



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps
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31st May 2020

Remember you can join our Virtual Sunday Worship by connecting www.chathamsa.org.uk and then click on the 'Youtube' button.

Sunday is Pentecost - a time in history 2000 years ago when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the upper room, the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus. This was the beginning of the church. Life was breathed into lives to enable them to do great actions in the name of Christ.

We have been reading that the Government hopes to allow churches to be open for prayer only (circa 1st July), observing social distancing. We have found the truth of Pentecost in these days; we are the Church, we do not need a building, the Holy Spirit comes into lives and makes that difference. We will not be opening the hall publicly for this activity as we know that we do not need a building to pray in. As I thought about this I was reminded of an old chorus:

***God is with us all the time,
In the morning when joybells chime,
In the evening when lights are low;
Our God is with us everywhere we go.***

I say AMEN to that and look forward to sharing our Pentecost celebration on Sunday with you all.

We are currently still active in providing Bags of Hope. I am grateful to Medway Sunlight Rotary Club who are continuing to deliver some bags in addition to those who called at the door on Monday and Friday.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a 'Bag of Hope' of groceries, please do let us know as we have a lot of stock to move and get into the hands of those who need it. Please do let me know, a few items can make all the difference. Also, as a part of our service to the vulnerable we continue to provide hot meals five days a week.

I remind you again that you can ring me, text or email if there is anything that you need.

Again, thank you for all that you are doing in ringing and encouraging each-other in these days.

God bless Chatham Corps

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray this prayer:

Father God, I pray for my church today, that you will fill each of us with your joy and peace, and that, in our worship online and at home, our fellowship and mission, we will overflow with hope, by the power of your Holy Spirit, in the name of your Son,

Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please continue to remember in your prayers those who have been recently bereaved: Alan Myners and family and Cathy Wood and family.

Our prayers are needed for those people in the Corps who are suffering with health problems just now. Especially pray for Mike & Lilian and Alma & Jim for God's healing touch.

Even though restrictions are being relaxed, this is still a time for us to be cautious and keep aware of the need to keep safe. Let us ask God to help us not to forget the importance of protecting ourselves and others. We pray God's protection for those working on our behalf in many different situations.

In this time when people are still in isolation, either singly or as families, pray that people will discover each day something to raise their spirits, remembering all that God has given us.

Bless our Salvation Army and the volunteers who are serving communities in all parts of the world.

Please let Jean know of any urgent prayer requests for the supportive prayers of the Prayer Chain. Email her on jeanmjones86@yahoo.co.uk or text on 07787718273.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL

Hopefully there will be no Zoom issues and all will be well this week. Sunday School materials are on the Corps website. <https://www.chathamsa.org.uk/> Exciting material for the young people in your house to engage in.

Also, look out for further details of 'Zoom Sunday School' 11:30. Details have been sent out on email. We will print out sheets for those who do not have the equipment at home or have issues in printing, please do ask.

Promotion To Glory of Sister Joy Myners



Joy Myners was Promoted To Glory on Monday 19th May. A Faithful Servant of God and one who will be missed by many. I ask you to continue to pray for Alan at this sad time, also for Carole & Adrian, Glen & Lisa, Mark & Rachel, Carole's brothers Neil & Russ and their respective families, that they may know God's sustaining strength and love.

The funeral service will be taking place on Monday 15th June 2020 at Medway Crematorium Bluebell Hill Chatham, at 1.45pm. The service will also be streamed live on the day. Details of how to link on will be shared nearer the time.

PENTECOST WITH THE TERRITORIAL LEADERS COMMISSIONERS ANTONY & GILLIAN COTTERILL

Our territorial leaders have recorded Pentecost Sunday worship and this will be available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/salvationarmyvideo> from 9am on Sunday.

Commissioner Anthony and Gill Cotterill write:

"It is a privilege for us to lead a virtual Territorial Pentecost Sunday meeting which naturally focuses upon this most holy of days, historically. It is our hope and prayer that this Pentecost Sunday 2020, will be another truly holy day for the Church and The Salvation Army as we worship and as we invite the Holy Spirit to again fill us in order that we can be who we were called and shaped to be.

"We do not want this meeting to encroach upon Corps Pentecost Meetings, although some Corps Officers may receive it as a gift to give a break from preparation this week! You can join the meeting at any time after its initial showing at 9am. The critical thing is that we will all experience an outpouring of the Spirit in this season of Pentecost! Please pray for this to happen!"

(NB Song sheet attached to the weekly email)

Follow General Brian



General Brian Peddle is on Facebook and Twitter and gives very encouraging updates daily of what is going on around the SA world including thoughts and prayers.

Facebook & Twitter @GeneralBPeddle

Also Twitter @SalvArmyIHQ

LIVE STREAMING EACH SUNDAY

I am aware that there are some of the Corps family who do not have access to our live stream each Sunday morning. Therefore, can you please let me know who they are and I shall arrange for an audio CD of the meeting to be sent. Lisa will be glad to send these.

