



# Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

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## Hello Friends and Welcome

### *Ephesians 1:3*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

Well, it seems that summer has indeed arrived, from the wettest May on record, to the hottest June day recorded this week in London, it is all change. Sun makes the mood different and refreshing.

This Sunday we commence with a token congregation. I'm grateful to those who are booked in - you do need to book in as we cannot have more people in the hall than we are allowed under the regulations. You will see on the Eventbrite site that the next four Sundays are available to secure a ticket. I look forward to seeing you in person at the

hall - if you wish to. Please see further details in this edition of the Chatter.

This Sunday, I look forward to sharing with you after a week-end off attending a lovely outdoor wedding in the grounds of the William Booth College - it was so meaningful. Then us being tourists around London, particularly the South Bank which Judith and I enjoy and have done for over 40 years. We have seen so much change in this time. Now you can walk the full length of the Thames from Westminster to Tower Bridge, in 1981 you could not. There is so much to see and lots going on. It was so familiar and refreshing. We had the opportunity to walk, talk, laugh, have those conversations which often we do not have time for. At one point, travelling in the car, a piece of music came on with a familiar chorus, 'Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me' which got me thinking. That is exactly what I want for us all in Chatham, for that renewing, refreshing, anointing from God as we move into this new era of the Corps. So, my thoughts this Sunday are around that phrase, 'Fall afresh on me'

May that be so for each and every one of us, connecting on the screen or present in the Hall, may God indeed, 'Fall Afresh' on each and every one of us - set us apart for His service, give us that desire to serve in a new, different way.

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.*

- Pray for families who have been bereaved recently: Allan Jones and family and Lilian Cordner and family.
- 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. Pray that God will provide the means for their needs to be met.
- As we begin to meet again for worship, pray that people will gain confidence to overcome their fears and that they will value the opportunities for worship.
- Pray for our Corps that we will encourage each other in our faith and well-being as we meet together again in worship.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will touch our lives afresh as we worship together and that we will be open to His leading in our lives.

*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

Last Sunday saw the tenth series of 'Call the Midwife' come to an end.

I remember when the first series began and like many people was amazed at how good the prosthetics were for the new-born babies.

'Call the Midwife' is, in case you don't know, about a group of nuns who are midwives in Poplar in East London. They also have midwife's who are not nuns. The series tells the story of the lives of both nuns who are midwives and midwives who are not nuns.

Some of the story lines are quite emotionally charged to say the least. Normally the real tear-jerker part is about 35 minutes into the episode. At the end of some of the episodes I feel emotionally wrung out. But I can't wait for series eleven to begin.

I realise that 'Call the Midwife' is a television programme and what you see may not reflect the real life of the actors. After the last episode shown last Sunday a documentary about the programme was shown. At one stage each of the main actors was asked the question "What would you do if you saw someone going into labour?". Most, if not all, said they would probably run a mile and leave it to the experts.

Just because you can act the part doesn't mean you can actually do the job.

Because the series is set in Nonatus House, a sort of convent cum midwifery centre, occasionally we see the nuns fulfilling one of the offices, or services, they are required to do. Normally, I think it is a service at the end of the day. All of the nuns are expected to attend. For those midwives who aren't nuns, attendance is welcomed but not obligatory. The parts of the service we see are often when a psalm is being sung. I, personally, am blessed by

the singing although I know some people would rather crawl across broken glass. One of the actresses, her character is called Trixie, says that she finds the scenes where she is involved in the chapel service strangely moving and beautiful.

As far as I know she has no faith, but somehow the Spirit of God manages to touch her heart and mind.

This Sunday marks the first time we are allowed back in Chatham SA Hall for worship.

I am not sure what you are expecting but I am sure it won't be the same as it used to be before 'lockdown'. But one thing I am sure is that the Holy Spirit will want to get in touch with us, to bless us and challenge us.

Our responsibility is to turn up and be open to His guidance.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> June 11am at the Hall follow 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, 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**

Bible Fellowship recommences this week at 8pm, on Zoom. Ian F Payne is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Meeting Zoom ID: 597 290 9541

## **MORNING WORSHIP** **SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**YOU MUST BOOK A TICKET** for the Sundays, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 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
- + Your temperature will be taken
- + 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 - 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.

## **SUNDAY 4 JULY THANK YOU DAY**

After a hard 18 months of pandemic, let's pause to say a great big 'thank you' to everyone who helped get us through this extraordinary time together. From hosting a thank you picnic brunch, or sharing a BBQ with your neighbours, join in the first national Thank You Day on Sunday 4 July. Find guides, ideas and a timetable of activity you can choose to join on the Thank You Day website

<https://thankyouday.org.uk/>

## **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.

## **TERRITORAL LEADER VIDEO MESSAGE**



'Jesus at this time is effectively recommissioning all of us - you and me - and sending us out.'

