



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps
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25th October 2020

Hello and welcome to our weekly Chatham Chatter. I do hope that you find this way of communication useful as I send it out each week and hope that it is read and used in many ways; for prayer, thought and instruction.

Another busy week. They say the older you are the quicker the time goes. I have come to the conclusion that I must be ancient. Time is travelling at a pace but so much is being achieved; Bags of Hope continue, meals for the homeless continue, visiting people continues and the preparations for Christmas continue. It just seems an endless treadmill - then something happens that just changes your focus. This week I was speaking to a company to order boxes that we will use for Hampers on Christmas Day and I asked, as I would, 'was there a possibility of a discount on the £1.60 per box'. I explained what I was using them for. I waited a few moments and the next person was the manager and owner. He was so taken with what we were going to do that he said 'How about 50p per box and no carriage costs?' - a saving of over £750. You tell the story and things happen, yes this may be practical, but I was so blessed by that manager and his 'capturing' our passion. It has brightened up my week.

Well this Sunday I hope that you will be blessed as you join with 100's of Salvationists around the UK as they share in the UK Congress together. Remember it is 9am, through our usual YouTube channel - the Congress sheet is attached to the email also.

There will be no Chatham Chatter next week as I will be away visiting family.

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 will overflow with hope, by the power of your Holy Spirit, in the name of your Son, Jesus

Christ. Amen.

Covid restrictions continue to dominate our lives and we need to remember that it is the responsibility of each of us to preserve the safety of others. Ask God to guide you each day to appreciate that all life is precious and that we are all special to Him.

Ask God to bring to mind any of our friends who need encouragement and prayers just now. Whilst we have no detailed information to share but God knows exactly what is happening in our lives. Please, in your prayers, think of those who are struggling with health problems who have been mentioned individually in previous notices.

We all need encouragement to make the most of every day and to live the life that God inspires us to live. God is answering our prayers in amazing ways so keep talking to Him and let us know if you would like some prayer support.

Bless each one of you who is receiving this Chatham Chatter. Bless the 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.



God Bless You

Major Ian F. Payne



I have asked Territorial Envoy Tony McClure to add to the Chatham Chatter on a regular basis - here is his article.

WHO'D 'VE THOUGHT IT?



A phrase I use, more often than I realise is "Who'd've thought it?". I usually say this when I see or experience something unusual or out of the ordinary.

I remember looking at, pre. Coronavirus outbreak, people in Westfield Shopping Centre wearing a mask over the lower part of their face. I thought that this seemed a bit extreme, wearing a face mask in the UK.

Now, six months or so later, face masks are mandatory. Some bus drivers won't let you on the bus if you haven't got a mask. We all know Donald Trump isn't keen on them but the 'science' people say they are a good thing to wear. One person, on Radio 4 said "The mask may not stop you getting the virus, but it will stop you spreading it."

So now if I am in a shop or on public transport I obey the rules and wear a face mask.

I am often surprised how quickly, after an instruction has been given, we in the UK generally obey. Most people now make use of their face masks; even if they choose to wear them in unusual ways. I saw one lady in Strood struggling to wear a face mask and smoke a cigarette at the same time. She was determined to have her smoke.

Of course there are those people who completely ignore the rules. Do they act with a sense of immunity? "Covid19 will, potentially, attack everyone else but I am OK."

Jesus met people who had the same sort of attitude. What he had to say was good for other people but not for them. They knew what they believed and nothing Jesus said or did seemed to make the slightest difference. Their minds were set and all Jesus did was upset them. Indeed, He upset them so much that the very people who should have 'got His message' decided that He needed to be eliminated.

Jesus says, in Luke 11:28

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Allow the presence and grace of God to continually change your heart and mind. After all, it is the best thing you could do.

God bless you

Tony McClure



PROMOTION TO GLORY

Brother Geoff Groom was Promoted to Glory on Thursday 15th October. Please remember Geoff's family; Wendy, Bruce, Cheryl, Joy, Stuart & Neal and their respective families. Details of the funeral service will be circulated once they are confirmed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Zoom Sunday – please ask Tracy for details to join in.

'Making a difference'

'Bags of Hope for Christmas'

It's going to be Christmas as normal, but with a challenge. We will meet that challenge and make a difference to many lives and families in our community. God bless you as you help the various teams.

