



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps
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21st February 2021

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Hello Friends and welcome

Romans 8:38-39 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'

This week was the commencement of Lent. Pancakes cooked, tossed and eaten - now down to spiritual exercise. What are you going to do this Lent period and I don't mean giving up? What are you going to develop in your life? What changes are you going to make? How are you going to enrich your spiritual journey? Yes, the roots of Lent are in praying and fasting but also penance, seeking the favour and forgiveness of God. Maybe at the beginning of Lent, write down what you hope to achieve, spiritually, put it in an envelope and then open it on Easter morning. This past week we commenced our Lent Bible Fellowship, 'The prayers of Jesus', this week looking at The Lord's Prayer. We gave a task to each other to pray the prayer, slowly, determinedly and with thought and see what God wants to say to each of us. Why don't you try this with us? Even drop into the Bible Fellowship on a Wednesday, 8pm. Sunday Morning we share with the South East Division in worship. May we all be blessed as we share together.

God bless you all.

Ian F Payne Major

PRAYER REMINDERS



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.

- Pray for all those working in caring roles whether in hospital, care homes, community or own homes.

- Pray for any of our Corps members and others who are suffering with ill health, particularly those awaiting treatments which have been delayed.

- Pray for those whose jobs are at risk and those who are struggling due to loss of earnings.

- Pray for those who have been bereaved that God will comfort them at this difficult time.

- Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith that they will know the presence of God in their lives.

- Pray for those whose faith may be wavering because of the lack of physical contact and fellowship.

Please let Jean know of any urgent prayer requests for the supportive prayers of the Prayer Chain. Email her on jeanm1938@gmail.com or text on 07787718273.



Territorial Envoy Tony McClure

As I write this article it is Ash Wednesday. Many of you will have stuffed your faces with pancakes, with assorted toppings and fillings, preparing yourselves for the season of Lent.

As far as pancakes are concerned you may be very conservative in how you approach your pancake. Sugar and lemon juice is a favourite of mine, but I have tried a 'Nutella' type topping too. Someone on Facebook put up a photograph of their spinach-based pancake. To be honest with you, it looked revolting, the colour being a quite vibrant lime green. I am sure it must have tasted much better than it looked. Traditionally, you made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, to use up all the 'luxury' ingredients in your store cupboard. This enabled you to enter the fast of Lent.

So far, on Facebook, I have seen people making declarations of what they are giving up for Lent. Chocolate, cake and crisps seem to figure highly in people's 'things to give up for Lent' list. This is a most admirable practise and I wish people well as they give up those things they love for the Lenten Season. During the Covid 19 lockdown a lot of us have had to give up things we like...regardless of whether we wanted to or not. You can't go out for a coffee if all the cafes and restaurants are closed. I know you can buy things on a 'buy and go' basis, but as someone said to me "Tony, the problem is there is nowhere to sit". I agree.

A new way of viewing and doing Lent was not so much 'giving' things up but 'taking' something up for Lent. This can be whatever you want it to be. You could purposefully send a card to someone or make a 'phone call to them or offer some other kind of service to another person or organisation.

Many people will do a special Lenten-based Bible Reading series as a means of preparing themselves for Easter.

My encouragement to all of you is be prepared to do something. Why not join in with the Bible Fellowship? We are looking at The Prayers of Jesus. I can assure you

it is an informal type of study that lasts for no more than an hour. It is on a Wednesday evening and starts at 8pm. It is held by Zoom. The Zoom ID is 597 290 9541. The password is Hope2020. All are welcome. Whatever you do do, make sure you do something that focuses your thoughts on the glorious events of Holy Week.

God bless you all.

Tony.

BIBLE READING SUNDAY 21st February

MATTHEW 9: 35 – 38

VICTOR PEARCE PROMOTION TO GLORY

On Wednesday 3rd February **Vic Pearce** was PTG after being quite poorly since the autumn last year. Major Ian will be leading the funeral service on **Monday 1st March, 3pm** at Medway Crematorium. Please do continue to pray for his family at this challenging time.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT

If you know of a family, or yourself, who is struggling financially due to the Covid19 situation please go to the poster at the end of the Chatter for details about claiming an emergency assistance grant.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Bible Fellowship this Wednesday is under the leadership of TE Tony McClure. We continue the Lent Series *'The Prayers of Jesus'*. There is a book to accompany the series - if you would like one please do let Major Ian know. Come and join us on Zoom. We start at 8pm for one hour. The Zoom details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5972909541?pwd=MzFIWUplEUDd0K0ErQ0ZSTWM0Z0J3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 597 290 9541

Passcode: Hope2020

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 suggest they send donations using a cheque and posting to the Hall for the attention of the CO.



CHILDREN'S CLOTHES BANK PROJECT

Contact was made before Christmas with an outlet which helps families in need across the Medway area. A number of parcels of toys were given but it became clear that other items were always required throughout the year which they were

often unable to supply. The main need is for children's clothes – either new or good quality pre-owned. We would like to help this group by setting up a collection point where we can accumulate clothes from donations and pass them on regularly.