Commissioner Anthony Cotterill challenges us to keep looking for opportunities to

explore uncharted waters as we emerge from the pandemic. Watch on:

<https://youtu.be/4Qcl8X6WuUc>

## **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>

## **TAKE TO THE SKIES & TRANSFORM LIVES!**

Join Team Sally Army and take on a skydive and raise funds to help survivors of human trafficking rebuild their lives, or raise money for your corps, centre or project. With 19 locations across the UK, choose a time and a day that suits you. Find out more here.

[https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/2021-05/TSA\\_Skydive\\_info\\_pack\\_2021.pdf](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/2021-05/TSA_Skydive_info_pack_2021.pdf)

## **NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Join this free online event on Friday 25 June 8am in recognition of the contribution that Christianity makes to the national life of the UK. Organised by Christians in Parliament, the chair will be The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP and the main speaker is The Rt Revd Professor NT Wright.

Register here to join

<https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/>

## **WALK THE TALK 4: 14 JUNE, 8PM**

Join the fourth event in this monthly series of open conversations on Zoom to provoke our thinking around exercise, fitness, faith and well-being. Contact Sports Mission Specialist Robert Moyer in Community Services for further details.

[robert.moye@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:robert.moye@salvationarmy.org.uk)

## 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 PSALMS 68:4-5

*Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds -- his name is the Lord -- and rejoice before him. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.*

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

I can't help but think of what James, Jesus' brothers said: "Pure religion, undefiled before God the Father is this: keep oneself undefiled and care for orphans and widows in their distress." Jesus showed clearly this was the Father's heart in his ministry. Now it is up to us to continue it!

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

Father, may my life, my compassion, and my ministry reflect your heart for those who need care and protection and love. Give me eyes to see this need more clearly and a heart to respond more certainly so that your love may be demonstrated through me. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.



## TUESDAY EPHESIANS 6:4

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

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

Mothers have such an inside road with children that it is interesting that God commands fathers to be about the work of spiritual nurture. I don't believe he means to exclude mothers. No, I think he assumes they'll do their part. But the father's influence and intentional training is so essential.

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

Abba Father, may my children come to find you in me. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EPHESIANS 5:25-26

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy.*

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

For husbands, there is sacrificial love in our purpose and purpose in our sacrifice. We give up ourselves to love our wives. But Jesus is the example here, and he gave up everything. His purpose? Simply to make us holy. Our motives are to be equally as sacrificial and pure in surrendering our rights to bless and love our wives.

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

Holy God, help our families to be full of love and may it begin with me, today. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

## THURSDAY MARK 8:36

*What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his very soul?*

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

We chase after so many different things. Only one thing is needed. Having a fist full of dollars, a great estate, and lots of prestige doesn't mean a whole lot if you've gone to your ultimate address without the Lord. Even worse, is to find that in the middle of your busy-ness, you awake to

find yourself in the barren land where Christ does not dwell and life is not found.

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

Father, help me to keep my priorities right and my life holy and my heart open to your will rather than being blinded with my own self-seeking. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

### **FRIDAY PSALMS 91:1**

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

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

How good it is to be as close to God as his shadow and share in the comfort of his shelter. He is not far if our hearts choose to draw near him.

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

O great Almighty God, tender Shepherd and Abba Father, make known to me your nearness. I long to live in your presence and reflect your holiness and grace. By Jesus' blood I draw near to you in full assurance of your love and grace. Amen.

### **SATURDAY PSALMS 121:7-8**

*The Lord will keep you from all harm -- he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*

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

Our lives are not lived alone. The Lord is with us personally. He holds each of futures and our safety in his hands. We live to serve him and go to be with him when we die. The Lord will keep us from all harm!

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

Mighty Protector, Rock of my salvation. Thank you that my future is secure with you. Make this assurance the convicting power in my life to turn over my future and my life to you. Through Jesus I ask this. Amen.

### **SUNDAY ISAIAH 40:31**

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and will not be faint.*

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

It is easy for us to live victoriously for the Lord when we soar on eagle's wings. It can be exciting when we run and don't grow weary in the work of the Lord, buoyed by his power and presence. But it often takes heroes to keep walking and not faint when trying times come. Keep on walking, brother and sister. The Lord is there when you most fear he has forgotten you!

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

Majestic God, whose voice holds together our universe, give those who can barely walk under the stress and assault, the strength to continue. I specifically want to pray for those I know personally who are facing trying times. Please, dear LORD, give them strength and meet their most pressings needs. Through the intercession of Jesus I ask it. Amen.

