

September 2026

Dear Friends

You may have recently listened to news stories remembering the events of 9/11. BBC Radio 4 broadcasted a special Sunday Worship service on September 6, 2026, marking the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. This was recorded at two churches near Ground Zero in New York City — St Paul's Chapel and St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. St Paul's Chapel which was used as a refuge for the recovery workers and grieving families. The service then moved to St Nicholas' Church, which was destroyed in the attacks, and featured a reflection from Anthoula Katsimatides who lost her brother John. The church was rebuilt in 2022 as part of the 9/11 memorial and Fr Andreas Vithoulkas shared how it's a symbol of hope and resurrection. Many of us resonate with these events directly or indirectly with a sense of loss arising from an utterly devastating event. But we might also seek inspiration from the shared sense of humanity, sacrifices made for others and a sense that all is not lost, but there is a hope of rebuilding lives and places.



Many of those we work with have experienced devastating events in their lives. Our work seeks to see them and their loss, which sometimes has been experienced over many years. This can be caused by physical or mental ill health, experience of shock and trauma, and relationship breakdown. But we don't just see the loss, lament and do nothing. We also look for hope and future possibilities. For the possibility of rebuilding life from the ashes. In our work we try to find new, healthier connections, and offer meaningful activity and conversation to build life skills and resilience. And our faith which finds new life in Christ is the core of this work, in whom we can be made new and find hope of a resurrection life. Morning Star will be reflecting on its 25th year in 2027.

In many ways, our premises reflect our work and our faith. Based in a former bowls club, members of the public pass by and sometimes comment. Some lament saying how it is a shame that it is no longer a bowls club. But some see potential. They see a repurposing. Since we took on the premises two and a half years ago, we have renovated the interior, added new heating and solar panels and painted an inspiring and hopeful mural. Some features are now making their way outdoors in the form of contemporary sculptures that some of our community have been working on. You may have seen evidence of these if you have walked past our gate recently. And our cycle of re-birth and new growth and can be seen in our horticultural activity on the green, which has been not so green recently.



Therefore, as the cooler weather arrived, we were grateful for the rain upon our 'biscuit lawn'. Between the dry weather and the hungry pigeons, we are proud to have grown runner beans, spinach, rocket, pak choi, onions and potatoes. Those who come along have really enjoyed being part of the process. We all have more upper body strength from carrying many full watering cans.



With some funding related to the prevention of antisocial behaviour, we were able to open for another day. We have continued this; beyond the funding we had. Having finished the mural, on Mondays we are embarking on a sculpture project for our green, extending elements of the mural into the garden. We have made a large purple sofa and part way through a river of blue slate. It had been too hot for people to work outside, so we have had to take it on bit by bit. On Tuesdays we have started a Recovery Café and look at related topics in depth. Tomorrow Mike and Jay from the tennis club will be talking about the benefits of exercise with some practical application! In a couple of weeks, one of our guests and his friend will be showing us how they make a chicken curry. Wednesdays are devoted to the Recovery Course. On Sundays, we meet for a short worship service in

the Park. This week, we talked about Romans 12 and the 'renewing of your mind'. One lad spoke about how his life of drink and drugs landed him in prison, where he said he met with Jesus and was baptised. He is now clean and sober and the chaos is gone. It is so encouraging to hear how God makes contact in the deepest darkest moments of our lives and everything changes.

Big Give Christmas Challenge - 1st to 8th December

Although it seems early to be mentioning 'Christmas', we wanted to let you know that for the first time we have applied to be a part of the Big Give Christmas Campaign! This is an annual event which enables charities to secure match-funding, meaning that every donation received during the week of the campaign (through a specific payment portal) will be doubled. We have secured a generous pledge of £1,000 from one of our supporting trusts and hope to receive confirmation by the beginning of October that this will be matched by the Big Give, which will give Morning Star a total pledge pot of £2,000. If you would like to know more about the campaign and how to support it, you can find it here <https://biggive.org/christmas-challenge> We hope that with the help of our wonderful supporters we can not only increase our income but also spread the word further about the work of Morning Star. Do contact Helen if you'd like to know more.

We are halfway through another course, having completed another. We wanted to give the last words to one of the last groups, which Helen read out at our last event. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

'The course has meant so much to me. When I first signed up, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. I felt nervous, a bit unsure of myself, and honestly — I wasn't completely convinced that anything could really change how I was feeling or help me move forward. But looking back now, I can say without a doubt that this course has been one of the most important steps I've taken. Right from week one, there was something special about how everything works here... what made this group feel like home. Sitting down to eat together, chatting, laughing, and just talking about everyday things, took all the pressure away. It helped us get to know each other as people first, before we ever talked about the hard stuff. Those meals weren't just about food — they were about connection, comfort, and belonging. They made meals every week which I looked forward to, and they helped build the kind of trust and friendship that made everything else possible.'

...This was a safe place: a place where we could speak openly, share our struggles, admit our mistakes, or celebrate our small wins, and never once feel judged or criticised. They listen with real understanding, they answer every question with patience, and they share their wisdom in a way that feels honest and real, never preachy. We have been given tools, strategies, and new ways of thinking that I know I will use in my life. But more than that, they taught us that recovery isn't something you have to do all on your own. They showed us that it's okay to ask for help, okay to not be perfect, and okay to take things one day at a time. They helped me find hope again — hope that I can heal, hope that I deserve a better life, and hope that I have the strength inside me to keep going, even when things get hard.

This Course has been more than just a programme — it's been a new beginning. And I am so proud and grateful to have been part of it. Thank you doesn't feel like enough, but it's all I have. Thank you for your time, your kindness, your endless patience, and for believing in me even when I struggled to believe in myself. You have changed my life for the better, and I will never forget what you've done.'

As Morning Star Salisbury enters its 25th year, we are hoping some of you might be inspired to join us in our celebrations to thank God for all He has done. We hope some might be inspired to do some fundraising for us!

With thanks and every blessing to you all

Kerry, Mike, Helen and all the Trustees

www.morningstarsalisbury.co.uk

Email morningstarsalisbury@gmail.com kerryatmorningstarsalisbury@gmail.com

T: 07927 418360 (Kerry) / 07803 167889 (Mike) / Helen 07585 879306

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

Dates for your diary

Morning Star leading the service St Francis Church 11am **Sunday November 22nd** All welcome

Morning Star Christmas Tree entry St Thomas' Christmas Tree Festival **1st-6th December**

Big Give Campaign **1st-8th December 2026**

Next course starts **Wednesday 13th January 2027 1pm**

Morning Star 25th anniversary celebrations 3rd July SAVE THE DATE