My theme through the Advent and Christmas season will be *'Making a Difference, Bags of Hope for Christmas'* Let's make that a reality.

CHRISTMAS BAGS OF HOPE

Making a difference 2020
Bags of Hope for CHRISTMAS
Collect the items below for your **CHRISTMAS BAG OF HOPE**
(nb bag for Life)

Christmas Pudding	Fruit Juice	Bar Chocolate
Custard	Tea Bags	Tin of Ham
Mince Pies	Jar Jam	Bettle squash
Iced Fruit Cake	Hot Chocolate	Pringles
Rice Pudding	Various Sweets	Bag Sugar
Biscuits	Box Cereal	Coffee
		A Surprise

PLEASE RETURN YOUR CHRISTMAS BAG OF HOPE TO THE SALVATION ARMY ON FRI 4th DEC or MON 7th DEC 9am-1pm & 6pm-8pm

Thank you for your kindness & generosity

The Salvation Army Registered Charity Numbers: 215174 and 214778 (England and Wales), SC091079 and SC233951 (Scotland), and 00193599 (Republic of Ireland)

Again, this year we are asking you to bring hope to many people this Christmas – collect the items on the list, put them in a Bag for Life and bring them to the Hall on the times shown. If you are unable to shop (each bag costs £25), why not make a donation on our Just Giving page with the reference 'Hope' and someone will go and

buy the bag on your behalf – or you can send a cheque to the hall. Last year we gave out over 130 bags – there are many in our community struggling due to Covid19. Help us make Christmas a little easier for them.

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

if you require any further details please contact Sam.

Splinter9@blueyonder.co.uk

CHRISTMAS DAY AT CHATHAM SA

Medway Sunlight Rotary Club & **Chatham Salvation Army**

Making a difference on Christmas Day

Due to Covid19 restrictions we are unable to host a Christmas Day Meal in the centre, so we are delivering a Christmas Day Lunch Hamper (or you can collect a takeaway meal from the centre between 12 & 2pm)

Please let Grace have your details on

07870 636451 or
grace@21stcenturyflooring.co.uk

I would like a Christmas Day Hamper Delivered: NAME.....
ADDRESS..... POST CODE.....
CONTACT NUMBER (We require a phone number to be able to contact you on Christmas Day, No Number No Parcel).....
NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE HOUSEHOLD: ADULTS (18+)..... CHILDREN & AGES.....

Christmas Day at Chatham SA will be very different this year. At present, we will be unable to have guests in the hall for lunch which has been run by the Medway Sunlight Rotary Club, so this year we will be providing a full Christmas Day Lunch in a Hamper plus a tea and surprise for each person. All the recipient will have to do is heat the food in an oven or microwave. They will be delivered by volunteers. Can I ask you to consider the following;

Could you be a volunteer to deliver a couple of hampers on Christmas Day (between 9am & 2pm)?

Do you have the name of a person who would welcome a hamper? Please let me have their details.

Contact Grace using the details above or let Major Ian know.

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

We will be having a Christmas Toy Appeal this year. Between now and the date on the poster why not buy a gift for a child, between 1 to 18 and bring it to the hall on one of the dates mentioned, unwrapped. Again, this year we can make a big difference to many children's lives on Christmas Day. If you would sooner give a donation, again, please make this on the Justgiving page or send to the Hall and a toy will be bought to give. If you require any further information please contact Wendy. 07368 629792 or paulscoulding@gmail.com

IF YOU WANT POSTERS/INVITATIONS ETC FOR ANY ON THE ABOVE PLEASE CONTACT MAJOR IAN

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER MORNING MEETING

We will be streaming the morning meeting from the Territorial Congress with the Chief of the Staff, Commissioners Lyndon and Bronwyn Buckingham the principle guests. **This will commence at 9am on our usual ChathamSA YouTube in place of our local morning meeting.**

'BAGS OF HOPE' AND MEALS

We continue this much needed service on Monday and Friday giving out Bags of Hope. We are grateful to the Medway Sunlight Rotary Club who give us referrals and help with delivery for those unable to leave the house due to shielding, age or infirmity. **Can you think of someone who could do with a Bag of Hope?** Also, our weekly meals continue from the front door of the hall, giving support to the most vulnerable of our society.

