



Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

Corps Officer Major Ian F Payne

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5th Sept 2021

John 21:17

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Hello and welcome to this week’s Chatham Chatter. First week down and where did that go? Great Café Hub on Monday - great chatter and hubbub in the area. Many venturing out. We commenced our ‘One Stop Hub’ on Wednesday. Some people turned up to be supported in different ways and a cottage pie lunch was enjoyed by a number of guests. The local task force dropped in as they will be supporting this venture and they are excited about it. The task force is a group run by the Council in supporting one to one - exactly what we are doing. They have been in Gillingham and are wanting to get into Chatham and we are an ideal project for them to get involved with. They include: police, fire, job centre, department of work and pensions, drug & alcohol rehabilitation support etc. so it fits well with what we are attempting to achieve. So, watch this space.

Our first Sunday was a joy. A joy to see so many of you coming to the hall physically, over 80 in all. Thanks to all who came and made the morning worship something that was a delight to be in - the singing, wonderful.

This week I commence my thoughts around ‘Encounters with Jesus’ and partially focusing on Peter. There were many encounters from the calling of Peter to the reinstatement of Peter. All challenging in their own way and all have one factor in common - they are all encounters with Jesus. I look forward to welcoming many of you again on Sunday Morning at 10am when the band and songsters will be taking part. Please remember to continue to pray for the Corps and the way ahead and the fact of capturing what Jesus wants us to do;

So, see you 10 am on Sunday, many of you in the flesh.

God bless Chatham Corps.

God bless you all.



Ian F Payne - Major

‘One Stop Hub’ One2One Wednesday Project VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

One Stop Hub has started on Wednesdays and will include: advice, clothing exchange, Job Centre support, CAB surgery, Adult Education Classes, lunch, cooking on a budget, learning how to budget on a low income, Kent fire safety at home, Kent police community engagement, drug and alcohol support, shower facilities, refreshments and just a listening ear, for people to meet and not feel excluded. Could you offer some time to support this One-Stop Hub we are creating? If you have an idea or need details, please contact Marilyn Watson;

marilynucywatson@gmail.com

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 the new programme commencing on Wednesdays, that people will receive the help and encouragement they need. Pray for the volunteers that they will be guided to say and do the right things.
- Pray for those who are unwell and need hospital treatment, that God will sustain them with His healing power.
- Pray for comfort and strength for those who have been bereaved
- Pray for the health care staff, doctors, nurses, therapists and others who treat people who are in pain with physical and mental health problems that God will guide them as they serve others.
- Pray for those recuperating after surgery and other treatments that God's healing touch will be upon them.
- Pray for children and school staff as the new school year starts with many changing schools and others going to university.
- Pray that we may be guided in our day to day lives to live as God would have us live and follow His example.

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. If you wish to be a member of the Prayer Chain please let Jean know.



**Territorial Envoy
Tony McClure**



Hello everyone. I hope you are all well and are enjoying life to the full. Lockdown has ended and we can all get back to the new 'normal' we are living in. Boris Johnson has told us that Freedom Day has been and gone and we all have to act like intelligent people and make our own decisions about how we protect ourselves from the effects of the Covid 19 virus.

Do we get a vaccine? Do we wear a face mask? Do we shake a person's hand? How close do we stand to someone in a supermarket queue? We now have to make our own decisions as to how we react to these questions?

I have just finished a training session that I had to attend as a Territorial Envoy. It was done via Zoom, which makes it a challenging thing for me. I have to keep reminding myself to remain seated in front of my laptop and not to keep wandering away.

The subject we were being taught about was the second doctrine of The Salvation Army. In case you don't know what is, it is the doctrine about there being One God who is the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship. Most of the teaching was OK which can be an unusual thing for doctrine study. The part that I did find challenging was the last part. The bit about God being 'the only proper object of religious worship.'

Lockdown meant that for many Christians corporate worship stopped. It didn't even stop gradually...the doors of the Hall closed and we 'worshipped' by watching LiveStream...or did we? I am not a lover of YouTube and must confess to not watching many of the meetings livestreamed from Chatham. To be honest, I didn't watch many 'meetings' from anywhere. Eventually Major Ian encouraged me to come to Chatham Hall to 'participate' in worship. Being in the Hall was just what 'the doctor ordered.' Someone said to me "Tony, when I watch the meeting on the telly, I watch the meeting. When I come to the meeting at the Hall, I come to worship." That was true for me too.

So, when I come to the meeting at the Hall am I coming to worship God? Or to be religiously entertained? Or to see my friends?

Only you can answer that question. The outcome of our being part of the worshipping congregation of Chatham Corps is the quality of our worship of the One God; Creator, Governor and Preserver. Whatever style of worship you use...seek to make sure it is God you worship. Love God Love Others.

May that God bless you abundantly.

ST JOHN'S CHATHAM - 17th & 18th Sept.

