



# Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

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## Hello Friends and Welcome

### *John 15:16*

*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.*

Well, where did that Bank Holiday go!

We continue to look at the way ahead and count the days now (not the months) when hopefully we will be able to meet at the hall, even though there will still be some restrictions.

At the end of the Chatter there are the meeting notes from the leadership team. I would welcome comments from the Corps membership as there are a number of questions posed. It would be good to hear from all areas of the Corps to help us with our thinking about the programme ahead.

You can email your thoughts to me. Thank you for taking the time to do this .

This past week, as the Mayor's Chaplain, I conducted the final prayers for the Medway Council meeting under the leadership of Mayor Tejan - but I am delighted to share with you all that the incoming Mayor, Cllr Jan Aldous, has asked me to be her Chaplain for this coming year. What a privilege to be invited again to support the Mayor of Medway in this way.

This Sunday I am looking at choices - the choices we make. When you stop to think, every day we make dozens of choices but do we consider God when we are making choices, especially life choices. Over the past 14 months we have made many differing choices that we would not have ordinarily made and I, for one, has engaged with God on many of those choices I have made. This Sunday, come prepared to explore with me the choice that you may need to make?

God bless you all as we worship together this Sunday - We serve a mighty God - Amen



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 the family of Mike Cordner who has been Promoted to Glory, that God will comfort them as they come through this difficult time.
- Pray for all who are suffering with health-related problems - those who are known to us who are in hospital.
- There are many who are feeling lonely and abandoned as their lives have been so restricted but pray that they will be given hope for the 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 for the services which are provided to the community from our Hall on Mondays and Fridays with Bags of Hope and on Tuesday evenings - a meal for the needy.
- Pray for our Corps that we will encourage each other in our faith and wellbeing as we plan to meet together again in worship at some stage in the future.

*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.*

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](mailto:jeanm1938@gmail.com). God is answering our prayers.



## **Territorial Envoy Tony McClure**

Sometimes you find yourself in a situation when there is nothing to say. You probably see me as a person who always has something to say. Generally, this is true. Words do come easily to me...but sometimes, even I cannot find the right words to say.

When I was a child I was, believe it or not, quite shy. My mum used to encourage me to speak up and join in conversations. I don't remember if I ever did, but I do remember being in a lot of drama productions when I was at school. I was often given parts that required a bit of humour and theatricality.

Being a corps cadet helped me to overcome my shyness even more. I think you see the result of my training today.

Yet I have learnt that there are occasions when words are the wrong things to share. I am particularly thinking about being with someone who is bereaved and going through a very sad time in their lives. In these situations the proverb 'Speech is silver, but silence is golden' seems a good line to follow.

I have even experienced times when I haven't said anything at all, or very little, and the person I have seen says that I have been a great help and said just the right thing.

What we say can help a situation to get better, or it can make a situation worse. Keeping our mouths shut is sometimes the best thing we can do.

Proverbs 25:11 says;  
Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a ruling rightly given.

The right word at the right time is much the same.

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.**

### **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.

### **TERRITORIAL LEADER VIDEO MESSAGE**



'As life opens up for us and we have opportunity perhaps to worship together again, let's remember that worshipping Jesus is an everyday experience,' says Commissioner Gillian Cotterill. Watch on <https://youtu.be/fwtRrjgZcHA>

### **THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

**Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. SUDAN, No 13 in the WORLD WATCH LIST**



### 13: Sudan

There are around 4.5% (2 million) Christians in Sudan, from a population of 43.5 million people.

Encouragingly Sudan has taken significant steps towards religious freedom in this last year, including a commitment to end 30 years of Islamic law. So, is it getting easier to be a Christian in Sudan?

Since President Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April 2019, there has been uncertainty about the leadership of Sudan and how it would impact Christians. Thankfully, and in an amazing answer to prayer, there do seem to be significant steps towards freedom of religion. Islamic law will end after 30 years, and Christians from a Muslim background no longer face the death penalty. But despite this, Christians from a Muslim background still face extreme persecution from their families and communities. They can be attacked, ostracised or otherwise discriminated against if their faith is discovered. Church buildings are often attacked or even demolished.

Many still keep their faith secret, for the safety of themselves and their families. Christian women and girls are forced to dress like Muslims, to avoid being harassed for 'indecent dressing'. Some converts even choose not to raise their children as Christians, wary of retribution from community leaders. This fear of exposure even means some Christians from a Muslim background have Islamic funerals in Muslim cemeteries.

A Sudanese pastor, who must be kept anonymous for security reasons, tells us what life is like for Christians in Sudan:

"People are suffering a lot and the economy is down," he says, "Prices of everything are going up and people are just struggling to survive. I am here on the ground and see how converts are suffering every day and every hour to find food and even a place to stay. Many have been unable to pay rent

and are forced to find other accommodation."

