

Christmas 2025

Dear Friends,



As Christmas approaches far too quickly, we remember the peace and joy we can know and celebrate, because of the birth of Jesus. In the mayhem of what the world has made Christmas to be, we try to help and encourage those who have difficult memories of Christmas and those disconnected from friends and family. Our **Christmas Tree Festival entry** this year, had small rosemary garlands to remember those we have loved and lost. The tree was also hopeful, with bright coloured stars. It centred around a poem written by Sam Moran which has become the focus of our mural. Thanks to B+Q for our tree!



It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the **loss of Sharon Goodman (fondly known as Shaz)** on November 20th in Salisbury Hospice. When Shaz moved into Morning Star with Dave and Bev, she wasn't expected to live long and stayed for twenty years. In those twenty years, she found faith in Jesus, freedom from drugs and alcohol and was reconciled with her two sons. She was a huge part of Morning Star and a treasured friend to many. Her funeral will be at Salisbury Crematorium on **Wednesday 17th December at 12 midday.**

If you'd like to attend, do let us know for catering purposes and please wear something pink. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dave and Bev and for Shaz's sons, James and Ben and their families.



It was great to **welcome Bishop Andrew** and so many guests to the blessing service in September. The weather was perfect. We were encouraged that many of those who come along to the centre, turned up and worked hard to make the day a success. Some had helped make scones which were delicious. Thanks to all those who attended and for making it such a special day.

We look forward to more fruit next year, not just our raspberries, leek, onions, garlic and peas which are growing! We have secured some funding to **run a course in nutrition and cookery skills** – each person attending will receive a **slow cooker**. Each attendee will also have a **full benefit check** to ensure their income is maximised and **some support in budgeting**. It is good practical much needed accessible help!

We have seen **increased numbers** at the centre and **new people attending our recovery group**. We have a lad with a history of homelessness who is in recovery, who is helping with **street outreach** to vulnerable people especially when it is so cold and wet. **If you have any spare clean dry blankets or good, clean army grade sleeping bags- we will happily receive them.** We are encouraged that there are some who are **moving into their own accommodation** across the city (when accommodation has been quite static) and we are often able to help them with the things they need.

Salisbury Railway Station are collecting **shoeboxes with gifts in for those who might have received nothing**. St Nicholas School in Porton have once again made such beautiful **Christmas cards** to distribute. We have generously been bought 10 Christmas dinners for two from Cook! so we will enjoy delivering those in the days before Christmas.

There is much to thank God for and much more we feel He wants to do! We are excited to announce that we will be **advertising for a part time recovery worker** in the New Year.

Please see our website for more information <https://morningstarsalisbury.co.uk/join-our-team/>

On Sunday, Mike is excited to be **baptising one of our lads in the river at Stratford Sub Castle**. He has found faith and freedom in the darkest of places. God is good. It is going to be cold but wonderful!

We will be holding our informal **carol service and commissioning of our mural on Sunday 14th December** at 2pm at the centre. Do let me know for catering purposes if you would like to come along.

We leave you with Sam's poem and the famous quote above the tomb of the Venerable Bede in Durham Cathedral. We continue to be inspired by both. They sit well together, with Jesus being the bright Morning Star.

With our grateful thanks to all of you, for your interest, your support and kindness, without which none of this would be possible. May God bless you with His peace and His presence this Christmas and in the coming year.

With much love

Mike, Kerry and the Team

The Past by Sam Moran

I take the first step
Indistinguishable from any other
Except I have put you down
Unburdened
I am as light as air
I take the next step
And see freedom
Over the horizon
Not out of reach
But within my grasp
The history of a journey
Broken down
Shining like the bright Morning Star
Possibilities as numerous
As the rays of golden sunshine
Dust motes of the future
Dazzling the path.

www.morningstarsalisbury.co.uk

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