



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps
Corps Officer Major Ian F Payne

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6th December 2020

Hello Friends,

Can you believe that it is 19 days to Christmas. Wow, time is just flying away. We have been looking at the ways we can bring the Christmas Message to the people of our community in a way that is safe for all and yet not compromise the story that has to be shared.

Well, as you can imagine, it has been backwards and forwards with legislation and rules and the band of 6 can go out in residential areas and the public have to follow the guidelines. That said, we are unable to go to Chatham High Street as the Local Authority and the Town Centre Management are not giving permission but we will get the message out to various areas.

There has been exciting news this week about a vaccine that has been authorised – the world is excited. Sounds familiar. Over 2,000 years ago the world was excited at the arrival of something new that was going to change the world. People rebelled, disagreed, believed and came to the dirty old stable to see what the angels had proclaimed, what the stars had revealed – and they found the answer to the

world's ills. It's strange today that that answer is still here, among us, in you and me; wouldn't it be just great if the world got excited again about the Greatest Story ever told – well that's up to you and me to make sure the story is shared.

This week we are sharing 'Advent Hope' a hope for us all, a hope for our family, neighbourhood, country and world. I believe it, do you?

We had a great start to Advent last week as we shared with the rest of the division as Chatham hosted the Advent Celebration with over 1,700 viewing it so far.

Let's continue in that sense of anticipation and Hope for us all. See you Sunday 10am



God bless you as you seek Him and His direction with all your hearts

Ian F Payne Major

PRAYER REQUEST



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.

We pray that during this time of lockdown we may feel God's presence and allow Him to guide us each day, remembering that He promises to be with us and that we are all special to Him.

Pray for those who will find these next weeks to be difficult to cope with, for whatever reason, but pray that these actions will be effective in saving lives.

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.

We pray for our Army throughout the world but just now we pray for those in Indonesia, Ethiopia and the Philippines.

Please let Jean know of any urgent prayer requests for the supportive prayers of the Prayer Chain. Email her on jeanm1938mail.com or text on 07787718273.

Territorial Envoy

Tony McClure



I saw this poem recently on Facebook. It is a re-write of a Christmas standard. I think it speaks for itself...

Tw'as the night before Christmas,
God glanced o'er the earth
He looked to and fro,
All over its girth.
"They missed it again" He said with a sigh,
A heavy heart and a tear in His eye.

"I gave them my Son,
So they could be free.
My greatest gift,
To them, from Me.

They traded me in,
For a man dressed in red.
A little tree,
And a horse drawn sled.

How do I save them?
And make them see.
My love is complete,
My grace is free.

How do I help them?
When all they know
Is a talking snowman,
And a box with a bow.

Maybe next year,
They will stop and see:
**The biggest gift of Christmas:
Is the child sent from Me."**

I don't know who wrote the poem. But thank them anyway.

And as a phrase often used says:

Remember Jesus is the reason for the season.

DVD/AUDIO RECORDINGS OF THE MEETING

There are a number who receive an Audio disc of the meeting – we now have the facility to produce a Disc of the meeting that you can play in a DVD player, you can then experience the meeting in all its glory on your TV. If you would like one of these DVDs please do let Major Ian know, the details are on the top of the Chatham Chatter, you will then be put on the circulation list.

You could also use these discs to introduce a friend to 'the Army'. Please pray for this ministry.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Great start last week to the Advent Bible Study with the theme of Hope under the leadership of TE Tony McClure. We continued on Wednesday. Come and join us this week on Zoom. We start at 8pm for one hour

The Zoom Link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5972909541?pwd=MzFlWUpEUDd0K0ErQ0ZS^{TWM0Z0J3Zz09}>

Meeting ID: 597 290 9541

Passcode: Hope2020

Sunday 6th December Bible reading LUKE 4:14-21 & ISAIAH 40

COMING SUNDAYS at CHATHAM

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

10am Major Ian with 'Advent of Hope'

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER

10am Majors Mark & Linda Herbert, Divisional Leaders, leading worship

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 10am – 11:30am

Christmas Praise 'Share the Gift'

Major Ian and Guests.

