



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

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Hello Friends and Welcome

JOHN 20:8

THE OTHER DISCIPLE, WHO HAD REACHED THE TOMB FIRST, ALSO WENT INSIDE. HE SAW AND BELIEVED.'

My first greeting is a Happy Easter to you all. We have had a week of music, thought, worship and challenge and, amid all the technology challenges, we were still able to get our message out. I have had many messages from people who have found them to be of great help and a welcome distraction to the week's activities. Thanks to all those who have made it possible especially David and Anthony, who, on occasions, are under a huge amount of pressure!!

We come to a positive time for the country as we begin slowly to come out of severe restrictions

and, with care, are able to meet family and friends, still observing all the necessary guidelines. Myself and the leadership team will be meeting again on the 11th April to discuss further our plan as we come out of the restrictions. I have asked those responsible to have blue sky thinking about what we should be engaging with when we come into our hall; what does the community require, what does our Corps require; what will the future look like for us all. I can tell you that Chatham Citadel will never be the same. We have much to do and with God and prayer much will be done.

We celebrate the birth of new life, new spiritual life, that of Christ Risen and by his Holy Spirit, enables us to be the persons we need to be, not bound by dogma and doctrine, but alive in Him and reaching out in faith, put our faith into action for the community. Yes, we will continue to give out Bags of Hope but also there is an urgency now to reach the lost, broken and rejected. We might have to step out of our comfort zones, but so be it. 'We are an Army Mobilised by God' an army to fight the ills and challenges of our day, with the word of God and the strength of Him - 'Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world'

May God bless you this Easter Sunday. May you all know the renewed power of the Risen LORD in your lives and daily living.

We serve a mighty God - Amen

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 Corps members who are suffering with ill health, including: Rita; Don, who is struggling with painful side effects of the chemotherapy treatment; Linda and Graham Tout. There are probably others who we don't know about but who need our prayers.
- Pray for those who have been bereaved that they may be comforted.
- Thank God for the leaders of our children's groups as they do their best to keep in touch with the children and their families.
- Thank God for those who have been faithfully providing the Bags of Hope to needy people in the community
- Pray for our Corps and for our Leadership team as they consider the priorities agreed at last week's meeting
- Pray that Easter will be a time of joy, 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.

If you would like to be included in the Prayer Chain for the purpose of praying for others who need urgent prayer, please email Jean on jeanm1938@gmail.com. We have 23 praying friends and would welcome more as the more prayers, the better. God is answering our prayers.



Territorial Envoy Tony McClure

As I have said before I am a lover of history. I am a child who was taught that the important people in the history of our country are the Kings and Queens who have reigned.

One of my favourite monarchs is Queen Elizabeth I. She has all that, in my limited understanding, a monarch should have; glamour, intelligence, the ability to stand firm against her enemies. I know that some more modern histories will tell her story differently, but to my mind she had that mystique and majesty that made her one of England's greatest leaders.

On BBC4, I think it was, a series was broadcast call 'Elizabeth I's Secret Agents'. It told us of how Elizabeth I lived a life that was in constant peril. Her parentage was question, as was her legitimacy. Being a Protestant put her at odds with the Pope and the other Roman Catholic monarchs of Europe. Because of these factors her life was, as I said, under constant threat. This meant that she had to be constantly guarded. The result was that she led a very confined and constricted life. She may have been decked out in silks, velvets and jewels but she was constantly guarded and never on her own. She lived the latter years of her life in constant fear of what lurked outside the door of her apartments. Her life became one of constant reduction and restraint. It contracted down from her numerous palaces, to the few rooms of her apartments, to her bedroom and finally to her bed, where she died. She is reported to have said "I have spent my life in little rooms." When we become Christians we enter into 'life in all its fullness'. Freed from the restraints of sin and self-seeking we begin to live life as God intended. The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 18:19 of his belief that God has '...brought me into a spacious place.'