COVID 19 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please listen to and respond when asked by the Official website and TV announcements from the Government. Let us be a responsible body of people.

Also, spend time ringing around each other. We are an Army on the move and are finding new ways to engage with our community. Nothing is off the table - this is a great opportunity.

CORPS OFFERINGS, DONATIONS

We have set up a Just-Giving page to enable you to give your weekly collections and donations. This is directly linked to the Corps and the link will be published on the screen during our Sunday services. You can go directly from here to the page now:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chatham-citadel>

If members of the public, your neighbours, friends etc wish to donate to the Corps please direct them to this link or they can send in donations using a cheque and posting to the Hall for the attention of the CO.

NOTE FROM THE CORPS TREASURER

Following the successful launch of our Just-Giving page for general offerings and donations, we are mindful that you have not been able to give your cartridges to the Corps. We are not in a position to accept cash for a number of reasons and expect that to remain the case for some time. However, you can give your cartridge by cheque or preferably via standing order, forms for which can be prepared and issued to you on request. Let Major Ian know if you would like to do this. Cheques should be made payable to The Salvation Army and posted to the hall (Church Street, Chatham, ME4 4BT). Please remember to write your cartridge number on the reverse of the cheque. Kindly note that there is likely to be a delay in banking of cheques. You will be given cartridge envelopes for the new financial year in due course once our activities return to something approaching normal.

Finally, a number who have weekly SA Papers have asked how they are to pay for them, we will be contacting you shortly on how you will be able to pay.

SUPPORTING YOUR WELL BEING

(From the SA Well-being unit)

Coronavirus has brought about unparalleled changes to each of our lives. Such rapid and unexpected changes can provoke feelings of fear, sadness or anxiety. The following five points can help deal with these feelings.

1. **FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL.**

It may feel that, at the moment, there are many things that are out of your control. Focus on the things that you can control. Pay attention to thoughts that raise anxiety and work to shift the focus.

2. **LIMIT MEDIA INFLUENCE.**

While it is important to stay informed, it is also important not to allow yourself to be bombarded with anxiety-provoking news all day. Limit your media intake to a set time or number of articles.

3. **CONFRONT THE ANXIETY PARADOX.**

Carl Jung said "What you resist persists." The more you try not to feel anxious, the more likely your anxiety will increase. When anxious feelings arise, notice and describe the feeling without judgement. By allowing yourself to sit with uncomfortable feelings anxiety will reduce over time.

4. **PRACTICE SELF-CARE.**

Eat a balanced diet, spend time outdoors, get plenty of sleep and employ relaxation techniques when stressed.

5. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO SEEK HELP.**

If you are feeling low, anxious or stressed you can contact the "Well Being Department" or "Be Supported" using the contact details - 020 8536 5480

Email wellbeing@salvationarmy.org.uk

The song "Everywhere" uses the lyrics of General John Gowan to the beautiful music of Andrew Maycock and it reminds us that wherever we are, whatever the situation, God is there with us. Perhaps you would like to pause and remind yourself of his love for you and be assured of his love for you as you view and listen to this song.

<https://youtu.be/dLrUeLLg17U>

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 1:8

Finding Rest in these anxious times:

<https://www.arrowleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Toolkit-Finding-Rest-2020-03-.pdf>

For all our officers, members, employees and volunteers at this challenging time,

"Circle me, Lord. Keep protection near and danger afar. Circle me, Lord Keep hope within. Keep doubt without. Circle me, Lord. Keep light near and darkness afar. Circle me, Lord. Keep peace within. Keep evil out."



'BAGS OF HOPE'

'Bags of Hope' continues. Please contact Major Ian if you know anyone that would benefit from one of them. **We will be needing donations of non-perishable food**, if you have any. Again, please let Major Ian know so a volunteer can be allocated to pick up the items. **Thank you**

for your support in this way – Lets make a difference - Chatham SA 'Bags of Hope'.

IMPORTANT – IF YOU TAKE ANY BAGS OR GROCERIES FROM THE BRADBURY ROOM TO GIVE OUT, COULD YOU PLEASE LET MAJOR IAN KNOW, SO A RECORD CAN BE KEPT AS TO WHERE ALL THE DONATED GOODS ARE GOING. THANK YOU

(NB No one should be going into the Corps Building without the knowledge of the CO – this is stipulated by THQ as all SA Buildings are closed and there is a H&S & insurance (Public Liability) element to this directive – If you need to go into the Hall please contact Major Ian first)

CANDLE OF HOPE

Keep the Candle of Hope in our windows showing love and support to our communities, making a difference and a stand about being a praying house in your location.

NOTED IN THQ COMMUNICATION

Friday, 29 May

Today we have had really rather excellent pick up on our press release following the initial sell into the Guardian. Social Policy Editor, Patrick Butler's story kicked it all off. He tells me that earlier today the story had a large number of hits.

In addition, Major Ian Payne at Chatham Corps did an interview for Premier Radio which was broadcast throughout the day and they are planning to also use it online.

