

30th
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Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps
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Hello Friends and Welcome

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd, in Him I have everything I need.

My grateful thanks to Mark and the Divisional team for Sunday last.

I do want to apologise to you for the 'buffering' issues we are having during our live streaming - we are attempting to get it sorted but there seems to be no rhyme nor reason, so please bear with us. I am confident that we will get to the bottom of it and it will turn out to be something very simple. God bless you all for persevering. An update: I have had word from THQ, that the issue is their end, too much data from around the territory!! REALLY! So, hopefully, after weeks of asking, the issue will be sorted!

This weekend is a Bank Holiday and there will be no morning meeting from Chatham - maybe you could catch up on ones that you have missed - you can find all the previous meetings on the Chatham SA YouTube page or you could go to another Corps, Church, Fellowship. In the past 12 months 100's have commenced

services online of all differing lengths, styles and messages.

The good news is that we are opening up to a small congregation attending from Sunday June 6th but you will need to book a seat via Eventbrite. All the details for booking and guidelines are in the Chatter below.

It was lovely to witness the Marriage of Dawn and John last Saturday. We wish them well and God's blessing for the future. We also look forward to welcoming John into our fellowship formally in the future.

It was good to see some of you on Monday Morning, as we are now opening the 'Chatter Café' on Mondays 10:30 - 12:30 (not on Bank Holidays). There was a great sense of joy and conversation as some enjoyed a coffee and some just sat in the hall listening to the music. It is a start to inviting people into the hall, look around, meet friends you haven't seen for a while, all observing Covid guidelines.

We are considering an outdoor event on Sunday 11th July in the afternoon at Lordswood School - watch this space for the details that will emerge in the next few weeks.

I am having a number of conversations with other leaders of various groups in the Corps for a gradual return of their area as guidelines permit.

Please continue to pray for the days ahead, God has a plan for us all and we must join in with it, Bringing Christ to people and people to Christ'



God bless us all 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 wherever we are, our fellowship and mission will overflow with hope. By the power of your Holy Spirit, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- As we gradually come back into the Hall to worship together, ask God to help us to not be so taken up with the new arrangements that we fail to benefit from worshipping together.
- Thank God for all the blessings we have received and give us thankful hearts for his unfailing love.
- Continue to pray for families who have recently been bereaved.
- Pray for any who are undergoing treatments that they will be effective and that God will relieve their pain and heal them.
- 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.
- Pray for all those in positions of leadership as they consider how their particular area of responsibility begins to come together again.
- Inspire us that we will be aware of God's leading both in our individual lives and in the life of the Corps.

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

If you are a regular member of the Chatham SA livestream on a Sunday you will know that we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in the persecuted church. The situations and stories that we hear about can make one wonder how they remain faithful. I am often surprised that the constant request from them is that we remember them in prayer. Saying we will pray for someone is easy...what isn't so easy is how you put the words together to form your prayers. The Salvation Army doesn't have a tradition of a written liturgy or of written prayers. I came across the following the other day and share it with you.

A Morning Prayer For The Suffering Church

May the cross of the Son of God, which is mightier than all the hosts of Satan, and more glorious than all the hosts of heaven, abide with God's Church in its going out and coming in.

By day and by night, at morning and at evening, at all times and in all places may it protect and defend God's Church.

From the wrath of evildoers, from the assaults of evil spirits, from foes visible and invisible, from the snares of the devil, from all the passions that beguile the soul and body may it guard, protect and deliver God's Church. Amen (This prayer comes from India and Pakistan.)

An Evening Prayer For The Suffering Church

O Jesus, King of the poor, shield this night those who are imprisoned without charge, those who have 'disappeared.' Cast a halo of your presence around those who groan in sorrow or pain.

Protect those whose livelihoods are threatened. Encourage those forbidden to worship. Encompass your little ones gone

hungry to sleep, cold and fitfully waking. Guide your witnesses for peace. Safeguard your workers for justice.

Encircle us with your power, encompass us with your grace, embrace the dying ones, support your weary ones, calm your frightened ones-

And as the sun scatters the mist on the hills, bring us to a new dawn, when all shall freely sit at table in your kingdom, rejoicing in a God who saves them. Amen.

(This prayer is from The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer and is composed by Kate McIlhagga.)

Remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those living in places of persecution and difficulty.

