



# Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps  
Corps Officer Major Ian F Payne

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## CONTENTS

- ☐ CO Pastoral Column
- ☐ Prayer reminders
- ☐ TE Column
- ☐ Salvation Army Papers
- ☐ Zoom chat with Major
- ☐ Bible Fellowship
- ☐ Corps Fundraising - donations
- ☐ Promotion to Glory
- ☐ Funeral Mike Cordner
- ☐ TL Video Message
- ☐ Persecuted Church - Saudi Arabia
- ☐ A-Z Daily Readings
- ☐ Divisional Worship
- ☐ Leadership Meeting Notes 11<sup>th</sup> April
- ☐ DHQ In Conversation NCD

## Hello Friends and Welcome

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. John 15:16*

Again I leave the same text up as this Sunday we are looking at 'Be Willing' God's calling on our lives, as it is Candidates Sunday. Whilst we will be focusing on Officership and Territorial Envoys, God's calling is for aspects of our lives, in our community, family, Corps family, calling into leadership of the Corps or starting something that God has laid on your heart and that could be as simple as a prayer ministry or more. God engages with us in so many different ways. We ignore Him at our peril. I believe we are all called in some way, whether we are responding to

that call is down to you personally. May this Sunday morning awake in you the calling God has placed on you in these days or many years ago and you are yet to fulfil that call.

I ask you all to pray for Allan Jones as I received news that Jean, his wife, was Promoted to Glory on Friday last. May Allan, their daughter and granddaughter know the peace and presence of God in these sad days. As we all know, Jean had been unwell for quite some time. That said, through her life she had held many local officer positions and was an influence in many young people's lives. God bless Allan and the family as they make preparations for her funeral. Again, I reminded Allan of Psalm 91:4 *'He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart'*

A scripture that has been the source of encouragement in these challenging days. Please pray for the leadership team as we meet this Sunday after morning worship to discuss the gradual opening up of our building as the restrictions allow. It is going to be a time of so many mixed emotions. Please go at your speed. There will be no expectations on anyone to go beyond what they want to do in these days.

God bless you as we journey together



Ian F Payne Major

## PRAYER REMINDERS



**Please pray this prayer:**

*Father God, I pray that today you will inspire us and 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 Allan Jones, daughter Vanessa and granddaughter Rebekah, in the recent Promotion to Glory of Jean.
- Continue to pray also for the family of Mike Cordner as they prepare for his funeral on Wednesday.
- There are those who are undergoing difficult treatments and we ask for prayers for them and their families.
- Pray for all who are suffering with health-related problems. It is not possible to list them by name but God knows them and will honour our prayers.
- There are still those whose lives in the community are really hard. We hear about them on Tuesday evenings at the drop-in. Pray that God will create a way for them to have a safe future.
- As we consider how we will be able to meet together again, pray that people will gain confidence and will overcome their fears and that they will value the opportunities for worship.
- Pray that we will remember the joy of meeting together as a Christian family and ask God to instill a longing within us to meet as church again.
- Pray for our Corps that we will encourage each other in our faith and wellbeing as we plan to meet together again in worship.

*Please let Jean know of any urgent prayer requests for the supportive prayers of the Prayer Chain. Email her on [jeanm1938@gmail.com](mailto:jeanm1938@gmail.com) or text on 07787718273.*



## **Territorial Envoy Tony McClure**

I am often amazed by the sights I see. A glorious sunset. A cherry tree in full blossom. A puppy that is learning what is acceptable, and hopefully what isn't acceptable behaviour.

I am also amazed by what people wear. I know I am what was once called a 'fashion plate' so I can pass judgment on other people's appearance. However, when I look at myself in a full length mirror I think I should keep my opinions to myself.

There has been a programme on the telly recently that is a sort of history of make-up. A professional make-up artist looks at make-up from the Georgian period onwards. I find it fascinating to look at the quite dangerous stuff that people used to put on their faces so they were seen as beautiful.

Times have changed and I can remember, just, when for a lady to wear make-up as a soldier was strictly forbidden. I was talking to a retired Brigadier after the meeting one Sunday. We were talking about General Evangeline Booth. She was quite in awe of the General Evangeline although she did say to me that when Evangeline Booth took up her post as the Army's fourth General, the British Salvationists were shocked by the fact that she was wearing make-up.

We can all try to use methods to amend our appearance; to make ourselves look better, more appealing or more pleasant.

Jesus encouraged those who heard him that they shouldn't judge a person by their appearance. It was the quality of their lives that mattered.

