



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

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21st March 2021

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Hello Friends and Welcome

'My dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain' 1 Corinthians 15:58

I love that quote in 1 Corinthians 15:58 'You know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.' Over these past weeks, it seems that it's a 'hard slog' in what I am doing. You know those days, one step forward, two back! And then you get a phone call or an email/message that is so encouraging and a

great blessing to you and all of sudden you are back on track and knowing the worth of God in all that you are doing. I am certainly a man that sees a glass half full but in these days that has been a challenge for many of us. We seem to be on a path of slowly coming out of this enforced confinement - a year to the day that we closed our doors to public worship. However, in the past twelve months we have worshipped and sought God in new ways and God has heard our call. Many have rededicated their lives to God, some have claimed Christ into their lives, some who have not been to a church for decades are now regularly worshipping with us. So we have much to be grateful for.

Later today the Leadership team will be meeting. Thank you to those who have responded with thoughts from the 'God's Commission' paper sent out last week. Please continue to pray for us as we pray around the building and rededicate it back to God. As we seek God and find out what he wants of us in Chatham, we believe God has a plan, not just for our lives, but for our community and Corps. Let's find out what it is and join in. What is it God is telling you about Chatham? Share it.

This Sunday we are joining with the Divisional Leaders, Majors Mark and Linda Herbert, in prayer and worship. May we all find fresh hope, challenge and renewed purpose as we meet together. There will be contributions from around the division, sharing about what God is releasing, even in these days.

Thanks to Mark and Linda and others for their preparation and message to us this week.



God bless you & God bless Chatham

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 our Corps and for guidance as to how we can worship and serve God, nurturing new Christians and developing community links.

- Pray for Corps members who are suffering with ill health, thinking especially of Rita, still unwell in hospital; Don who commences chemotherapy treatment this week; Barbara Boniface who suffered a stroke and is needing therapy to recover her speech.

- Pray for those who have been bereaved but have been unable to spend time with family and friends, that they may be comforted.

- Pray for those whose jobs are at risk and others who may be having financial problems.

- Pray for the decision makers in local government and national government that they will take into account the life values necessary to ensure that wise decisions are made.

- Pray that Easter will be a time of reflection and inspiration, remembering all that Christ has done for us.

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.

Sunday 21st March

Please pray for the Leadership Team as, with the CO, they will be taking time to pray through the Hall, rededicating it back to God after all the decorating. Also, they will be spending time discussing and seeking God's guidance for the way ahead for Chatham Citadel Corps.



Territorial Envoy Tony McClure

I was chatting with a friend yesterday about, of all things, Hot Cross buns. He was saying that he does not particularly like the Hot Cross buns you can get from the big supermarkets or buns made by larger bakeries. It is the Hot Cross bun baked in a small independent bakery that he likes.

Our conversation then took a trip down memory lane and we chatted about the days when you could only get Hot Cross buns on Good Friday.

I remember one Good Friday being asked by my mum to go out and get some Hot Cross buns. We weren't a church-going family, but it was Good Friday and Hot Cross buns had to be got. The bakery was a short walk from where we lived so it wasn't an arduous trek. What made this particular expedition more exciting was that it was snowing. I can remember that the snowflakes were enormous, but they melted as soon as they landed. The Hot Cross buns tasted good too, if I remember correctly.

Living in Strood, there isn't an independent baker to go to for my Hot Cross buns. And nowadays you can get Hot Cross buns all year round, or it seems as though you can.

I wonder if the all-year availability of Hot Cross buns makes their meaning any less relevant. And does a round fruit-filled bun with a pastry cross on it really have any meaning?

Wikipedia tells me 'The bun marks the end of Lent and different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning, including the cross representing the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spices inside signifying the spices used to embalm him at his burial.'

I like Hot Cross buns wherever they come from. If I had a favourite I would say it is the luxury ones made by a certain store. I haven't tried their chilli Hot Cross Buns though.

To say that eating a Hot Cross Bun is a religious experience would be going too far but it is an enjoyable experience. And the cross on the top of the bun is a reminder.

Whether you love them or loathe them, Hot Cross Buns are a part of our lives and for some people an integral part of their Easter experience.

Enjoy your Hot Cross Buns...whenever you eat them. But, maybe, take time to consider what the symbolism of them means.

God bless you

Tony

CHAT WITH THE MAJOR IAN

Great to speak and see a couple of people last week. On Monday, between 2pm - 4pm, I will have my Zoom account open for anyone to come in and have a conversation, ask for prayer, share some news, tell me what's going on in your life. The link to my zoom is: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5972909541>

Meeting ID: 597 290 9541

Looking forward to chatting to some of you on MONDAY.