SONGSTERS DESERT ISLAND DISKS

If you go to www.chathamSA.org.uk and click on the Chatham Chatter button, then 'other news' you will find the 'Songsters Desert Island Discs' which is a weekly choice of music by individual members of the Songster Brigade - get clicking.

CHATHAMSA CLOTHING BANK

We now have a ChathamSA Clothing Bank sited outside the hall for the public to donate clothes. There will be regular financial donations made to the Corps for allowing this service. You can let people know that this service is available 24/7.



CORPS OFFERINGS, DONATIONS

Don't forget the Just-Giving page to enable you to give your weekly collections and donations <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.

CORPS TREASURER

All cartridges, collections, donations etc: please send a cheque (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. Or you can pay by BACS ask the CT for details.

Also, if you have SA papers can you make payments (inc cheques) separate from all other payments at the Corps. If you wish to know how much you owe please contact Trevor Grant.

NHS COVID-19 App

We are asking you all to download the NHS Covid19 App and share the communications to encourage others to download it as the simplest way to help protect those we love.

The NHS COVID-19 App is part of the large-scale coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and contact tracing programme and will be used, alongside traditional contact tracing, to notify users if they come into contact with someone who later tests positive for coronavirus – helping to keep us all safer.

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/the-nhs-covid-19-app/resources/>



ANYONE COMING INTO THE HALL MUST USE THE QR CODE (EXAMPLE ON LEFT) AS A PART OF THE NHS APP TRACK AND TRACE - THESE WILL BE LOCATED BY ALL DOORWAYS INTO THE BUILDING. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE APP ON A PHONE YOU

MUST CONTACT MAJOR IAN TO MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT TO COME TO THE HALL.

INFORMATION FROM MEDWAY COUNCIL

Please be advised that as per previous years, Medway Council-run car parks in the town centres will offer free parking in the run up to Christmas.

This year, there will be 4 free Christmas parking days running from 17th December to 20th December 2020.

THQ

To keep up with The Salvation Army throughout the territory - click the link;

<https://www.youtube.com/user/salvationarmyvideo>

The Salvation Army Youtube Channel

<https://youtu.be/Nv4OsGF8Ah4>



VIDEO MESSAGE FROM THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

Commissioner Anthony Cotterill turns to Scripture (and a 1980s hit single) to encourage us not to

worry, but to be happy. Watch on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/c4EdUJRel4>

ONLINE TERRITORIAL CONGRESS

Although our gathering in Newport was cancelled, you can be part of the experience by watching Congress meetings online. Watch live on **youtube.com/salvationarmyvideo** on Saturday 24 October at 3pm and on Sunday 25 October at 9am, with Chief of the Staff, Commissioners Lyndon and Bronwyn Buckingham (IHQ) supported by our Territorial Leaders.

At Chatham we will be transmitting this at 9 am in place of the usual 10 am meeting.

RAH CAROL CONCERT

The Royal Albert Hall has agreed to move TSA booking for the Territorial Carol Concert to the new date next year of Wednesday 8 December 2021. For this Christmas, there will be a virtual Territorial Carol Concert, to be available online via YouTube, comprising highlight features from previous years' concerts, alongside new pieces and celebrity readings. This is currently in production and a time and date for the launch will be advertised and announced in due course.

BOOK YOUR PLACE: ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON 2021

The ballot for this event in April 2021 is now open. Run for a reason and join Team Sally Army as you take in four of London's stunning eight Royal Parks. Go to

<https://royalparkshalf.com/>

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE



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

Hear the General's message on International Peace Day 2020. The General says: '*Please join us in praying for peace, particularly in these challenging days*'

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralBPeddle/videos/330973588169509/>

LOOK AHEAD TO INTERFAITH WEEK: 8-15 NOV

At this time of Covid-19, Interfaith Week is ever more important, helping people to continue to come together; make new links and friendships; educate against prejudice and hatred; and volunteer together to help others. You will find ideas for socially distanced and online activities at

www.interfaithweek.org/resources/ideas and these can be modified for your use.

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 or letter. Let's make a difference by praying for each other. Can you imagine the difference that will make.

MONDAY--ROMANS 12:1

I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your spiritual act of worship.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Because God went first and sacrificed what is most precious to him to save us, he can ask us to surrender ourselves to him. Only one problem: The sacrifice wants to keep crawling off the altar. But, since we are that sacrifice, let's offer ourselves fully to God!