How do you respond to the people you meet?

God bless you  
**Tony**

## **SALVATION ARMY PAPERS FOR CHATHAM**

Those members of the Corps that have weekly SA papers, you have had them delivered to your homes personally for the past 14 months, the first 5 months by Major Ian and from August by Nigel and Margaret, Bev and Marjory. Thanks to them for taking on this commitment. With the lifting of restrictions, they will stop delivering them, the last week being the 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> May. From 1<sup>st</sup> June the papers will be at the Hall, on Monday and Friday mornings (9:30-12:30) for you to pick up. If you wish to change/cancel your order, please do let Major Ian know. Thank you

## **CHAT WITH THE MAJOR IAN**

On Mondays, between 2pm - 3pm, I will have my Zoom account open for any-one to come in and have a conversation, ask for prayer, share some news or tell me what's going on in your life. The link to my zoom is meeting ID: 597 290 9541

## **BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

Bible Fellowship on Wednesday under the leadership of TE Tony McClure sharing the book of Haggai - 'Motivating God's People' Come and join us on Zoom. We start at 8pm for one hour. The Zoom details are:

**Meeting ID: 597 290 9541**

**Passcode: Hope2020**

## **CORPS FUNDRAISING DONATIONS**

Donations can be made to the Corps at our Just-Giving page.

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

Donations can also be sent 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.**

## **PROMOTION TO GLORY**

I ask for you to remember Allan Jones on the Promotion to Glory of his wife, Jean. Please pray for Allan and his daughter in this challenging time. May they know God's abiding presence and love in these days.

## **FUNERAL SERVICE MIKE CORDNER**

The funeral service for Mike will be on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The family have requested that it be a private service and thank everyone for their prayers and cards.

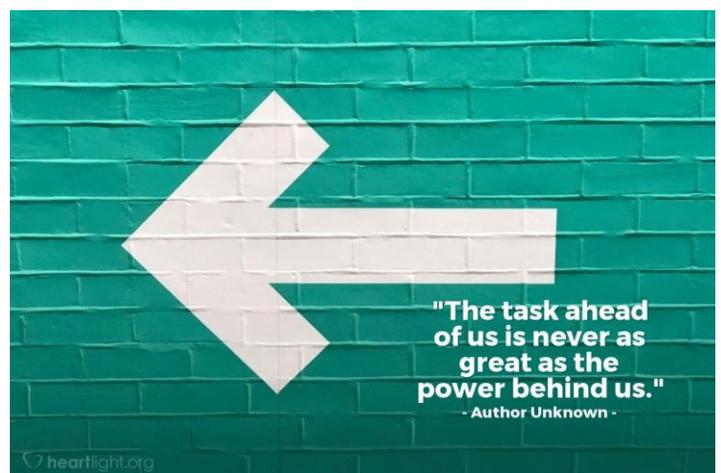
Please pray for Lilian and the family on this day that God will uphold, strengthen and bless them all.

## **TERRITORAL LEADER VIDEO MESSAGE**



'Opportunity - it lies before us. Let us take it.' Commissioner Anthony Cotterill calls us to be bold as we emerge from the pandemic.

Watch on: <https://youtu.be/DeCmBB1vIqQ>



## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. **SAUDI ARABIA, No 14 in the WORLD WATCH LIST**



### **14: Saudi Arabia**

There are an estimated 1.2 million Christians in Saudi Arabia. It's a small percentage (3.5%) of the country's total population of 34.7 million, the majority of whom are Muslim.

Whether Saudi or expatriate, Christians living in Saudi Arabia - where the official religion and law is Islamic - can expect to encounter severe opposition to their faith. As in the other countries we have considered so far, the few Saudi Christians from a Muslim background face enormous pressure, especially from families. Leaving Islam is one of the biggest sins a Muslim can commit. Men could face physical and emotional abuse, and public shaming. To get them to recant, material incentives are offered - but refusing could entail death. Meanwhile, women could face a range of consequences, including forced marriage, divorce, sexual abuse and house-arrest. The submissive position of women in Saudi society can make it treacherously difficult to escape. Whether male or female, it is little wonder many believers choose to keep their new faith secret.

Besides being exploited and poorly paid, Asian and African workers are regularly exposed to verbal and physical abuse because of their ethnicity and low status. Being a Christian can exacerbate this. Expatriate Christians are wary of sharing their faith and gathering for fellowship as it could lead to detention and deportation. Nevertheless, the small number of Saudi Christians has been slowly increasing and they are becoming bolder, sharing their faith with others on the internet and Christian satellite TV channels. Such public action has led to serious repercussions from Saudi families and authorities.