As we celebrate, and remember during this Holy Week, culminating in resurrection joy on Easter Sunday, may we be blessed and experience the blessing of the knowledge of God having brought us into a spacious place.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Tony

CHAT WITH THE MAJOR IAN

Major Ian will renew the chat line on Monday 19th April

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 he now 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 will recommence on Wednesday 14th April under the leadership of TE Tony McClure. 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/Nv4OsGF8Ah4)

<https://youtu.be/Nv4OsGF8Ah4>



TERRITORAL COMMANDER VIDEO MESSAGE

A year on from the first lockdown, Commissioner Anthony Cotterill encourages us to remain standing.

Watch on

<https://youtu.be/yWcMcdPzlNY>

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/>

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.

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER BREAKFAST 2021

Save the date - Friday 25 June - for a free online prayer breakfast with parliamentarians to pray for renewed hope across our country. Sign-up details coming soon from www.christiansinparliament.org.uk



GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE

Follow the General using the links below

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralBPeddle>
or twitter @GeneralBPeddle

UNITED EASTER MESSAGE

Watch and share the Easter message from a group of Christian MPs and Peers from across the political parties with a message of renewed hope this Easter. WATCH ON <https://youtu.be/EcLPAF7TLAU> #ARenewedHope

DANCE FIT AND FELLOWSHIP

Coming soon: a new online resource for small groups that incorporates dance, fitness and gentle exercise. A PDF guide and video to help get groups started will be available from Music and Creative Arts and DHQs. For details Email stephanie.lamplough@salvationarmy.org.uk

DESK AND CHAIR (FINAL CALL)

There is a Office desk (lockable) and chair available FREE Good condition - surplus to requirements at the Hall -

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. **NIGERIA, No 9 in the WORLD WATCH LIST.**



Nigeria is becoming the “biggest killing ground of Christians in the world” due to attacks by ISIS, Boko Haram, and Fulani militants. It's estimated that between 50,000 and 70,000 Christians have been killed there in the last ten years.

Almost half of Nigerians are Christians, with Muslims mainly in the North and Christians in the South. Violent attacks by Islamic extremist groups take place in Nigeria's Middle Belt, where the North and South meet. The reasons for the attacks are complex, but as well as fuelled by religious hatred, there are drives to get rid of the Christian farmers who farm the central and most fertile part of the country.

Pastors and their families are under attack, churches are being burnt and destroyed. Farms and communities are being taken over. Men and boys are especially targeted with the aim of lowering the birth rate of

Christian communities and removing their sources of income. Perpetrators are seldom brought to justice. Christian women are often abducted and raped by these militant groups, and sometimes forced to marry Muslims.

Nigeria has risen several places on the World Watch List, and persecution has worsened in all areas of public and private life. Violence continues to be extreme, and has not abated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please pray: Lord God, we lift up our brothers and sisters in Nigeria facing extreme violence and other forms of persecution. Comfort those who mourn, and replace their weeping with joy. Heal their trauma and show them who they are in Your eyes. Protect Christian communities from Islamic extremist attacks, and transform the hearts of those who persecute believers so ruthlessly. 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 13:6-7

This is why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him. If you owe taxes, pay taxes;

if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Owe! Tax day. Not my favourite, how about yours? But where would we be without government, order and laws? While we may not like how the system functions today, what if we had no system? Let's be redemptive in our living and obedient in our citizenship.

H - MY PRAYER...

Holy God, I thank you that I am free in you and belong to no man or power. Yet because I want your name to be respected, I pledge to obey the laws of this land as long as they do not run directly in contradiction to your will. At the same time, I fervently pray that you heal our land. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY ROMANS 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

He paid a debt and I owe one. Thank God I don't owe the debt for my sin, but I owe others the same love, respect and grace with which God has treated me!

I - MY PRAYER...

Holy God who owns all things, I thank you for not just owning me, but for having bought me out of slavery, sin, and death. Please kindle love in my heart through the Holy Spirit so I will love others as you do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Power! We love power. We love the sound and fury of power. We love the ability to change things that power brings. But the greatest power ever unleashed on this earth was the power displayed when the Almighty God held back his power while his Son was persecuted and murdered so we could be saved. Now that's an awesome display of power.