A - MY PRAYER...

Holy and Righteous Saviour, I want to surrender my life, my body, and will to you. But I confess, there are little things (and maybe some big things), that I keep from

ever placing on that altar. Things I don't want to give up. To the best of my ability, I pledge today to live for you in a way that leaves nothing outside your Lordship and control. I offer you me -- all that I have and am -- to be yours today. Through Jesus. Amen.

TUESDAY-EPHESIANS 2:8-9

*It is **by grace you have been saved**, through **faith** - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Don't you love gifts! When they're truly given, with no strings attached, all we have to do is receive them. The greatest gift we've ever received has nothing to do with our efforts. It is a gift from God. We didn't earn it, deserve it, or purchase it. God gave it through his sacrificial gift so our salvation would not be our boast, but his kindness.

B - MY PRAYER...

Holy God, I can never thank you enough for sending Jesus and paying the debt for my sin. May I never presume on your grace or take the cost of your gift lightly. At the same time, Father, I want to live confidently, knowing that my salvation is not dependent on my mistakes but upon your grace. Because of such a lavish gift, I pledge to live for you today in a way that reflects the joy I have at receiving such an awesome gift. Through Jesus, my Grace, I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY--1 PETER 5:8-9

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Satan is real. He and his power are intended to harm. But rather than spending our time worrying about him, let's resist him when we are tempted and focus on Jesus. He's the one who won the big showdown at Calvary, triumphing over Satan. He took Satan's greatest tool and disarmed it. Now we can resist and Satan will flee.

C - MY PRAYER...

Thank you, Almighty God, for sending Jesus to break Satan's stranglehold over us. Through the Saviour's death you have assured me that mine won't be the end of our relationship, but the beginning of life with you.

Today, however, I ask that you help me especially resist Satan's power over my life in the following ways...Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY--EPHESIANS 1:18

Pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Heaven is something we see with our heart. When we are discouraged, doubtful, and depressed, we need to have the eyes of our hearts "enlightened." The dawn needs to rise in our darkness, and then we will see the dawn of hope and the riches of our inheritance. But when things look bad, the only way to remember these things is to sing them, pray them, and read God's promises of them.

D - MY PRAYER...

O God, you are my Hope. I trust in you and your promises. But I admit that at times, like even right now, I struggle with the confidence that you will act in response to my prayers and do what I've trusted you with my life to do. Please fill me with your Spirit, comfort my doubts, and kindle my passion so that I may serve you with boldness and share your grace with others. Through my Lord Jesus I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY--1 PETER 2:9

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We've been picked to be on God's team, and we were picked first! We have an important role to play in the unfolding of the world's history. We're here to declare God's praises to those who don't know him so they can find his marvellous light and leave their world of darkness.

E - MY PRAYER...

O Great Light of Eternal Hope, I praise you and thank you for including me in your people. Now move me and empower me to share your Gospel with others so the world might truly know that Jesus is Lord. Through him I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY--ROMANS 13:1

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Yes, there are things we don't like about our government. But God has truly blessed us to enjoy the protection of the authorities. But we also live in the time of some of the greatest persecution ever known in the Christian era. So as we pray for our leaders and thank God for our freedoms, let's not forget the persecuted church all over the world.

F - MY PRAYER...

O Great Deliverer, God of the Exodus, as you have shown your power and deliverance in the past, we ask that you act today and bless every believer who is persecuted for your sake. Show them tenderness, healing, and protection on this day. Through Jesus we ask it. Amen.

SUNDAY--2 CORINTHIANS 3:6

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant - not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

A new covenant -- God willingly entered into a new agreement with us, his creatures, sealed it with the blood of his Son Jesus, and sent the Spirit to give us the power to live the life of this new covenant. God has made a covenant of love and grace with us. The Almighty has then turned around and made us worthy and competent to share that covenant with others. Now wonder it is life-giving: it brings life to us and through us!

G - MY PRAYER...

O holy and majestic God, thank you for your grace that has saved me from sin and has redeemed me from the law of sin and death. Thank you for sending the gift of your Son and the gift of your Spirit so that I can live with you in a covenant of life, grace, and love. While I confess my weaknesses, I also promise you that I will live to honour your sacrifice, love and covenant, trusting that you will ultimately empower me to be what you are calling me to be. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.