Meet Omar who was introduced to Christianity through reading books. He then spent time with a Christian family abroad and gave his life to Jesus. Back home, he shared his faith with his family, but apart from his fiancée, all broke contact with him. He got married and had children, but it was hard. His children were being indoctrinated with Islamic teaching at school, while his wife, still a Muslim, didn't want to hear about Christ; she feared it would be too dangerous to become a Christian.

Omar desperately wanted to serve the Saudi church, but there were too many obstacles. And so, with a heavy heart, he took his family to live abroad.

Today we are encouraged to keep praying for our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia. Our prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

### **PLEASE PRAY**

Lord Jesus, strengthen, protect and guide all converts who boldly follow you under great risk. Provide for them a small network of Christians where they can receive encouragement and discipleship. Use the internet to strengthen and grow the church in Saudi Arabia. May women be given greater equality and freedom in Saudi society. 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 ACTS 20:24**

*I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

How important is grace? Paul said it was more important than his life! Telling about grace was more important to Paul than his life! In fact, that was his life!

### **A - MY PRAYER...**

Almighty God, Holy Father, thank you for your lavish grace demonstrated and fully expressed in sending Jesus to die for me. As your child, and in thanks to your sacrificial gift, I pledge to you my life, my love, and my all. Through Jesus. Amen.

## **TUESDAY JAMES 1:19**

*My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

Have a brake on your tongue, hit the throttle on your ears. Let your angry email sit three days before responding and make sure you read it and edit it before you send it. Keep your mouth shut and your ears open.

They all say the same thing. Now if we would just do it, wouldn't the Christian community be so much more blessed!

### **B - MY PRAYER...**

Mighty and Holy God, you are incredible. Beyond my comprehending. How you put up with all the drivel, senseless, and hurtful speech that I and your other children spew out is beyond my understanding. I ask that you release the Holy Spirit to convict my heart and guard my lips from any form of hurtful speech. I want my voice to be as much yours as my heart is. This I pray through Jesus. Amen.

## **WEDNESDAY JOHN 3:17**

*God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

How do you view God? Is he someone looking for a way to condemn you? Is he an out-of-touch old man who doesn't really know what it's like in our modern world? Is he too holy to soil himself with the concerns of mere mortals and has left it up to us to work everything out for ourselves? No. NO. NO! God chose to enter our world and experience it from the side of mortality. God chose to enter our world, not to condemn us, or it, but to redeem it. Jesus is the great reminder that God longs to save us, not judge us. Thank God for God! Thank God for Jesus who was God with us.

### **C - MY PRAYER...**

Holy and Heavenly God, thank you that you live with those who are contrite and repentant and who long for your presence. You know we are only mortal, but you love us. You know that we are flawed, but you redeemed us. You know that we are not perfect, but you sent Jesus as the perfect sacrifice to save us. Thank you. Through my Saviour I offer my sincerest gratitude and praise. Amen.

## **THURSDAY PSALMS 56:4**

*In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?*

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

One of the powerful things about having a [Bible](#), a repository of God's words, is that its age and varied countries and cultures remind us how enduring God's truth actually is. Yet it is God in whom we put our trust. His enduring presence through cultures, centuries, and countries reminds us that eternal is outside our grasp, but God holds us in his grasp.

### **D - MY PRAYER...**

O Great and Eternal God, thank you that you are more stable than the ground on which I stand, more enduring than the mountain peaks I admire, and more constant than the waves upon the oceans. I trust my life and my future and soul with you. Please be pleased, but even more, help me to be constant in faithfulness to you. Through Jesus I ask this prayer. Amen.

## **FRIDAY 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17**

*The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

What do you have that is forever? Most of everything we have falls apart, breaks, or runs down in a short time. But we have three things that last forever: God, our Christian friends, and our praise of God. These are eternal.

### **E - MY PRAYER...**

God, I look forward to the day of your next great surprise. I join the angels in standing on tiptoe as I look to the clouds to see my Lord, your Son, return in glory and receive the welcome and honour he deserves. I praise you for that day now, even though I see it only by [faith](#). Until I see you on that day, please know my heart's desire is to serve you, even when my weakness gets in the way of showing it as fully as I should. My thanks to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **SATURDAY REVELATION 21:2-4**

*I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride, beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

I don't know about you, but I'm kind of ready for that old order stuff to go away. The end of tears, death, mourning, crying and pain sounds pretty good to me! No wonder the early Christians would say, "Marantha. Come Lord Jesus!" They couldn't wait.