Sudan has made great progress towards religious equality this year, but it will take much longer to change the stigma and opposition faced in everyday life by Christians who have left the faith of their families and ancestors. While persecution continues in Sudan, and attitudes are not eradicated overnight, this is very promising and the reason that Sudan has fallen six places on the World Watch List this year.

#### PLEASE PRAY

Lord God, thank you so much for answering decades of prayer from Sudanese Christians and those who support them. We pray that the change in the law would make a meaningful difference to the lives of our brothers and sisters in Sudan, and that the culture of the country would change with them. Let Sudanese believers live lives openly devoted to you, shining the light of Christ in a country that has spent so many years in darkness. 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 15:5-6

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that*

*with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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

Unity comes from God's Spirit as we follow Jesus. But unity has a purpose much deeper than our getting along with each other. Jesus prayed that we would be one so the world would know that God sent him ([John 17](#)). We want to be united so our praise can bring glory to God. Unity is far more than a goal; it is a process through which the world learns of Jesus and we glorify the Father who sent him and saved us. Can you think of anything more fundamental to our [faith](#) than that!

#### **O - MY PRAYER...**

Great and Almighty God, Eternal Strength for all who call on your name, I apologize and ask your forgiveness for everything I've done and every word I've spoken that has hurt someone in your family and brought a wound to the unity of your Church. Please bless my efforts as I seek less of my will and more for your glory and the encouragement of others. Through Jesus I ask it. Amen.

#### **TUESDAY 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10**

*I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

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

For churches to get along, sometimes their leaders must remind them about unity, using the authority of the One who made his dying prayer a prayer for unity. We must work together or perish.

#### **P - MY PRAYER...**

Lord Jesus, you have presented so many of my prayers to our Father, but today, I want to thank you for loving me so. I promise that I will do all I can, to the glory of our Father, to live at peace and serve those who belong to you. By your name and through the blessed [Holy Spirit](#) I pray. Amen.

#### **WEDNESDAY GALATIANS 5:13**

*You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.*

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

Freedom is a wonderful gift when it is handled with responsibility. Not being under law is such a sweet grace, but we must pass that sweetness on to each other through service, kindness, and care.

#### **Q,R - MY PRAYER...**

O Great God of Deliverance, thank you for rescuing Israel from Pharaoh's grasp, David from the sword of Goliath, and Daniel from the lion's den. But O Great Deliverer, thank you most of all for the triumph of Jesus over sin at Calvary and his victory over death at the empty tomb. I long to see you face to face and thank you for my freedom. Until that day, guide me as I use this gift of liberation to serve your children and live for you. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

#### **THURSDAY ROMANS 15:2**

*Each of us should please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.*

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

Being depressed and dissatisfied with life can be caused by a myriad of things. But for many of us, these are symptoms that we have focused too much on ourselves and are angry with life. We have forgotten to count our blessings, thank and praise God, and help those around us. This verse addresses the last in this list: thinking of others is just what Christ did. It makes a difference in the life we bless and we also find ourselves immensely blessed.

#### **S - MY PRAYER...**

Holy and Matchless God, help me to see the brokenness, hurt, and difficulties in the lives around me, not so I can gloat or feel better about myself, but so that I might bless another with your love and grace. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

#### **FRIDAY ROMANS 12:10**

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.*

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

Being "devoted to another in brotherly love" requires that our church conversations -- we're family, brothers and sisters, children of God -- must be more than mere words. We must enter each others' lives, getting to know one another so that we can serve, love, and bless each other. What have you done lately to get more involved in the lives of your fellow Christians? Devotion to others follows a commitment to know and be known by them!

#### **T - MY PRAYER...**

Father, thank you for giving me a world-wide family. Thank you for loving me so completely. Father I ask that you help me be more open with myself and my time to those in your family. Give me a heart that burns to bless and be blessed by those you have made your children. Through my brother Jesus I pray. Amen.

#### **SATURDAY PSALMS 103:17-18**

*From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children -- with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.*

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

Forever love is talked about in dime store novels, but only found in God. We tap that reservoir of eternal and divine love through the Holy Spirit, who helps us receive it and share it.

#### **U, V, W - MY PRAYER...**

Everlasting Father, may your love fill your people so the world may know we are Jesus' disciples. Through him I pray. Amen.

#### **SUNDAY ROMANS 12:15**

*Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*

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

We are not alone. God has given us each other to live our lives for him and get us back home to him. Along the way, we want to share each others' burdens, soar on each others' joys, and love each others' hurts. There is no such thing as a solo Christian.

#### **X, Y, Z - MY PRAYER...**

Loving Father, lead me to the people today who need their burdens lifted and their joys shared. Let me be your presence in the world of your children today. This I ask in Jesus' name.

Amen.



**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**