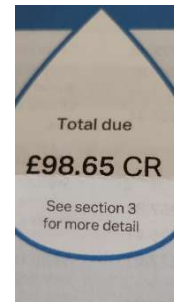


Dear Friends



It's lovely to see the Spring arriving, and our centre garden beginning to show signs of life. We had some great overwintered leeks and enjoyed some wonderful leek and potato soup!

**Leeks and leaks** Talking of leaks, we were grateful that the issue of the £2,500 water bill has been resolved! Our usual bill is £190 for the centre, and it seems the excessive cost was due to a leak we knew nothing of. We prayed and challenged and the bill was reduced by half with less than 24 hours to pay. We prayed and protested once more and they cancelled it and said they owed us money. We are so grateful to God and those who stood with us- what a great encouragement this was!



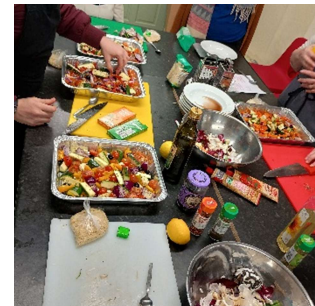
Our **Life Recovery Course** is running again with seven new referrals. Do please pray for each one, that they might find light, hope and healing as we journey together.

We have had some **funding** from the OPCC aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour, and some funding from the Wiltshire Food Insecurity Fund. This has allowed us to open three sessions a week and provide a **four-session nutrition course**. We were able to provide specialist advice from the amazing Jessica



([www.jessicasereennutrition.com](http://www.jessicasereennutrition.com)) which empowered those attending to consider and make small changes. It was something they do have control over. A couple of lads had assumed they felt rubbish because they'd come off drink and drugs but thought they might try better nutrition and see what happens!

This was followed by a 'cookery demo' of a dish, and those attending were given the ingredients to take home and recreate themselves. We asked them to send pictures of what they had made and we were so encouraged by the results! One person even tried tomatoes for the first time and liked them.



We are grateful to David Liversage who is a local artist for all his hard work and enthusiasm in



helping us develop and complete our mural inside the centre. The photo on the left shows some of our community in action on this. We hope to commission it on Sunday 7th June at 2pm. Do let us know if you would like to attend and see the finished masterpiece!!

David has also been working with us to consider extending the mural into the garden space we



have. So as a group, we have been designing some interactive contemporary sculptures which reflect and extend the mural. As I write, a group is currently creating an oversized armchair out of pallets.

### **Team changes and challenges**

We are delighted to announce that Helen Inglis has joined us on the staff team. Helen has been with us for two weeks (just for two days a week) and settled in well. Helen brings with her a wealth of working life and personal life experience to the role which will have a focus on fundraising and volunteering as well as general support. We are very blessed to have her alongside us. As ever, we are dealing with difficult and complex pastoral situations which demand a lot of us all, so a larger team will help enormously. Appointing Helen will demand more of our finances, but we continue to trust God for His provision.



We also have appointed Maxime Galley as a new trustee who has had very many years supporting the work of Morning Star (Salisbury). She brings her people skills, finance skills and a large amount of love, kindness and compassion for the folk we work with. It is with thankful hearts as our much-loved Irene Smith steps down to pay some attention to her health. We are so grateful to her and to God for her wisdom, faithfulness and sense of fun and wish her well. We are also glad to welcome Gemma and Judy as volunteers at the centre.

The centre has had an extensive leak which has affected our kitchen in the main pavilion and affected at least one of our stores. The weather has been relentlessly wet. We are grateful to the Council who are doing what they can to help us, but the damp, flaking paint and insects have necessitated that we close our kitchen for a season. We hope to upgrade it when the remedial work is done. We'd like it to be a more accessible space for people to learn cookery skills. We have been awarded a grant of up to £2000 which we need to match fund (to make it £4000) to utilise. If anyone is willing to fund raise for us, we would be happy to hear from you! It has been a challenging season.

In our church gatherings, we have a number of committed folks who join with us on a Sunday afternoon on a regular basis. More recently we have been immersed in lent reflections. This started with Jesus 40 days in the wilderness, then over a number of weeks led to his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; ultimately his death and resurrection that we remember and celebrate at Easter. We have specifically reflected on what it looks like to leave our old lives behind and be raised to a new life in Christ as we follow him. One of our groups, who professes that he doesn't have a faith, has insisted those of us who do should all buy him an easter egg!

**As Morning Star Salisbury enters it's 25<sup>th</sup> year in February**, we would love to hear from anyone who would like to fundraise for us, support us in prayer or volunteering or with events. We are happy to do talks and services if you'd like us to. Our very best wishes for Easter, a time when we all remember the cost and the call.

**Kerry, Mike, Helen and all the Trustees**

[www.morningstarsalisbury.co.uk](http://www.morningstarsalisbury.co.uk)

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