



# Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

Corps Officer Major Ian F Payne

[ian.payne@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:ian.payne@salvationarmy.org.uk) 07813949773 Corps website: [www.chathamssa.org.uk](http://www.chathamssa.org.uk)

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## CONTENTS

- ☐ CO Pastoral Column
- ☐ Prayer reminder
- ☐ 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations
- ☐ TE Column
- ☐ FUNERAL LINDA TOUT PTG
- ☐ Bible Fellowship
- ☐ MEETINGS IN AUGUST
- ☐ One-2-One Employment Plus
- ☐ Persecuted Church - Uzbekistan
- ☐ A-Z Daily Readings

### Psalm 23:1-3 (Message)

**God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.**

Hello and welcome to this week's Chatham Chatter. Seemingly, we are slightly freer than we were last week, whatever that looks like for you.

It was good this week to attend an almost full band practice - to hear the music in the hall. The sound of a brass band has been missed by so many, myself included. We do take a lot for granted. Thanks to all those who are going the extra mile to get us back to some form of normality.

This week we will be looking back at what we have achieved over the past 16 months. Last week, I asked if there was anything that you would like to see again from our live streaming. Many of you have asked and I will try to get as many as I can into the morning meeting, under the title of

'Rest and Praise'. Using a thought from Psalm 23, just a brief look at taking rest that is provided by God, allow him to lead us to that rest and trust him for that rest!

Some 85 live-streamings later, there is much to review and thank God for. We have live-streamed, a wedding, enrolment of a soldier, recognition of an adherent, a dedication, a funeral. Many of you have contributed in some way or another as I have turned up on your doorstep with camera in hand - all of you have obliged (well nearly all of you!!!). Thank you for your support over these months and I look forward to September 5<sup>th</sup> when we will all (hopefully) be a little more relaxed about being around people.

I do want to single out David Lockwood and Anthony Day, without whom I could not have done any of it. They have been amazing and the only two who have listened to all 83 sermons!! (Well, they were in the room at the time). **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.** God has certainly used your skills and passion for the gospel to communicate in ways that Chatham Citadel have never done before.

I look forward to sharing with those who are online on Sunday or those who attend in person, no booking required but please do respect each others' space.

So, see you 10 am on Sunday. Buffering free worship from Chatham.

God bless you all.



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 those who have been recently bereaved and for those who are receiving hospital care that they will feel the closeness of God in their situation.
- Pray for all those people who are in pain, those who are awaiting surgery, those who are undergoing therapy treatment of all kinds. God is a healing God and hears our prayers.
- Pray for those with mental health problems, some exacerbated by Covid, and for those who are having anxiety problems as we adjust to the lessening of restrictions. Pray that God will help us to be sensitive to their needs just now.
- Pray for new believers, Christians, that they will find joy in discovering more about Jesus and how he guides us in our lives.
- Pray for our Corps that, as activities are closed down for the summer, we will discover ways of keeping close to God in personal prayer and 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.*

## 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Anne Ward, a former member of this Corps and known to many; the mother of Major Elizabeth Lloyd and sister to Major Steve Russell R, celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Her address is:  
9 Ardsley Drive, Owlthorpe, Sheffield, S19 6RZ.



**Territorial Envoy  
Tony McClure**



Last night on Film 4 the film 'Risen' was shown. I have seen this film three times and am moved by it each time. It tells the story of a Roman soldier who has to make sure that Jesus has died. He isn't overly happy about his task, but orders are orders. When he arrives at the crucifixion scene he finds Jesus has already died. He is the man who sticks the spear into Jesus' side so that he can make sure Jesus is dead. He then oversees Jesus' burial, makes sure the tomb is sealed. The story is supposed to end at this point, or so he thinks.

When he is told several days later that the tomb is empty and the body of Jesus has gone, pandemonium breaks out. Where is the body? Who moved the stone away from the entrance of the tomb? Questions need to be answered. The assumption is Jesus had died. He can't have come back to life? The disciples must be found. When they are, they tell the story of a risen Jesus. The main character can't believe it, but as Sherlock Holmes said "If all the evidence points to an answer, no matter how unlikely, it must be true." (The Sherlock Holmes quote is a paraphrase of what he said.)

The Tribune then, eventually, comes to believe. Even though he can't believe it.

Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus can be a difficulty for us. People who have died don't come back to life. But Jesus did. I firmly and sincerely believe this fact. I wouldn't say I understand how it happened, but I believe.

In the same way I believe he healed the people read about in the gospels. How the healings happened is beyond me, but I believe they happened. From the healing of a woman with constant bleeding who 'touched the hem of his garment, and straightway she was healed' to a blind man who received his sight.

Wherever you are, faith-wise, today, take time to read, experience the marvel that Jesus lived, died and came back to live. Why? To bring you into a right relationship with God.

Hallelujah. God bless you all.

**Tony**

## **FUNERAL OF LINDA TOUT PTG**

The Funeral Service of Linda Tout will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at Medway Crematorium conducted by Major Malcolm Westwood. Please continue to pray for Graham as he prepares for this service.

## **BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

Bible Fellowship this week at 8pm, on Zoom. Meeting Zoom ID: 597 290 9541. This week we're looking at 'Holy, Holy, Holy' Isaiah 6. Come and enjoy, fun, fellowship and learning. No meetings in August.

## **MORNING WORSHIP MEETINGS IN AUGUST**

There will be no activities at the Hall or online from Chatham Citadel during August; Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July being the final one before the break, returning on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September. I trust you will enjoy exploring many Corps on line or other fellowships around the UK, even the world, that have sprung up over the pandemic period.

## **ONE 2 ONE EMPLOYMENT PLUS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As you are all aware the above programme was on a Monday (pre-covid) - When we return in September, it will be taking place on a Wednesday from 10am - 2pm - there will be a lot more activity planned and we will need volunteers - to here more and ask questions, why not come for a coffee, Cake and presentation, with questions on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 10am - come along and here the new exciting programme and how you can get involved; Further details email Marilyn Watson; [marilynucywatson@gmail.com](mailto:marilynucywatson@gmail.com)  
See poster at the back of this chatter.

## **THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. **UZBEKISTAN number 21 in the WORLD WATCH LIST**



### **21. Uzbekistan**

There are 33.2 million people living in Muslim-majority Uzbekistan. Only around 345,000 are Christian.

Christians from Muslim backgrounds face the brunt of persecution in Uzbekistan. They face considerable pressure from family, friends and communities, who see them as traitors.

The risk is heightened for many women who, given societal expectations around submission, are effectively not allowed to choose their own religion. Repercussions can include house arrest, abduction, divorce or physical abuse. No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed, and Christians who are members of unregistered churches are viewed as a threat to the government. Believers may have their meetings raided

and be arrested or fined for taking part in 'illegal' religious activities.

Church leaders are especially targeted because the authorities want to cause a ripple effect of fear and anxiety in their congregations.

Russian Orthodox churches are least susceptible to pressure and persecution because most of their members are Russian and tend not to try to reach out to the Uzbek population.

Aziz is a believer from a Muslim background in Uzbekistan. His brother was extremely angry when Aziz came to faith, and once drove into his house with a small truck. He also threatened to burn Aziz's house down.

"After my conversion to Christianity, my brother wanted to have nothing to do with me," says Aziz. "My father, sister and other family members lived in the same village. When I visited them, I tried to visit my brother. Again and again, he became very angry as soon as he saw me, and said: 'Go away, what are you doing here? I don't want anything to do with you!' For 20 years we did not have contact with each other."

When Aziz's nephew became a Christian, his father beat him up. He had to be hospitalised. In 2019, Aziz's brother became seriously sick. He reached out to Aziz who prayed for him and shared the gospel with him. "The heart of my oldest brother is becoming softer and softer," Aziz says.

Although Uzbekistan has dropped three places on the world watch list, life as a Christian in the country remains hugely challenging. Believers continue to face enormous pressure from families and communities, and imposing government restrictions greatly affect church life and

witness. However, there were fewer reports of violent incidents compared with last year.

## **PLEASE PRAY**

Heavenly Father, we are acutely aware that to live as a Christian in Uzbekistan can carry enormous challenges and even danger. Encourage, equip and empower believers in the face of pressure and persecution, and may all hostility against them soften. Grant leaders wisdom and discernment as they navigate state restrictions, and keep them in good health and spirits. Keep and protect Your children. 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 119:130**

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.*

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

Sometimes the right path is not so difficult to find, we just need to know where to begin our search -- the reading of God's words. The right way is very seldom just the property of the bright, wise, and scholarly. It is very clear if we will but look for it!