### **F - MY PRAYER...**

Holy God, please help me as I try to continue serving you faithfully. My desire is to be steadfast in my love and living for you until the glorious day that so many of your children have longed for over the centuries. I long to see you in your glory and to share in your presence and to join with the saints of all ages past, praising you around your glorious throne. Through Jesus, I pray. Amen.

## **SUNDAY HEBREWS 9:28**

*Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...**

Who are you waiting for? Can you think of anything more exciting than to wait for Jesus to come take us home in his glory.

### **G - MY PRAYER...**

Majestic King of the Ages, may your Kingdom come in all its fullness and every knee bow to your Saviour, and may you grant that it may come to pass in our generation. Through Jesus I expectantly pray. Amen.



# **DIVISIONAL WORSHIP**

## *with the South East Division*



South East  
Division

*with our Divisional Leaders:  
Majors Mark and Linda Herbert*

***Our next Online Meeting:***

***Sunday 23rd May***

***[www.youtube.com/ChathamSalvationArmyUK](http://www.youtube.com/ChathamSalvationArmyUK)***

**LIVE from 09:55am | via @ChathamSA YouTube**

**NOTES FROM THE LEADERSHIP  
TEAM MEETING SUNDAY  
11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

**Notes of Leadership Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> April  
'21**

**Present**

Major Ian F Payne	CO
Andy Smith	CT
Sheena Gibbs	Adh. S
Mike Gibbs	Com. Ser. Ldr.
Tracy Wood	YPSM
Nigel Lockwood	BM
Paul Scoulding	CSM
Heather Scott	RS
Adrian Horwood	CMS
Carolynn Woodman	SL
Andrew Pennington	CS

**Matters Pertaining to and Actions  
Arising associated with the Resumption  
of Normal Working**

**Matters of Programme**

- 1. Risk Assessments** – With new and amended activities there would be a requirement to generate new risk assessments. This would also provide an opportunity to refresh those associated with ongoing activities. The adequacy of TSA risk assessments was considered and whilst these mandated templates will form the basis of documentation there are opportunities to enhance these to make them more appropriate on a localised basis to meet activity needs. **CO** to provide draft enhanced templates.
- 2. Band Paper** – This was endorsed containing a developing mix of open-air as well as worship and practice activities within the hall. Implementation dates will be subject to compliance with HMG directives on social-distancing. **CO** – will provide strategic guidance to address alignment issues between HMG social-distancing constraints with THQ policy.
- 3. Songsters** – Proposals which included an emphasis on growing existing members back together as well as providing opportunities for integration with the corps to attract new members was welcomed. Not envisaged that indoor singing would take place before September. **SL** – to consider invitation for vocal groups to support band in targeted open activities during the summer.
- 4. Youth** – It was noted that the paper reflected current HMG social distancing restrictions and would benefit from development to reflect potential May and June “Unlock” easements. **YPSM** – to refer to Youth team.
- 5. BP Programme** – It was pleasing to note that the intention was to resume the programme from 19<sup>th</sup> April with appropriate social distancing in place noting that with other activities resuming outside the SA it was important the corps was offering such opportunities without which there would be loss of membership. The potential to have outdoor activities to the rear of the hall was noted. **CO** – to address availability and associated ongoing parking issues.

6. **Monday One-to-One (Employment Plus)** – Whilst fulfilling a useful role, it was recognised that this had the opportunity to be much more than a link into the “benefits system” with the potential to include mental welfare and support. **CO** – will discuss further with Marilyn.
7. **YP Programme** – YPSM had undertaken a wide-ranging review of Sunday School, Kids Club, YP sections etc looking at lessons learnt and consequential opportunities to start, stop, continue, or amend. Lockdown had provided chances to strengthen relationships with parents and this needed to be built upon e.g. by providing meeting opportunities for parents who bring their children to YP activities. Future aspirations include Taster Days, retention of some Zoom activity post lockdown. **YPSM in conjunction with CO** - A one-month ahead build-back programme was now being created which included on 22<sup>nd</sup> May a camp-fire at Lordswood school. Options to work together further with New Road school were noted which might include a mentoring programme. The need to provide for better YP Corps > Youth integration and the role of Tweenagers would need to be considered. **CMS** – offered for a band party to be available as a resource to the YP corps to attend school visits

### Sunday Matters

1. Format of Sunday meetings was considered at high level including alternative use of musical sections. There was a need to identify folk willing

to participate in specific areas as their talents lead as well as consideration being given to contemporary music groups. **CO** – to consider working group within which this might be developed.