God Bless you, Tony

PROMOTION TO GLORY

We continue to pray for Allan Jones and his daughter Vanessa and granddaughter Rebekah, in the Promotion to Glory of his wife Jean. The Funeral details are as follows: Wednesday 16th June 11am at the Hall followed by burial. May Allan and the family know and feel the comfort and presence of God in these days.

SALVATION ARMY PAPERS FOR CHATHAM

Those members of the Corps that have weekly SA papers, with the lifting of restrictions they will now stop being delivered. From this weekend 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

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

No Bible Fellowship this week - it will recommence next Wednesday 9th June 8pm, on Zoom.

SUNDAY 6TH JUNE MORNING WORSHIP

We will be opening our doors on Sunday morning 6th June for a small congregation to attend. **YOU MUST BOOK A TICKET.** No ticket, no entry. We need to adhere to the Covid19 rules and guidance.

Tickets can be obtained at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-morning-worship-tickets-156521982463>

Contact CSM Paul for further details.

There are guidelines that you must follow;

- + Please do not arrive before 9:30am
- + You must be in your seats by 9:45am
- + Please use hand sanitisers supplied
- + Register the QR Test and Trace APP
- + Or sign in the day book
- + Please observe all seating protocols
- + Face coverings must be worn at all times in the hall
- + There will be no public singing
- + No close socialising
- + Please observe the 2 metre rule
- + There will be NO collection
- + Please leave immediately the meeting has concluded - Approx 11:15am

IMPORTANT

If you have a temperature or flu-like symptoms.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND

If someone in your household is unwell

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND

If you have come into contact with someone who has Covid19

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND

PLEASE DO OBSERVE ALL THE GUIDELINES AS THEY WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON FUTURE SUNDAY GATHERINGS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND CONSIDERATION

CORPS FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

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

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/c-hatham-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.

MAJOR STEVE RUSSELL ®

Message received:

Ann Beattie asks if anybody remembers her father, Steve Russell, who grew up in Chatham. Major Steve Russell celebrates his 90th birthday on 15 June and family are inviting people to send him a card. He lives at 4 Northgate, Thorpe End, Norwich, NR13 5 DH with his daughter, Kathy and family.

TERRITORIAL LEADER VIDEO MESSAGE



‘There is a danger that we chase our own hopes and our expectations.’ As we make our plans to go forward from these days of pandemic,

Commissioner Anthony Cotterill calls us to wait upon God and to be listening and praying for a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit. Watch on:

<https://youtu.be/ANfsWs5DJa8>

HOPE FOR EVERY HOME PRAYER APP

Turn your daily walk into a prayer walk in your street or community where you live, with the new OKIOS Prayer App available from the App store or Google Play. Use the app to place a pin on a map to show a street is being prayed for. See details

<https://www.hopeforeveryhome.org>

DATA PROTECTION ONLINE WORKSHOP

Find out what data protection means in practice and how you can reduce the risks in this lunch and learn online workshop Tuesday 1 June 1-2pm with The Salvation Army’s Head of Data Protection. Email sistad@salvationarmy.org.uk to register.

GET READY TO SAY THANKS DURING VOLUNTEERS’ WEEK

Volunteers’ Week 1-7 June we are encouraging everyone to say thank you to our incredible volunteers. During an exceptionally difficult year, people from all walks of life have taken the time to volunteer and made a huge difference to people and their communities - just as they do every year. SAY THANK YOU TO A VOLUNTEER YOU KNOW - EVEN A LETTER OR CARD.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week’s article explaining and giving information on the subject. The Maldives number 15 in the **WORLD WATCH LIST**



15. Maldives

I wonder how many of you have been able to visit the Maldives on holiday? It's a densely populated chain of nearly 1,200 islands and considered to be a luxury holiday destination, but behind the beauty of this island paradise lies an oppressive regime. There are estimated to be a very small number of Christians in the Maldives. The vast majority of people living there are Muslim.

The close-knit community keeps a close watch on each other for any sign of deviation; including religious choice. All politicians relentlessly claim that they are keeping the Maldives 100 per cent Muslim, effectively leaving no space for any alternative. Conversion to Christianity can result in harassment, violence or imprisonment. Women could also be forced to marry a Muslim to lure them back to Islam. Vigilante mobs have been known to abduct citizens suspected of being irreligious or non-Muslim. Expatriate Christians, most of them working in the tourist sector and coming from India and Sri Lanka, are also closely watched, making Christian fellowship very difficult.

