying and getting into the van helped us man-up!' It was an encounter that blessed them both.

Thank you all for your interest and support. We are grateful for you all. We wish you a deep, joyous, peaceful Easter. We will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays with family on Easter Saturday and Mike has the privilege of being involved in baptisms on Easter Day. Hopefully our new greenhouse will go up in the garden in the week that follows!

With grace and peace,

Kerry and Mike Badger

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