Bring a coffee and mince pie. Put on your Christmas jumper, enjoy some of your favourite Christmas Carols and items by members of the Corps Send a picture of you in your jumper

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Major Ian with 'Unwrap Hope'

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER

10am Divisional Worship

Sunday January 3rd 2021

10am Territorial New Year Celebration

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Zoom Sunday this morning – please ask Tracy for details to join in. They are working very hard in making sure that our YP have all the training and fun in discovering more about Jesus.

CHRISTMAS BAGS OF HOPE

Last Day - BAGS IN TOMORROW

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 LAST DAY TOMORROW. 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 TOY APPEAL LAST DAY TOMORROW

We will be having a Christmas Toy Appeal this year. Between now and 7th December, why not buy a gift for a child, between 1 to 18 and bring it to the hall after 10.30 **on Monday 7th December**, unwrapped. Again, this year we can make a big difference to many childrens’ lives on Christmas Day. If you would sooner give a donation, again, please make this on the Justgiving page If you require any further information please contact Wendy 07368 629792 or paulscoulding@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS DAY AT CHATHAM SA

We will not be able to have guests in the hall for lunch as has been customary, run so successfully by the Medway Sunlight Rotary Club. So, this year we will be providing a full Christmas Day Lunch plus a tea and surprise for each person. All the recipients will have to do is heat the food in an oven or microwave. They will be delivered by volunteers. **Do you have the name of a person who would welcome a Christmas Day Lunch?** Please let Major Ian know. We are up to 200

COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER A COUPLE OF HAMPERS ON CHRISTMAS DAY (BETWEEN 9AM & 2PM)?

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.

CORPS TREASURER

All personal 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.

CORPS FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

Don't forget the Just-Giving page is available to enable members of the public to give 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.

NHS COVID QR CODE



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 ARRANGEMENTS TO COME TO THE HALL.



WATCHOUT TONIGHT **Virtual Christmas Connect Carol Service**

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Chatham Band will be making an appearance

FOR FURTHER DETAILS GO TO:

<https://christmasconnect.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Christmas-Connect-104428934346190/?ti=as>

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>

NEW YEAR WORSHIP WITH THE TERRITORIAL LEADERS

You're invited to join Commissioners Anthony and Gill Cotterill in online worship on the first Sunday (3rd January) of the New Year to mark Commitment Sunday. Available on The Salvation Army's YouTube channel, the meeting will include the installation and welcome of the new Chief Secretary and the Territorial Secretary for Leader Development, Colonels Paul and Jenine Main. This special online meeting is a gift from the Territorial Leaders to support corps who will not need to prepare a meeting over

the Christmas and New Year period. More details coming soon.



TERRITORIAL LEADER VIDEO MESSAGE

Commissioner Gillian

Cotterill reminds us 'Nothing, not even Covid-19 can separate us from the love of God' in this week's video message. Watch on

YouTube <https://youtu.be/xzpOso47uBo>

Also

TERRITORIAL COMMANDER VIDEO MESSAGE

'It's true to say that, generally speaking, we don't like the dark. Thank God that there is light for us.' Commissioner Anthony Cotterill reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus, Light of the World in this week's video message. Watch on

<https://youtu.be/vtG5FCEu8c0>

Please at the end of the Chatham Chatter read the shocking news report of an attack upon the Lewono Lembantongoa Outpost in Indonesia and the murder of four Salvationists.

Commissioner Anthony writes:

'Salvationists and friends from all parts of the UKI Territory stand in prayer and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Indonesia. I call for fervent prayer from across the territory for all affected by this outrage especially the families, community and the leaders of The

Salvation Army in Indonesia, including our own Lieut-Colonels Cedric and Lyn Hills.'



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

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/>

FUNDRAISING TV ADVERTS

See if you can spot our TV adverts that are supporting our Christmas Appeal, which is our territory's biggest fundraising drive of the year. Check channels and transmission times for [1-6 December](#).

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 Deuteronomy 18:15

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like [Moses] from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Jesus is that prophet like Moses. He has come and taught us God's truth. He has taught us with his words recorded in the Gospels. He has taught us with his example, through the deeds he has done. He is teaching us through his abiding presence in us and through the Spirit he has given us. But he teaches us most effectively when we put into

practice what he has said.

H - MY PRAYER...