### **H - MY PRAYER...**

Holy Father, thank you for making your will known through your words in Scripture. Bless me today as I open your word. May I find not only the answer to my questions, but may I find you and your precious will. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

## **TUESDAY PSALMS 119:160**

*All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.*

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

The requirements of morality and holiness are not temporary or fleeting because they reflect the nature of our Holy God who is eternal. They don't shift with the wishes of culture, but are true across cultures and times and wishes.

### **I - MY PRAYER...**

Righteous God Almighty, may my life reflect your character and nature in compassion, holiness, and justice. I know you are forever, and I want to invest my life in what lasts. Give me wisdom to see through the fleeting temptations of today and do what honours you beyond my lifetime. In Jesus name. Amen.

## **WEDNESDAY ISAIAH 33:22**

*The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.*

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

When we think about God being our judge, we normally think of falling into judgment. Isaiah reminds us that God being our judge means that he will be there to judge us based on his will, his rule and his grace. He is on our side and is looking to save, not condemn. Using the New Testament idiom, when we stand before our Judge we see instead our Father.

### **J - MY PRAYER...**

Holy and Righteous Judge, I am glad that my fate, my future, and my life are in your hands. I know your love for me because of the gift of Jesus. I know your desire to save me because of your loving grace. I know your demand for holiness is met by the sacrifice of your Son. So God, I gladly and willingly trust my life, my soul, to you. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

## **THURSDAY PSALMS 149:4**

*For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.*

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

Jesus, who left heaven and made himself a servant, did so to enable the last to be first, the servant to be greatest, and the least to be best. For ages, the arrogant, abusive and the powerful have found it easy to reject the call of Christ. But those who are humble find him to not only be Saviour, but also Conqueror.

### **K - MY PRAYER...**

Precious Servant, Almighty King, thank you for coming to our world and serving us at great cost and showing us that we can reign with you. I look forward to the day every other knee will join mine as I bow before you as my Lord. Until that day, I pray that you will use me to bless those so often forgotten by our busy and glamour-intoxicated world. Amen.

## **FRIDAY LUKE 12:6-7**

*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

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

In a universe so vast, what is our little planet? In a planet so diverse and so full of life, what are people? Among all the billions of people alive and who have lived and already died, what significance do I have? Jesus reminds us that our significance is great -- not because we are so important but because we are known personally by God. We don't have to be afraid, we are known and loved by the One who is and was and is to come!

### **L - MY PRAYER...**

Eternal God, Almighty Father, Tender Shepherd, you already know my heart. You know where I struggle with sin, so please empower and forgive. You know my fears, so please encourage and strengthen. You know my immaturity, so please nurture and grow. You know my weakness and disease, so please comfort and heal. But even if none of these are answered, I am still awed by the fact that you choose to know me. Thank you! In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

## **SATURDAY PSALMS 46:1**

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

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

Where can we go when all the walls fall and all the armies crumble and all hope is lost? To the eternal God, who is our Father. He preserved Israel through the most difficult of times, protected the Bible from those who would eradicate it, and has led his Church through troubles and triumphs through the centuries. He will do the same with us until he brings us home to himself.

### **M - MY PRAYER...**

My Rock, My Hope, and My Protector, I thank you for preserving my life. I thank you for hearing my cries for help and healing. I thank you for guiding my feet into ways that have been a blessing. Please, O God, stay close by as I face the stresses and challenges in my life. Through your Spirit, enable me to grow and be an example to others as I pass through life's storm. Through Jesus I ask it. Amen.