2. Extended ministry offered by live-streaming needed to be continued. With a congregation present and folk participating there was a need to consider issues of privacy, etc and whether output should be live or with a lag to enable editing. **CO** – to establish review.

### Matters of Pastoral Care

1. Criticality of pastoral care to the corps was re-emphasised. The role of sergeants was underlined with a need for a similar approach made available for others not linked in this way. **CO** – to propose a structure/role which would provide a focus for pastoral care to the PCC.
2. To enable PCC members to better fulfill their duty of care **CO** to arrange circulation of Corps Directory to PCC members on a Controlled Document basis.
3. The need to record and act those who aren't seen to attend and re-engage as the corps re-groups was reminded to **All PCC** members.
4. Demonstrating ongoing growth and activity despite lockdown is important to corps morale. **PCC** were invited to attend the recording of Mike Gibbs enrollment.

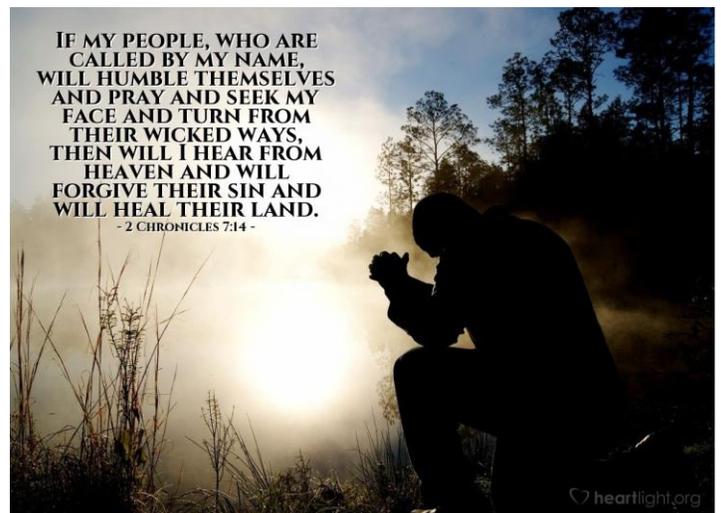
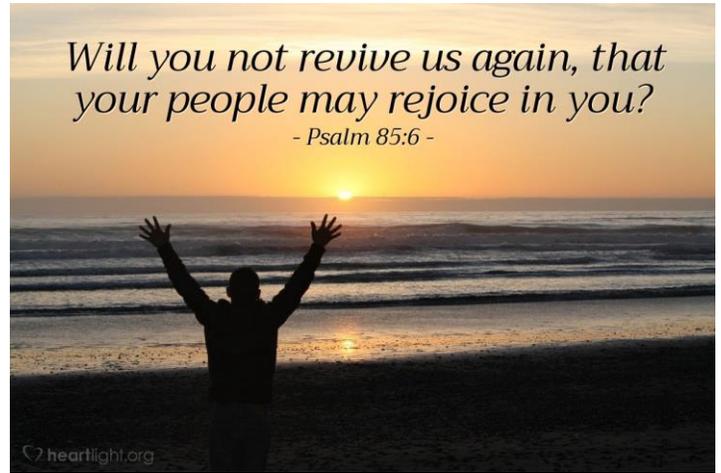
## Next Steps

1. The need for a systematic analysis of strengths the corps exhibited, the opportunities that exist and to identify the enablers was agreed. Questions to be put to PCC members, sectional and programme leaders were suggested as:
  - a. What programmes and approaches work well and how can they be made better?
  - b. How can you improve the effectiveness of the current activities within which you are involved and what help do you need to achieve this potential?

**CO** – to draft proposals for questionnaire

2. Next meeting – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May. PCC invited to attend morning meeting live-streaming and then meet for business.

**CS 28<sup>th</sup> April '21**



*"It's time to sing your song again!"*  
Shaping together mission possibilities for 2021

The South East Division  
"in conversation"  
**Natural Church Development**

Wednesday 19 May 2021 – 7:30pm  
Zoom meeting id: 827 0502 7154  
Passcode: 881446

THE SALVATION ARMY

NCD

A Christian Church and registered charity - No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359