Please see the flyer attached to the email regarding the 200th Anniversary Celebrations at St John's on Friday and Saturday 17th/18th September. I am sure it is going to be an exciting weekend, find time to visit and tell them you are from Chatham SA - Let's support our friends.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Bible Fellowship will commence on Wednesday 15th September at 8pm, on Zoom. Led by TE Tony.

Meeting Zoom ID: 597 290 9541.

Come and enjoy fun, fellowship and learning. Details of subject and discussion to be confirmed.

ROSEMARY & MARATHON

Rosemary (S-A) is running the virtual London marathon on October 3rd. She is looking for sponsors. She says *'Doesn't matter how little; a lot of little is better than no big' I'm running in aid of Parkinsons UK and Open doors (persecuted church organisation) Thanks'*

You can sponsor Rosemary by using this fundraising link;

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RS-A>

NEW EMPLOYEE

Great news to report that we have now employed a Corps Administrator. Mrs Gillian Hopkins, known to many of you who frequent the Monday Morning Café, as she is the volunteer who runs this.

I know with Gill's 30+ years of experience as a Civil Servant, couple that with just becoming a Christian, I know we/I will have first class support in the administration of the Corps. God bless Gill

LIVESTREAM CADETS WELCOME

Saturday 25 September at 6pm Watch the livestream of the Territorial Welcome of Cadets, the Reflectors of Holiness Session, at William Booth College. Watch on www.youtube.com/salvationarmyvideo

SINGING BY HEART

The Singing By Heart (SBH) programme for people with dementia uses singing to help them connect with others and bring back memories. Two new opportunities for training and support are available:

Leaders' Training (8 September

10.30am): An introduction and hour's training in leading a SBH session for anyone new to running SBH or considering it for their local setting as an officer, leader or volunteer.

Leaders' Forum (22 September

10.30am): An opportunity for SBH group local leaders to develop their skills, share their stories and support one another. This first session focuses on restarting and relaunching programmes, with particular focus on being Covid-19 secure.

Contact daniel.elson@salvationarmy.org.uk for Zoom meeting access codes.

News from here and there!

kitchener.faithfm.org

September 12th

Pieter and Catherine Vos. (Ontario)

September 19th

Jubilee Brass (Seniors Band) Ontario.

September 26th

All broadcasts are live (link above) from 7-9.00 pm on Sunday evenings Ontario time (-5 hours UK time)

and on Fortress radio (UK)

Sundays at 3.00 pm and Thursdays at 8.00 pm UK time Previous broadcasts are available on www.salvoaudio.com,

www.citadelpromotions.com and

www.tomquick.org

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. LAOS NUMBER 22 in the WORLD WATCH LIST



22. LAOS

Christians are a minority in Buddhist-majority Laos. In a population of just under 7.2 million, there are only around 199,000 believers.

Christian activities are heavily monitored by the communist authorities, including those of registered churches. Especially in rural areas, house churches are forced to meet underground as they are considered 'illegal gatherings'.

Life is especially difficult for converts to the Christian faith, who are at risk of persecution from their family and the local authorities. This can involve damage to property, confiscation of possessions and fines. Women can also face the danger of rape and sexual harassment.

Opposition is heightened when a convert's family or the local authorities stir up the local community against them, sometimes through

local village meetings or by seeking the support of local religious leaders.

Church leadership in Laos tends to be dominated by men, a role which makes them vulnerable to persecution. They can face imprisonment in harsh and degrading conditions, and be asked to pay a huge fine to secure their release, putting financial pressure on families and churches. The absence of a leader also weakens churches spiritually and evokes fear. Khambang is a married father of four. He has fled for his life not just once or twice, but three times - all because he boldly shares the gospel. Now, five years after his last escape, Khambang isn't running anymore. He attended a Bible School supported by Open Doors, and he's back to passionately preaching the Word of God and leading souls to Christ.

During lockdown last year (due to Covid-19), he led 11 families to faith in just one village - a total of 43 new believers!

Laos has dropped two places to No. 22 on the 2021 World Watch List. This shows a marginal reduction in opposition to Christianity, reflected in the fact the government started a training programme on freedom of religion and belief for local authorities. If this will lead to improvements at the grassroots level remains to be seen. Regardless, it will not change family and community opposition to converts, so Laos remains an enormously challenging country in which to follow Jesus.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord Jesus, give Your people strength to endure persecution, and grace to love and forgive their persecutors. May local and national authorities see Christians not as a threat but as valuable members of society. Continue to open the eyes of Laotians to the life-giving faith of their Christian neighbours. May Your kingdom come in Laos. Amen.

ON YOUR DAILY JOURNEY

As part of your daily devotions let's pray the A to Z prayer. Each day you will have a letter from the alphabet. Use this letter to pray for members of the Corps with this initial, friends, family, neighbours, a Salvation Army Corps and a Country of the World.

Let's make a difference by praying for each other and wider. Can you imagine the difference that will make?