El Shaddai, who thundered from Mount Sinai and gave your Law to your servant Moses, I believe you are still speaking today through Jesus. Help me not only hear his voice, but listen to his message and life and put it into practice today. Gently correct and lead me in the way of obedience so that I may more perfectly glorify you with the worship of my daily life. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

Tuesday Isaiah 7:14

The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God is interested in us personally. So much so that he personally gives us this sign. Because of Matthew's explanation of the meaning of the name Immanuel, we know what that sign was - Jesus coming to live as God with us. His presence is God's presence. His life is God's sign. The miracle of his conception is God's mystery and also his statement of grace for us.

I - MY PRAYER...

Holy and Almighty Lord who refuses to be detached and far away: I thank you for coming to live among us in Jesus. I thank you and praise you for your sacrifice and pain. I know this sign cost you greatly so please let my praise in prayer, song, thought and life reflect my thanks to you in Jesus. Amen.

Wednesday Galatians 4:4-5

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God waited until history reached his appointed time and sent Jesus. Just the right time -- Roman rule, Jewish subordination, good roads, freedom, a degree of safety, a common trading language, cruel and barbaric punishment accompanied by religious infighting. In times such as these, he sent his Son to be a woman's son. He emptied his home so he could send a Redeemer to our home. He did it so we could be his children -- not pretend children, but real children, with full rights. So he could not only be God, but so he could be Abba.

J - MY PRAYER...

Abba Father, even your name is precious to me. I gasp at how much it cost you to let me call you Abba. I don't understand such extravagant love, but I thank you for it. I know I don't deserve to call you Abba, but it sounds so right. Something inside resonates at the sound of Abba -- Holy, Righteous, Almighty, Abba! While I know that I will never be a perfect child, I rest today in the confidence that I am your child and that you claim me. Thank you in Jesus. Amen.

Thursday Matthew 2:4-6

When King Herod had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of

the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

"The first will be last and the last will be first." That's one of Jesus' favourite sayings. Isn't it interesting that God said it long before he was born. Isn't it interesting that those who knew the Scriptures, but didn't know Jesus, said it too! Isn't it interesting that Herod and Jesus lived it thirty years before Jesus would teach it. Isn't it interesting that Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper to remember that while Jesus died and shed his blood, on the first day of the week, Sunday, he rose. When it matters most, Jesus and his people will finish first!

K - MY PRAYER...

You, O Lord, are marvellous. You are God Almighty, the holy and majestic Creator. Yet you became the least so I can share in your glory. Please help me, O God, never to look down on someone else because they look like the least. I know, Father, that as I serve and love them, I'm serving and loving you. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Friday Luke 1:26-28

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be

married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Wow! Such a familiar sentence packed with emotion. An angel comes to Nazareth to visit and speak with a young woman engaged to be married. Before the history-shattering news is announced, she is given one key reminder that will be truer than she could imagine, "The Lord is with you."

L - MY PRAYER...

My request, O God, I've sung many times: "Be with me Lord, I cannot live without Thee. I cannot bear to take one step alone." Father, I need your abiding presence to face the challenges of life. As you have upheld your children through the ages, I am thankful to greet each day knowing that I will not face it alone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday Luke 1:30-33

The angel said to [Mary], "Do not be afraid, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Jesus is identified by many names stated or implied in the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Notice how Jesus is identified in just this one passage: child, son, Jesus, great, Son of the Most High, King, son of David, and leader of Israel (Jacob). Jesus exhausts all descriptions, and yet chose to be limited to imperfect descriptions by becoming human. But this flood of names and descriptions helps us find Jesus a Saviour in every trial and blessing of life. Jesus is Saviour for all seasons.

M - MY PRAYER...

Holy and Almighty Father, I thank you for all the ways Jesus is described and all the names he is given. They help me see the breadth of his nature and the depth of his character. Please bless me so I may always find a dimension of Jesus' ministry or a name or description of Jesus to help sustain me, when I walk through the shadows of doubt caused by the evil one. Help me, O Father, to see Jesus and not my preoccupations and biases so that when he comes again, I will know him, and he me. Through the glorious name of the Saviour I pray. Amen.