Major Mark Bearcroft recorded an interview for Go Radio in Glasgow.

Thank you so much to everyone who played a part in telling this important story! In particular from the comms team - Rachel Emmett for selling in, Nicola for liaising with corps and briefing corps officers, Martin for recording an interview for a local radio station...but especially corps officers Majors Mark and Tracey Bearcroft who spoke to the Guardian and other newspapers and Major Ian Payne who spoke to Premier.



SALVATION ARMY FEATURED ON BBC1 'CLAP FOR OUR CARERS'

Cradley Heath Corps (West Midlands Division) were featured in the final 'Clap for our Carers' on BBC1 at 8pm last night. Groups of people were featured from all across the UK and the local presenter introduced the Corps becoming a 'food distribution centre during lockdown'. He said money donated to the organisation was buying food from supermarkets and supplying to those that needed it. Major David Stephenson said: "We've been very busy over the last two weeks. We've managed to put together 600 bags and distributed to vulnerable families within the whole of the West Midlands area".

Link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000jkbp/bbc-news-special-28052020-clap-for-our-carers>

ON YOUR DAILY JOURNEY

As part of your daily devotions let's pray the **A to Z prayer**. Each day I will give you a letter from the Alphabet. Please use this letter to pray for members of the Corps with this initial, friends, family and neighbours and why not let them know that they have been prayed for, an email, note through the door letter. Let's make a difference by praying for each other. Can you imagine the difference that will make.

MONDAY COLOSSIANS 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

How can I not forgive a brother for whom Christ died, when I know what God paid to forgive me?

E - MY PRAYER...

Holy Father, I commit today to release any grudge or bitterness that I have against one of your children. I am sorry for not reflecting your grace and mercy which you lavished on me. But Abba Father, I need the help of your Holy Spirit to relinquish my claim on the wrongs

committed against me and to treat those who have hurt me as full siblings in your family. Empower me as I commit to follow your example in forgiving, even when it is hard. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY PSALMS 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

History tells me it has been true! Faith trusts it will be true eternally! Reverent silences, a pause in the hectic rush of our lives, reminds us that it is true today.

F - MY PRAYER...

O Father in heaven, may your name be revered and held holy in my life and my world today. Your will be done, your reign on earth come with power and might and finality, just as it has already come in heaven. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY PSALMS 19:1-2

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God's voice is always speaking. His witnesses give testimony to his glory, majesty and creative grace. The universe shouts with joy because behind its intricate beauty and power is the One who gave it life, purpose, and intention.

G - MY PRAYER...

O Great God and Creator of the countless heavens and our own small, blue planet, thank you for noticing the heart cries of one so small in a universe so large. I love you, admire you, trust you, and worship you with wonder. Be exalted in my life, by words, and by my deeds this day. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY LUKE 11:13

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Think of all the great gifts you've been given. Next to Jesus, the gracious sacrifice for our salvation, the greatest gift we can receive is God's abiding presence in the Holy Spirit! He is ours if we ask. In fact, when we ask, he is already there interceding for us!

H - MY PRAYER...

Abba Father, through the precious Holy Spirit I come before you asking you to empower me, my loved ones,

and my church through the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray for renewal to sweep my country and this world led by your Spirit of grace, power, and love. Through Jesus, the giver of this great gift I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY PHILIPPIANS 3:20

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

No matter what your passport says, if you are a Christian, there is no earthly country that can hold you, no borders that can claim you and no flag that flies above you but Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven. You have more in common with the believing aboriginal tribesman of Indonesia, the Christian refugee in Africa, or the Bedouin brother in Egypt, or the high-rise business person in Hong Kong who bows to pray in Jesus name, or the Spirit-filled Brazilian housewife, than you do your next door neighbour if they don't know Christ as Lord and Saviour.

I - MY PRAYER...

Glorious God and Almighty Father, I look forward to the day when people from every language, tribe, nation, and language join the angels and elders around your throne and worship you in joy forever. Make us one, if not here, then soon. We ask you Lord, please come. Amen.

SATURDAY PROVERBS 23:24

The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

The greatest gift I can give my father, and my Father, is to be righteous in my heart and life.

J - MY PRAYER...

Holy and righteous Father, may my life please you and bring honour to my father and his name. I know that if I please you, it will make his heart glad. Help me as I seek to know you and serve you in ways that show your character in my life. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY PSALMS 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Compassion. Not pity, not anger, not shame, not impatience, not intolerance, not rejection, but compassion is what God, my Father, gives to me. He cares for my pain enough to enter into my world and share it in Jesus.

K - MY PRAYER...

Father of Mercies and God of all Compassion, thank you for not only knowing and caring about my struggles and problems but sending me help in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. By one I know your love and mercy and by the other I know your might and power. May your Spirit of Compassion be found in my relationships. Through the grace of Jesus I pray. Amen.



God bless you all in these most challenging days. Please be safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Payne'.

Ian F Payne – Major