## **SUNDAY PSALMS 119:14**

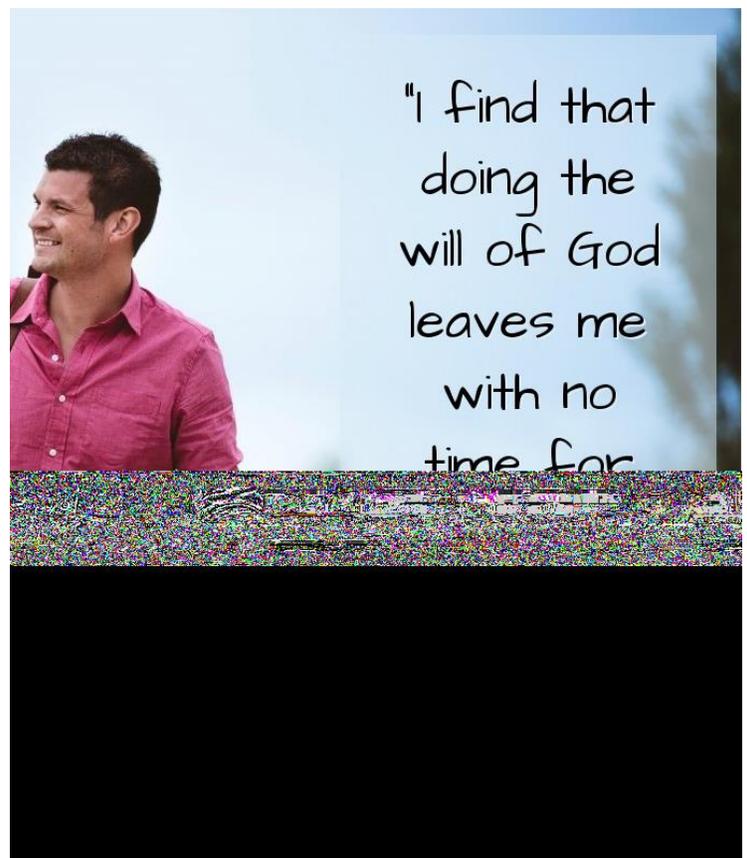
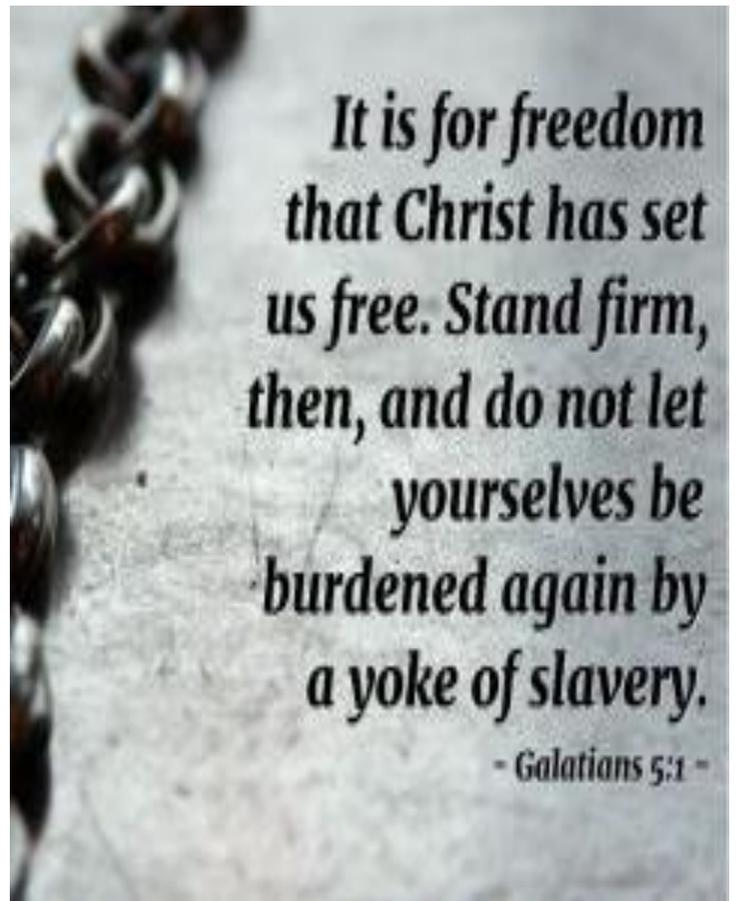
*I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.*

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

Our treasure and our truth come from Scripture, God's guidance to avoid Satan's harmful traps and live in God's blessed life.

### **N - MY PRAYER...**

Holy God, thank you for your written word, the Scriptures. May they come alive in my life just as they do in my heart and mind. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.





# Chatham Salvation Army

## One-2-One Employment Plus

Re-commencing  
**Wednesday**  
**8th September**  
**10am – 2pm**

### Individual appointments & help with;

- Create or enhance your CV
- Jobsearching Support
- To better understand your career options
- Budgeting on a low income
- Business Start-up
- Computer Skills

### PLUS

- Cooking on a budget;
- English Lessons
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- Clothing Support
- Shower and toiletries available
- Coffee & Chatter
- .....and so much more

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