BIBLE READING SUNDAY 21st March

Matthew 9:35-38

GREAT NEWS - NEW SOLDIER

I am delighted to inform you that Mike Gibbs has asked if he can be made a soldier of Chatham Citadel. This is so exciting as Mike has been associated with the Corps for over 30 years and an Adherent for the past seven but now he feels that God is calling him to this further commitment. Therefore, I will be enrolling him on Sunday 2nd May 10am. God bless Mike and Sheena.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Bible Fellowship this Wednesday is under the leadership of TE Tony McClure. The last one of 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=MzFlWUpEUDd0K0ErQ0ZSTWM0Z0J3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 597 290 9541

Passcode: Hope2020

CORPS FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

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

Can we remind members that you can pay your cartridges and collections by **STANDING ORDER**. Please ask CT Andy Smith for details.

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. If you have any suitable children's clothes please hold on to them and contact **Wendy Scoulding 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/Nv40sGF8Ah4)

<https://youtu.be/Nv40sGF8Ah4>



TERRITORIAL LEADER'S VIDEO MESSAGE

With International Women's Day and Mother's Day in mind, Commissioner Anthony Cotterill celebrates womanhood and parent figures and reflects on the shelter God provides to his children (Luke 13:34). Watch on <https://youtu.be/BsmSF-BPsgg>

A YEAR IN REVIEW: HOW THE SALVATION ARMY SERVED IN 2020

Despite the pandemic, The Salvation Army provided a remarkable 1.7 million meals through community centres and food banks, 3,367 beds in our Lifehouses, debt advice to 1,500 people, and much more. Thank you. Watch this 'Year in Review' video at this link <https://fb.watch/48hKeNuzMO/>

ONLINE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Keep and share cherished memories of your loved ones with *In Our Prayers*, a personalised online book of remembrance from The Salvation Army. See more at www.tolbc.com/InOurPrayers or contact the Legacy & In Memory team (tel: 020 7367 4800 or email memory@salvationarmy.org.uk).

FREE WILLS MONTH: MARCH

If you are 55 or over and live in an area covered by the [Free Wills Month campaign](#) you can make or update a will for free. For more information, email legacy.enquiry@salvationarmy.org.uk or call 020 7601 7009.

THQ BUILDING UPDATE

A year ago, the contract to build the new THQ at Denmark Hill was ready for signature having received planning permission and all internal approvals. Due to the pandemic, the project was paused and this gave an opportunity to double-check the decision. A full review of the project was undertaken including alternate sites being considered. Staff have been updated at key points throughout the past year and it is clear, following the impact of the pandemic, that agile working is here to stay; that is, everyone does not need to travel to THQ every day to do their work.

Feedback from the recent workplace assessments have indicated that both staff and leadership agree there is still a need for flexible office space as people wish to meet in person on a regular basis. Denmark Hill is an established Salvation Army site offering a good hub location to meet the needs of a flexible workforce for many years to come. Significant money has already been spent in securing planning permission and preparing the site. Therefore, it has been decided to progress with the plans to build the new THQ at Denmark Hill. Lessons learnt during the pandemic will be taken into account before finalising the internal design.

The New THQ Project Team have been tasked by SATCo with moving this work forward and when a new timeline is agreed it will be shared.

This project will be financed by the sale of the current THQ site in Newington Causeway. The purchaser has confirmed they are still fully committed to developing the site. They are in negotiations with Southwark Council regarding planning permission. The Council and the purchaser will release more information on this in due course.

SPORTS MISSION TRAINING

Register now and spread the word about <https://form-eu.123formbuilder.com/42507/form> a training day run by Scripture Union and Salvation Army Sports Mission. More details coming soon for this event 15 May 2021, 10am-4pm.



GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE

Follow the General using the links below

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

or twitter @GeneralBPeddle

SELF-DENIAL APPEAL 2021

Thank you to those who have given their SD gift and came to the Hall on Monday last. You can, again, come this Monday between 9:30 -12:30 to bring your gift or just come and sit and pray

VACCINATION CENTRE CHATHAM

The NHS has asked The Salvation Army if they can provide chaplains at the mass vaccination centres throughout Kent for the staff. One has commenced in the Pentagon centre and it will involve SA personnel in a 'rest' room cum refreshment area for the staff - just to be there to have a conversation, if required. The centres will be operational until the end of July. If you can support by being a part of a two-hour shift, can you let Major Ian know ASAP, so that your information can be passed to DHQ who are co-ordinating this project.

DESK AND CHAIR

There is a Office desk (lockable) and chair available FREE Good condition - surplus to requirements at the Hall - Let Major Ian know if you would like it. It can be delivered.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. **IRAN, No 8 in the WORLD WATCH LIST.**



Less than one per cent of Iranians are Christian - around 800,000

The Iranian government sees the conversion of Muslims to Christianity as an attempt by western countries to undermine the Islamic rule of Iran. Christians from a Muslim background are persecuted the most, primarily by the government, but also by their families and communities. Secret churches are often raided, and their leaders and members have been arrested and given long prison sentences for 'crimes against national security'.