At present our Hall, as you know, is not open for general use and therefore clothes cannot be taken and left there but if you have any suitable children's clothes please hold on to them and contact **Wendy Scouling** or **Margaret Day**.

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>



COMMISSIONER'S VIDEO MESSAGE

Territorial Commander
Commissioner Anthony Cotterill reflects on his old companions –

his wellington boots - Watch on

<https://youtu.be/vk8WuR0sm20>

2021 SA YEAR BOOK

The 2021 edition of the Salvation Army Year Book, a 384-page compendium capturing the movement's news and events around the world, is now available. Get the e-book on Kindle or order the print version from SP&S.





INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS ONLINE

Enjoy this worship reflection on The Love of God from the International Staff Songsters, prepared instead of their February visit to

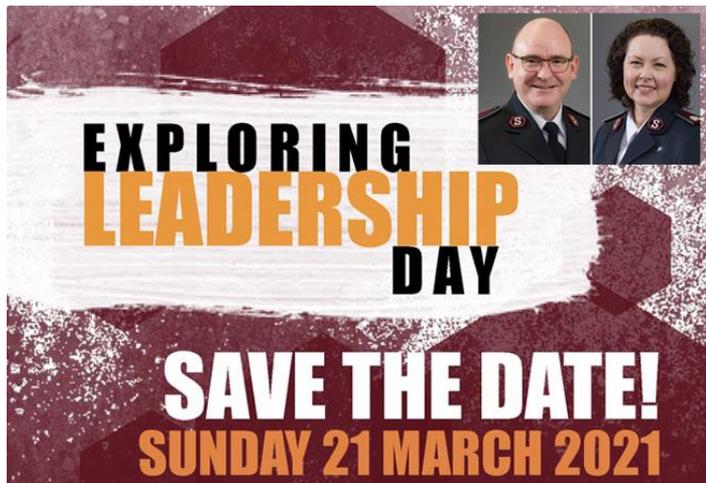
Bexleyheath Corps. Watch on <https://youtu.be/vo3ZHGcomB4>

TYB/TYC VIRTUAL CONCERT

Territorial Youth Band and Territorial Youth Choir held virtual events 15-19 February. The Virtual Concert can be enjoyed by clicking this link

<https://youtu.be/4EOGTT3lzWI>

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP DAY 21 MARCH



Explore the possibilities of spiritual leadership in this free online event which includes special guests Commissioners Lyndon and Bronwyn Buckingham from IHQ. The purpose of Exploring Leadership Day is to do just what the title says: to help people explore different areas of leadership in its various forms. The day provides insight into different types of leadership, the space to reflect on what God is saying and the time to respond to that. If you have never been before, then please consider attending. If you have been before then you can testify to what a great day it is, and with the theme and seminars changing every year, there is always something for everyone. For more details email; vocation@salvationarmy.org.uk.



SELF-DENIAL 2021. WEEK 3

PRAY

Lord of the harvest, raise up, nourish and send more workers to preach the Good News to the poor, to build up the Church in every land and minister to the needs of people everywhere, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

MEDITATE

As he is, so also are we in this world” or “we live like Jesus here in this world” (1 John 4:17). When God called Abram (Genesis 12), he established a framework for mission in the broken and fallen world. God promised Abram that his descendants would become a great people, that they would live in a particular place and that their purpose would be to bless the world with God’s love. Four hundred years later, as Moses prepared to lead the people towards the assigned place, God gave them the Sinai covenant, which explained how they would be his people and how they would fulfil their purpose of blessing the world with his love.

As Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament covenant, he commanded his followers to love God and love others. He also said that by this, all people would see him (John 13:34-35). Then, following the ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the followers of Jesus were sent to the ends of the earth to continue the mission commenced through Abram; to be his people in the place he has sent us, fulfilling our purpose of blessing the world with his love.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IS THE SAME ARTICLE AS LAST WEEK. IT WILL CHANGE NEXT WEEK WHEN WE LIVE STREAM AS A CORPS.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject – LIBYA, No 4 in the WORLD WATCH LIST.



3. LIBYA

There are approximately 34,500 Christians in Libya – 0.5 per cent of a population of 6.7 million. But the number of Libyan Christians (rather than migrant workers from other countries) is very small – only about 150 believers.

There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion, and no possibility of public church life in Libya. The tiny number of Libyan Christians from a Muslim background face violent and intense pressure from their family and the wider community to renounce their faith. They are also vulnerable to abduction, murder or sexual assault by Islamic militant groups and organised crime groups.

Sharing your faith publicly is illegal in Libya, and those who try to share their Christian faith with others risk violent opposition and arrest. Without a central government, the country is effectively in a state of lawless anarchy. There is little chance of legal justice when Christians are attacked or killed.

