

January 2023

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you well and we wish you and yours a belated Happy New Year!

### **Rough Sleeper Outreach- hot drinks and Christmas cake!**

December was very busy for us as the weather was so bitterly cold.

We were aware that many of the rough sleepers were 'housed' in local hotels and B&Bs under the local authority severe weather scheme. Some were still sleeping out. We did some outreach at night in the City Centre mainly, to take hot drinks and food to those who were still out. Any willing to go into accommodation, we were able to refer in. One older man, who has lived his life on the streets for decades, chose to stay out. We were able to get him a new coat and give him hot drinks, and we had a little chat before he settled down for the night. We had twice as many clothes on as he had (and we are a little younger than he is.) We were in awe of how he was able to manage in such extreme temperatures. We spent another evening trying to locate a young lad sleeping in the forest in the dark. We saw a lot of deer but not him! We have the van kitted out with everything you could possibly need for outreach, but as one rough sleeper pointed out we 'didn't have any Christmas cake'.



### **Christmas cards and gifts, dinner, a table and even a Christmas Tree!**



We were able to supply Christmas gifts to those in supported housing, who otherwise would not receive gifts, often those separated from family and friends. The gifts were purchased from a donation by a wonderful lady in memory of her sister. The children from St Nicholas Primary School in Porton made some Christmas cards for us, which were a real blessing to those who received them. Another generous donor gave us twenty Christmas dinners to distribute from Cook! They came with all the trimmings. We heard of a single mum who had relocated with her kids due to difficult circumstances two days before Christmas. We were able to deliver Christmas dinner for all of them but they had no table to serve it on! In a late-night dash, in our little van (which began to feel like a sleigh) we were able to take two sacks of presents, a box of treats a dining table and

chairs and a Christmas Tree!

## New Year!



At the end of January, we will begin our Life Recovery Course again (to support those who wish to be free of addiction). We also hope to continue outreach, especially when it is very cold at night. We hope to continue the process of securing some accommodation we are able to use for homeless clients, in conjunction with a national charity. In order to do this, we will need ten Good Samaritans who would be willing to donate £5 a month to support the project. If you'd like to be part of our monthly virtual prayer meetings (less than an hour) we would love your support.

If you'd like to join in with us this year- there are a number of ways you can do this.

**Prayer** – we hold a monthly virtual prayer meeting (next one Wed 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 7.30- 8.30pm). Do get in touch to join us.

**Giving** - in particular this year we hope to start a housing project in conjunction with a national charity who will invest for us. They have asked us to recruit ten 'Good Samaritans' who would be willing to donate £5 a month towards the project itself. If you are interested and would like to know more, do get in touch.

**Skills** – if you have any skills, we might be able to use (perhaps practical skills or those useful for fund raising ideas (art or craft, music) do also be in touch. Please do visit our new website at [www.morningstarsalisbury.co.uk](http://www.morningstarsalisbury.co.uk)

Once again thank you so much for your support and interest, we could not do anything we do without you. May God bless you this coming year and bring you peace.

With our very best wishes for 2023

Kerry and Mike Badger

Morning Star (Salisbury)

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