MONDAY HEBREWS 10:35-36

Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Boy there are some tough times in life! They're inescapable. That's when our confidence in the Lord's salvation and our relationship with him get tested! It is one thing to sing "it is well with my soul" at the end of a peel-the-paint worship service, but it is quite another to be able to sing it when they auction your house off at the courthouse steps or you've lost a child to death. That's when the commitment to be who we want to be overrides the weakness of what we feel. Faith can't take a holiday when we travel through the suburbs of hell or we'll never find our way out. So don't throw it away. Be like Job or Jeremiah who both argued and complained to God. Just don't quit.

H - MY PRAYER...

Holy and Almighty God, today is a good day. But I am profoundly aware that some of those I love are wrestling with throwing away their confidence in your love, mercy, grace, peace, and deliverance. Please use me, but even more I pray that you use your Holy Spirit to renew their hearts. I pray that you intervene directly to change the course of events and give them relief. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY 1 JOHN 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence -- Jesus Christ the Righteous One.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God hates sin. Don't you? I know I do. But isn't it amazing how we'll fall back into the same old traps again and again. This is where John, the tender Shepherd that he was, hits the nail on the head. The goal is to not commit even one sin. But, knowing our struggle against the flesh, John also gives assurance to those of us trying to live faithful and pure lives that when we do sin, the sacrifice for our sins, God's Son, is also our defence attorney.

I - MY PRAYER...

God, no one and nothing is like you. I did not have to provide a sacrifice for my sins, which broke your heart. You provided that sacrifice. Please use me today as I try to give myself, my life, and my future back to you as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to you. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY HEBREWS 10:30-31

We know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

God hates injustice, unfairness, brutality and abuse. In a world where the greedy, the murderous, the thieves, the rapists, the muggers... get away with their shameless and despicable behaviour, God is the ultimate assurance that justice will be done and the wicked will not triumph. While those who love and expect Jesus' return do so with anticipation and joy, those who are evil and vile will find out what a dreadful thing it is to fall into God's hands.

J -MY PRAYER...

Holy and Righteous God, my Heavenly Father, I am both uncomfortable and comforted to know that you will bring justice on those who have violently abused the innocent, weak, helpless, underprivileged, and infirm. Give me the courage to stand between the evil of my world and those on whom it preys. By the grace and victory of Jesus I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY MATTHEW 6:33

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Seek -- pursue relentlessly -- God's Lordship over your life and the righteousness it demands in your daily life. What you pursue is all temporary; only God and his Kingdom remain. In the process, you will find that the God who gives you his Kingdom and righteousness also will bless you with the things that you need in this life.

K -MY PRAYER...

Holy Lord, only in you do I find what satisfies my soul's desires. The things that have captured my eye are boring after only a short while. The artificial things I have pursued, all of my addictive pursuits, have left me empty and enslaved. I find hope and help only in you. Please be near to love, correct, discipline, lead, and mould me to your glory. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY 1 CORINTHIANS 2:14

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

The Holy Spirit is God's abiding gift, God's seal and promise. The Spirit is our assurance that what he began with Jesus' sacrificial death and our participation in it through faith and baptism, he will bring to completion. But the world cannot understand this great promise, just like it cannot understand much of Scripture, because without the Spirit, their eyes

see only what they can touch with their fingers and not what is true in God's heart.

L - MY PRAYER...

Father, I thank you for sending Jesus. Jesus, I thank you for sending the Spirit. Spirit, I thank you for never leaving me alone. As I am filled with the Spirit, O Lord, so fill me more until my will and my life more nearly reflect your desires. Use me to bless others just as your presence now blesses me. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY JOHN 3:20-21

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

Truth is seen in what it does and whom it seeks.

M - MY PRAYER...

Father of every heavenly light, I ask you to correct me gently as I place myself, my imperfections, failures and sins in your presence. Forgive and cleanse me by the blood of Jesus so that I might be spotless, holy, and blameless in your sights. O Lord, I don't want just to be forgiven, I want to be useful to you and your church. Please help me find my way to usefulness. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

SUNDAY PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10

This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S VERSE...

I don't know about you, but my most difficult decisions are not about choosing between good and bad. I usually know what is good and what is bad, especially when bad involves evil. My toughest choices are when I have to choose between good, better, and best. My love for God usually overcomes my weakness and I choose good over bad. But unless I've placed myself before God's word and surrendered my

heart to him in prayer, I have a very tough time choosing between good and best. Yet I'm convinced that much of what God would love to do through us today does not happen because we've settled for good when he longs to lead us to best!

N - MY PRAYER...

Gracious and Almighty God, teach me your ways and give me your heart as I strive to love you, know your will, and have insight into your ways. Help me to know the best things to do today and to use my time in the best way in my work, my family, among my friends, and especially before those who do not know Christ as their Saviour. Through him 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
- Reading Tuition
- Clothing Support
- Shower and toiletries available
- Coffee & Chatter
-and so much more

01634 843689

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SEE ARTICLE FOR DETAILS