J - MY PRAYER...

Holy and Majestic God on high, I praise you for your incredible might and power. But I also thank you for your love, which guides the release of that power. Thank you for knowing that I am but dust without your sustaining Spirit. Thank you for saving me by withholding your mighty power so I could be pardoned by your sacrificial power. Through Jesus' mercy I offer this prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY ROMANS 10:9-10

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Imagine Jesus being proud of you! He said if we confess him before others here on earth, he will speak up for us in heaven. Confessing that Jesus is Lord is simply acknowledging the truth. But for believers, it is more than that, since at the close of time every knee will bow and every tongue confess his name. For us, confessing Jesus is anticipating his triumph in which we will share.

K - MY PRAYER...

Mighty God, your Son is my Lord. I love him and praise him for his redeeming sacrifice. I thank him for his conquest of the

grave. I marvel at his sacrificial and triumphant grace. Jesus is Lord. I know it sounds sweet in your ears so I say it again, Jesus is my Lord. Thank you for being so great that you would be so sacrificial. Through my Lord and Saviour I offer this thanks. Amen.

FRIDAY 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-22

Christ has indeed been raised, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Being eternal is nothing new. Being like Jesus, completely, immortally will be new. But when the moment of glory hung in the balance as Jesus was revived from his death sleep, we too were given the assurance that death no longer claims us. The only death that really matters is our death to sin with Jesus in [baptism](#). If we have shared in that death, we will most certainly share in his resurrection (see [Romans 6:1-14](#)).

L - MY PRAYER...

Almighty, Most Powerful God. Because of your grace and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, I know I will see you face to face. Help me now, however, to live that resurrected life being more like Jesus today than any day ever before. Through my Risen Lord I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY 1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-57

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Victory! Ultimate Victory!! If you don't have the answer for life's biggest test, death, then you have no victory. The Super Bowl and World Series are played every year. The champion is a victor for only one year. But a Christian is a champion forever because of Jesus. A Christian has victory over death.

M - MY PRAYER...

Thank you God for giving me victory in Jesus Christ. Make his will triumphant in my daily struggles with sin. Through my Triumphant King I ask it. Amen.

SUNDAY JOHN 10:28-30

Jesus said, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

"He's got the whole world in his hand." God holds his children of [faith](#) in his hand. As long as they place their lives in him, no one or nothing can steal them away.

N -MY PRAYER...

O Lord, thank you for your steadfast and secure love. Thank you for the assurance that my future rests in your hands. Thank you for holding me in your protective grace. May I live today with confidence and joy knowing that no matter where I find myself, you are there to uphold and sustain me. For this grace, I thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

NOTES FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING SUNDAY 21ST MARCH 2021

Present

Mjr Ian Payne	CO
Andy Smith	CT
Sheena Gibbs	Adh. S
Mike Gibbs	Comm. Services Ldr.
Tracy Wood	YPSM
Nigel Lockwood	BM
Paul Scoulding	CSM
Heather Scott	RS
Adrian Horwood	CMS
Andrew Pennington	CS

Apologies

Carolynn Woodman	SL
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CORE LONG TERM PROGRAMME AGENDA ITEMS

This was to be the first in a series of sessions which would incorporate:

1. Prayer
2. Determination of Priorities
3. Practicalities for implementation
4. Pastoral Care
5. Programme

Due to the extent of the issues that need to be considered and resolved the expectation was that this meeting did not seek to resolve these issues but rather to focus on identifying priorities through a review of areas of concern and ascertaining potential opportunities with further meetings being scheduled to develop delivery plans in support of these.

Priorities

Under the headings of:

1. Corps Vision
2. What do we want the Corps to look like in five years?
3. What have we learnt in the past 12 months?
4. What are our Priorities?