Many Iranians are nominal Muslims, and so some new Christians find acceptance from their families. Converts from stricter Muslim families face more persecution at home. Christians from Armenian and Assyrian communities are recognised and protected by the state, but still treated as second-class citizens. They are not allowed to tell others about Jesus or to speak in Persian during their church services.

Covid-19 has hit the country hard, and many believers are in desperate need of food and aid. Many Iranian prisoners, including some imprisoned for their faith, were released from

prison to combat the spread of Covid-19 in packed jails. However, other Christians remain in jail and the sentencing of Christians continues.

PLEASE PRAY Lord, please comfort Christians who have been imprisoned for their faith, that they may know You closely and hear You speaking powerfully to them. Bless the work Open Doors does for Iran, that its advocacy will bear fruit and encourage believers. Please give Iranian believers opportunities to tell others the good news of Jesus' love for them.

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 1 JOHN 1:9,

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We can be forgiven of our sins! That's great. We can be purified of any stain from sin!! That's incredible. But only because of God's grace and his willingness to give us the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

O - MY PRAYER...

Forgiving Father, please forgive me today for my lack of passion to love and forgive others in the way you have forgiven me. Create in me a heart like your own. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY PHILIPPIANS 1:29

It has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

When we read the book of Acts, we find the disciples overjoyed at suffering "for the sake of the name." Jesus' followers consider it a privilege and not just a hardship.

The truth of our commitment is often best shown to the sceptical when we are "under fire."

P - MY PRAYER...

What a precious name you have given to your son, O Lord. May it be exalted in all the earth and throughout all the heavens, until all existence knows that he is truly Lord. Through him I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY PSALMS 62:7

My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Who we are, what becomes of us in life, is in God's hands. We cannot purchase or achieve lasting honour for ourselves without his blessing. We cannot secure the future or our safety without his protection and blessing. The basis of all achievement and glory is dependent upon us placing our lives in his care.

Q - R -MY PRAYER...

O Rock, Fortress of my life, I place myself in your care. Take charge of my future and use me for your glory. In you I take refuge, and on your strength I rely to make my days worthwhile. In the precious name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY 1 TIMOTHY 2:5-6

There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

We do not need another person, no matter how mighty, pious, or special, to intercede

for us before God. As his children, we can go freely, knowing that God himself has provided the perfect mediator between us and himself. That mediator alone is head of the church and chief priest before God for us. His name is Christ Jesus, our Lord.

S - MY PRAYER...

O God, you are my God, and I praise you for making yourself so available. I know that in my power, I have no right to approach you. Yet in your grace you not only provided a ransom for my sin but a mediator for my approach to you. Jesus, I thank you as well, for paying the price and staying at the Father's side to intercede and speak for me! Thank you for making this prayer known to the Father. Amen.

FRIDAY 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Righteousness! That's what we are. God's righteousness. We are the testimony of how holy, just, and gracious he truly is, because in Jesus, we are his righteousness!

T - MY PRAYER...

Thank you, O Almighty God, for making merighteous in the blood of your son's death. May people see in me a reflection of your holiness, justice, and mercy. Through Jesus, who sacrificed for my sins, I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY ISAIAH 53:3-4

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and he carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Jesus was everything and became nothing and we didn't notice what he did for us. We just assumed he deserved it, and so we did not repent. But there was something about that sacrificial story that grabbed our hearts and called us home we found in him not only a Saviour, but a servant.

U - V - MY PRAYER...

God Almighty, your plan to redeem me takes my breath away. How and why you chose to take your precious son and expose him to such public disgrace I will never comprehend. But this I do know: you love me with an everlasting love. I pledge to you that I will serve you with all of my strength in thanks for his great sacrifice. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY ISAIAH 53:5-6

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

I don't know how Jesus could stand up under its weight. He had my sin, your sin, our sin, placed upon him so we would not have to bear the consequences of it. But in that sacrifice, as horrible as it was, we find ourselves healed, cured of the most awful disease a sin-sick soul. In its place, he has left us a transforming peace.

W - X - Y -Z - MY PRAYER...

God of peace, fill my soul with the wonder of your grace. Let me not forget the cost of your love. Stir in me the constant and abiding memory of your redemptive grace. Thank you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Holy Week & Easter Chatham Salvation Army

Monday 29th March 7pm
Which side of the Cross
are you living?

Tuesday 30th March 8pm
Music & Meditation Chatham Band

Wednesday 31st March 7pm
What does the Cross mean to you?

Thursday 1st April 7pm
Carrying your cross

GOOD FRIDAY 10am
The Everyday Cross

EASTER DAY 10am
The Victorious Cross

www.ChathamSA.org.uk
Click on Youtube