Sunday Luke 1:46

Mary said, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.... The Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

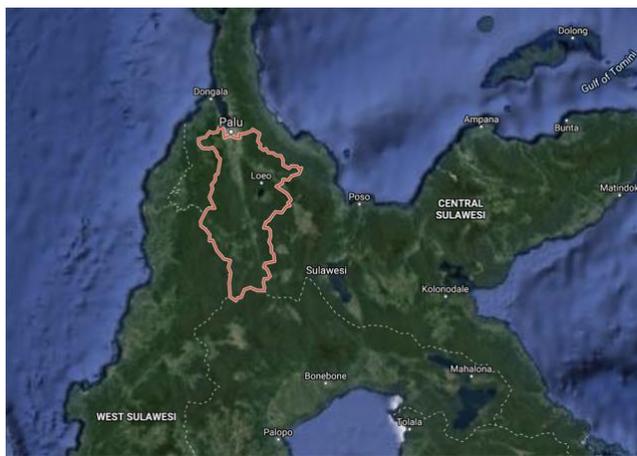
While Mary's submission to God's will costs her in ways we can never imagine, for Jesus to come to life in the hearts of

people today our attitude must be the same as her attitude was on this night of miracle and mystery. We too, must be willing to be the Lord's servant and offer him the praise of our lives and of our lips. In Jesus, the Lord has done great things for us!

N - MY PRAYER...

Majestic Father, Almighty God, you have done wonderful things for me. You have saved me from sin, you have paid the price for my rebellion, and you have given me the promise of heaven and the [Holy Spirit](#) to empower me there. You are greater than I can imagine and your glory is without comparison, yet you have stooped so low as to reach me and then raised me back up with you by your grace. I can never fully thank you, for you are more wonderful to me than my words can declare or a thousand years of life could repay. Through Jesus I give you all glory and praise.

Following Deadly Attack in Sulawesi, Indonesia



Prayer Requested

WITH great sadness, The Salvation Army confirms that an attack upon the Lewono Lembantongoa Outpost, Indonesia, on Friday 27 November 2020 has claimed the lives of four members. A Salvation Army outpost is a locality in

which Army work is carried out and where it is hoped a society or corps will eventually develop.

Lewono Lembantongoa is in a very rural area of Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi, situated on the edge of the Indonesian rainforest. During the morning of 27 November, the community was subjected to a savage attack, during which The Salvation Army's building was burned down along with six homes of members. Sadly, four members of the outpost were killed.

Major Erik Kape (Divisional Commander, East Palu) and colleague officers acted immediately to support the local leaders, coordinating with police and with government officials of the Sigi Regency and Central Sulawesi Province who are increasing protection for the villages in the area and investigating the incident.

In a press statement released across Indonesia, The Salvation Army invites all churches and religious associations – along with community members – to support each other vigilantly in these days, enhancing security through strong communication networks across the villages of the area.

Territorial Commander for Indonesia, Colonel Yusak Tampai, urges Salvationists in the region to 'remain calm but alert and careful, spreading a strong message of hope and uniting in prayer to strengthen each other'.

Throughout Indonesia on Sunday 29

November, Salvationists are called to observe a three-minute silence and to pray for grieving families and congregations, asking for God's peace to be poured upon the region. Some will be gathered for public worship while others are confined to home due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Noting that The Salvation Army serves in 131 countries and that the world continues to convulse with disturbing levels of violence affecting many of its people, General Brian Peddle, international leader of The Salvation Army, denounces any such acts.

'Throughout all aspects of Salvation Army ministry and influence we work for peace,' he says.

'We find the news from Lembantongoa greatly disturbing. Our hearts go out to our people who have been victims of evil, and to the families of those whose faith have caused such harm. I call upon all Salvationists to pray for each person who has been affected, for the continuing witness of our people, and for healing in the communities. I ask our global community to join us in this prayer, and believe that as peace finds its place, evil will be defeated.

'As General, I assure our people in Indonesia of our deep love and prayers,' he concludes.

Messages of support and unity have been received from Indonesian church leaders. The Communion of Churches in Indonesia is inviting Christian families in

Indonesia to light a candle at the beginning of Advent this Sunday as a symbol of the continuing hope found in Christ. The Salvation Army is a significant church presence in Indonesia, with more than 60,000 members.

The Salvation Army in Indonesia values this unity from fellow Christians and greatly welcomes prayer support from Salvationists worldwide.