Areas of concern and potential opportunities were suggested to include:

1. Strength of the unique S.A. identity which both generates internal commitment and externally acts as a magnet
2. The mix of evangelism, worship and social responsibility
3. The corps as a “corps family” of which people felt a part
4. Youth and YP engagement and succession needs
5. For greater flexibility in our approaches
6. That Salvationists are active people who seek commitment in their life choices
7. A desire for greater integration and bridges with those who feel remote
8. A need for different points of entry
9. The age profile of the corps and the need for a new generation of members and leaders
10. A need to understand what the outside community and specifically the Local Authority seeks from the corps in support of the challenges facing the Medway Towns
11. The importance of clear communication of a commonly understood purpose and prioritised programme

PHASING

The government’s Four Step Process which extends to a date no earlier than 21st of June was noted which provides for varying sizes of internal and outside gathering to be permitted. Whilst places of worship have specific rules it was noted that within the general community that from a date no earlier than 17th May that places of indoor entertainment, with which certain parallels could re-open but with a cap of 50% capacity. Flexibility within government guidelines would also provide for open-air activities.

Throughout these four phases continuance of the “hands, face, space” social distancing procedures would need to continue whilst during Step 4 itself a review will take place to inform decision on the lifting of 1m+ and face covering measures can be lifted.

Relaxing of restrictions at a national level and indeed within the corps is highly dependent upon delivery of the vaccination programme, the obligation in which to take part importance should be emphasised to all those who wish to see corps life resume.

The significant reductions in risk to individuals as a result of reduced infection rates in the community coupled with levels of immunity to persons following immunisation is being acknowledged in that government advice for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people will be paused from 31st March reflecting that they are now safely able to reintegrate into the community through being able to attend work and participate in life as available to the wider population; subject to social distancing etc to enable them to keep safe.

Noting that dates for Steps 1-4 of the government programme may change to later than those provisionally published it was concluded that there were in effect three phases for corps life:

1. Phase A - Until a date not before 21st June when Government Guidance Step 4 becomes effective
2. Phase B - Summer '21 when opportunities for more sizeable gatherings within the corps will be possible
3. Phase C - September '21 when a return to a programme incorporating more familiar aspects of corps life subsequently supplemented by new initiatives would be established

Concerns over a “hard-start” were expressed and the benefits of having a ramp up of smaller scale activities which allowed small but increasingly larger groups to gather on an informal basis at a variety of midweek daytime and evening as well as weekend events was agreed as beneficial and the substance of which would be developed in future meetings.

Finances

A brief review of financial resources took place noting that cartridges continued to reflect 2019 levels reflecting commitment by members to the corps which, set against senior corps spending, left the balance sheet for 2020/21 broadly neutral. The volume of donations from non-members was also reflected upon which had enabled the corps to deliver social and community objectives with it being observed that these donors provided potential links into new members and the corps might usefully engage in developing a long-term relationship with them for kingdom building as well as financial gain.

Pastoral Care

Concerns over levels of engagement based upon ad-hoc conversations with individual corps-folk were reflected upon. As the corps reforms it was recognised that strengthened pastoral support would be required to enable full reintegration into the corps family and its life which demanded consideration beyond that possible within this meeting.

Re-dedication of the Chatham Hall

At the conclusion of the meeting the leadership spent time in various parts of the hall complex, which reflected aspects of corps life and rededicated each area to the service of God - as the whole building has been redecorated over the past 12 months.

The areas and programme focused on:

1. Children & Youth
2. Recruits and those considering membership
3. Live streaming and the use of multi-media
4. Financial and Business Aspects of the Corps
5. The legacy on which Chatham Citadel of today is founded
6. Community and Outside Engagement
7. Music
8. People who come into the hall seeking answers
9. Adherents and the whole congregation

10. The Future of Chatham Citadel

Next Steps

Having agreed the priorities, future discussion would reflect on actions necessary to deliver them through the three Phases outlined above noting that Phases A and B existed not in their own right but as contributors to enabling an effective and comprehensive corps programme and corps life from September '21.

The Leadership Team were accordingly invited to attend for worship at the hall during the on-line meeting of Sunday 11th April and then meet subsequently for discussion and evolving resolution of matters pertaining to programme, physical and human resourcing, as well as pastoral care.