The oppressive regime makes it effectively impossible for Christians to openly express their faith in Jesus. Women and girls, for example, must still abide by traditional dress codes, otherwise they risk dangerously exposing their faith. Remarkably, families may not even know of each other's faith, such is the danger it could entail.

Sadly, the new government, inaugurated in November 2018, is showing no signs of hesitation in its determination to keep the islands entirely free from religious influence that's not Islamic. That said, a speech by

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in 2019 suggested a determination to work with other countries to root out racism, xenophobia and hate speech. This is good news, given that Maldivians have been taught from a young age to hate Westerners and non-Muslims in general. There is little hint of tangible change yet, but it's a glimmer of hope for us to build prayers from.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord Jesus, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Maldives who are courageously following you in secret, despite the dangers they face. Thank you that you know each one by name and love them dearly. Protect, help and encourage them, and provide ways for Christians to meet safely. Soften the heart of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih towards 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 COLOSSIANS 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

How can I not forgive a brother for whom Christ died, when I know what God paid to forgive me?

O - MY PRAYER...

Holy Father, I commit today to release any grudge or bitterness that I have against one of your children. I am sorry for not reflecting your grace and mercy which you lavished on me. But Abba Father, I need the help of your Holy Spirit to relinquish my claim on the wrongs committed against me and to treat those who have hurt me as full siblings in your family. Empower me as I commit to follow your example in forgiving, even when it is hard. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY PSALMS 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

History tells me it has been true! Faith trusts it will be true eternally! Reverent silences, a pause in the hectic rush of our lives, reminds us that it is true today.

P - MY PRAYER...

O Father in heaven, may your name be revered and held holy in my life and my world today. Your will be done, your reign on earth come with power and might and finality, just as it has already come in heaven. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY PSALMS 19:1-2

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God's voice is always speaking. His witnesses give testimony to his glory, majesty and creative grace. The universe shouts with joy because behind its intricate beauty and power is the One who gave it life, purpose, and intention.

Q,R - MY PRAYER...

O Great God and Creator of the countless heavens and our own small, blue planet, thank you for noticing the heart cries of one so small in a universe so large. I love you, admire you, trust you, and worship you with wonder. Be exalted in my life, by words, and my deeds this day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY LUKE 11:13

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Think of all the great gifts you've been given. Next to Jesus, the gracious sacrifice for our salvation, the greatest gift we can receive is God's abiding presence in the Holy Spirit! He is ours if we ask. In fact, when we ask, he is already there interceding for us!

S - MY PRAYER...

Abba Father, through the precious Holy Spirit I come before you asking you to empower me, my loved ones, and my church through the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray for renewal to sweep my country and this world led by your Spirit of grace, power, and love. Through Jesus, the giver of this great gift I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY PHILIPPIANS 3:20

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

No matter what your passport says, if you are a Christian, there is no earthly country that can hold you, no borders that can claim you and no flag that flies above you but Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven. You have more in common with the believing aboriginal tribesman of Indonesia, the Christian refugee in Africa, or the Bedouin brother in Egypt, or the high-rise business

person in Hong Kong who bows to pray in Jesus' name, or the Spirit-filled Brazilian housewife, than you do your next door neighbour if they don't know Christ as Lord and Saviour.

T - MY PRAYER...

Glorious God and Almighty Father, I look forward to the day when people from every language, tribe, nation, and language join the angels and elders around your throne and worship you in joy forever. Make us one, if not here, then soon, we ask you Lord, please come. Amen.

SATURDAY PROVERBS 23:24

The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

The greatest gift I can give my father, and my Father, is to be righteous in my heart and life.

U, V, W - MY PRAYER...

Holy and righteous Father, may my life please you and bring honour to my father and his name. I know that if I please you, it will make his heart glad. Help me as I seek to know you and serve you in ways that show your character in my life. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY PSALMS 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Compassion. Not pity, not anger, not shame, not impatience, not intolerance, not rejection, but compassion is what God, my Father, gives to me. He cares for my pain enough to enter into my world and share it in Jesus.

X, Y, Z - MY PRAYER...

Father of Mercies and God of all Compassion, thank you for not only knowing and caring about my struggles and problems but sending me help in Jesus and the Holy

Spirit. By one I know your love and mercy and by the other I know your might and power. May your Spirit of compassion be found in my relationships. Through the grace of Jesus I pray. Amen.