Christians migrating from sub-Saharan Africa are also vulnerable to being held in detention centres or handed over to persecutors by those trafficking them. Believers are often then forced into intense labour or prostitution.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord, we ask for your blessing on Libya and those who follow you there. Please give strength and perseverance to those who cannot publicly praise you or have any semblance of church life. Protect them from violence and kidnapping, and change the hearts of those who persecute Christians.
Amen.

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 8:38-39

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither present nor the future, nor powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Separation is something we fear whether it's from a child, a parent, a sibling, a spouse, a friend, or from God. Because Jesus bore the separation from God, by coming and going to the cross, we can know we won't have to ever be separated from God's love.

H - MY PRAYER...

Great Father of all peoples, thank you for loving me. Thank you for giving me the promise that nothing can separate me from your love. Please fill me with your Spirit and make me more aware of your accompanying presence in my life today. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

TUESDAY 1 JOHN 4:11-12

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Can you imagine what an honour it is to have the Creator of the universe, the Lord God Almighty, living inside of you! But when we love each other, that is exactly what happens. When our hearts are full of love, there is room for God. When they are not full of love, we leave God little room to take up residence and produce his character in us. Let God complete his love in you. Make a commitment to do loving things for other believers today!

I - MY PRAYER...

Abba Father, it is so comforting to know that you are not far away - that I live in you and you live in me. Help me see others with your eyes, and respond to their needs with your heart, so that your love may be complete in me. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY PROVERBS 17:9

He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

"It's just a little harmless gossip." The Wise Teacher reminds us that gossip is neither little nor harmless. Its consequences are huge and its damage horrible. Instead, it is much better to be a peacemaker and an offence-mender.

J - MY PRAYER...

Father of Glory, I confess that I am often more a peace lover than a peacemaker. Give me the character not to repeat gossip, but instead have the wisdom and strength to be an offence-mender. Through the Prince of Peace I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY ROMANS 13:9-10

The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore, love is the fulfilment of the law.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Wouldn't it be great if we didn't have to have laws to keep people in line! That's the point behind Paul's message here. Treat our neighbours as we would like to be treated. Love them as we like to be loved. If we do that, then we're not going to

do anything that would hurt them, much less violate a command of law!

K - MY PRAYER...

God, who gave Moses the Law on tablets of stone, please write your character and will on my heart so I might be a living stone, testifying to your righteousness and grace. Help me to think more carefully about how my neighbours feel before I act or react to them today! Through your Son I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY 1 JOHN 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

What is there to fear if God sent his Son to die to redeem us? What is there to fear if we cannot be separated from the love God has for us in Christ Jesus? What is there to fear except ourselves? As we love God and his children, we are reminded by his love for us, which is far better than our meagre love for others. Rather than run from him in fear, we bow before him in thanks, knowing that he who hears our prayers is also he who loves us and stops our fears.

L - MY PRAYER...

Loving Father, thank you that I can revere you without fearing your wrath. Thank you that I can revere your word and yet not be terrified by my inadequacies. May your love in me produce a closer likeness to your holiness, righteousness, justice, and mercy than all the laws, threats, and judges combined. Through Jesus, who ransomed me from sin, I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY EPHESIANS 2:4-5

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

I cannot think of anything I'd prefer the Holy God to be rich in than mercy. I know my failures, shortcomings, sins, and transgressions. Without his mercy to pardon, and without his grace to send Jesus to pardon at first, I would be lost and without God. Now, because of his rich mercy, my life is tied to Jesus' future and not the one I earned for myself.

M - MY PRAYER...

Father of all grace and mercy, thank you. Thank you for being God like you are God. Thank you for extending grace when I have not deserved it. Thank you for giving mercy when I most needed it. Thank you for giving life when I thought my life was doomed and hopeless. May my wealth be found in mercy and grace much more than money and gold. Help me be more like you. Through my older brother, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY 1 JOHN 4:19

We love because [God] first loved us.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE....

It's all very simple. God is love. He is its origin, example, and architect. I love because he loved me first. I know how to love because he has demonstrated it. I can love because he made me to have his likeness. He is the fountain, the motivation, and the pinnacle of love. I love because he does, first, last, and always.

N - MY PRAYER....

God of comfort, thank you for comforting me with your love. Just as a child learns from parents how to do so many things, I want to learn to love as you do: sacrificially, selflessly, and submissively, so that others may know that they do not have to earn your love, only receive it. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Do you need urgent help?

We may be able to assist you with money to buy food, bills and other essentials

The Emergency Assistance Grant (EAG) is available to people in Medway who are in crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, from **January - March 2021**



Including:



Food



Bills



Clothing



School uniform



White goods

APPLY TODAY!

Visit medwayeag.co.uk

Call 01634 383 760

Text GRANT to 60300

Standard network rates apply.



Scan me with your camera for more!



Citizens Advice Medway
Third Floor, Kingsley House
37-39 Balmoral Road
Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4PF

Contact Us
01634 383760
info@medwayadvice.org.uk
medwayeag.co.uk



Free, confidential, independent and impartial advice for the whole of Medway