



# Chatham Chatter



Chatham Citadel Corps

Corps Officer Major Ian F Payne

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**CORINTHIANS 3:6  
I PLANTED THE SEED, APOLLOS WATERED  
IT, BUT GOD HAS BEEN MAKING IT GROW**

Welcome to this week's Chatham Chatter. This weekend we celebrate Harvest. Whilst I was preparing, I thought about my childhood and Harvest in St Helier. It was a grand affair; the main hall would have been decked out with amazing decorations and on one side of the hall, where usually there would have been 100+ chairs, was a table laden with every fruit, vegetable and more that you could think of. Often the centrepiece was the Corps Drum, with one side off, full of harvest produce. I remember a wooden 3ft timbrel full with fruit. Every section in the Corps made a contribution, identifying their group. Right in the middle of the display was always placed a huge Bible (well, it seemed huge to me) a jug of water and a large piece of coal - it stood out amongst all the other displays. It was an amazing sight. On the Monday after the Jersey Bean Harvest supper, 'Uncle Jim' would hold the auction. It was such fun, getting told off for putting my hand up, but I always remembered that the whole message was giving thanks to God for his provision to us throughout the year. I go back a few generations and I have a photo of my mum sitting on the top of a hay wagon laden with hay 'pitched' on the wagon by a large number of men in the fields. They were bringing in the sheaves or bringing the Harvest Home. How things have changed over the years for us all. Remember when satsumas would

only be for Christmas, today you can get them any week.

But throughout the time from my mum in the 1920's to us in the 2020's God's love and provision is constant. We have new ways of engaging with people like never before; new ways of sharing God's story, like never before; what great opportunities we have; and I would love for some of our young people to be able to tell stories that amazed them growing up in Chatham, because of love, time and effort in making a difference.

This week as you arrive at the hall you will receive an Acorn. A seed, when planted, returns a great majestic tree; it takes time and care, but it all starts with a seed. We are God's seed, we hold the word of God that we can plant in the hearts of many and watch it grow. We can see a life grow majestic for God, because we planted a seed, the word of God in their hearts.

Harvest is such a great time to be thankful to God for his care and provision, but also for us to rededicate our lives as his seed, word, to the people and communities around us.



I look forward to seeing many of you at 10am on Sunday singing some of the great harvest favourites.

God bless Chatham Corps.  
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 the Mainly Music and Mummy & Me groups as they, once again, meet up and develop relationships between families and the groups.
- Pray for those people and families who are struggling with financial problems and are anxious about the future as the furlough scheme has ended.
- Pray for all those who find day to day living a struggle because of chronic health problems.
- Pray for people who need safe homes and the means to live a healthy life. Think of those seeking refuge in our country and across the world.
- Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.
- 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 all children and school staff as the new school year has started and for students at 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](mailto:jeanm1938@gmail.com) or text on 07787718273.*



**Territorial Envoy  
Tony McClure**



I was watching YouTube on the telly last week. I was trying to find something to watch that was interesting...or at least looked interesting to watch. Sadly, there didn't seem to be anything available.

Then, and I am not sure how, I stumbled across a clip called '101 photographs from the past.' I

have a fascination with old photographs and decided to have a look at the clip.

It had, as the title said, 101 photographs from the past...the 1920's and 1930's. There were many photographs of celebrities of the time. Glamorous Hollywood actors and actresses. All beautifully photographed and showing a slightly artificial look. Was their skin as flawless as the photograph showed? Or was it airbrushed so that the person looked as beautiful as they could be. There were plenty of photographs of what you would call ordinary people. The photographs showed people at their work, crossing roads, standing at street corners or a host of other tasks.

The lives of the rich and glamorous are documented and can be relatively easily found but of the 'normal' folk the photograph may be the only record of their life. When I look at such photographs I often wonder what the life of the person was like.

They may be smiling in the photograph but were they really happy? Had their childhood dreams come true? Had they lived a full and rich life or had an accident or warfare ended their lives 'all too soon' not allowing them to fulfil the potential that showed.

When my sister and I sorted out my mum's house I inherited all of the photographs. I know who most of the people in the photographs are but some of them are simply an image on a piece of card. Somehow, I find that a sad thing. A person posing for a photograph...now gone and forgotten.

There are photographs of me. Taken when I was at school, or as a cadet at the William Booth International Training College. There is even a photograph of me on the day I was commissioned as a Salvation Army Officer in May 1983.

I wonder if there will ever come a time when someone will look at these photographs and wonder who the person in the photograph was.

The Bible tells us that no one can see God. The nearest we can get to seeing God is to see Jesus. For us, in 2021, the only image we have of Jesus is in the Bible. By looking at the Bible we see Jesus living, dying and being resurrected.

I think that is enough. Thank God for that

**TONY**

### **BAND & SONGSTERS OPEN PRACTICES**

'With immediate effect, membership of the band and songsters has been widened to include regular attenders of worship at Chatham Citadel Corps who wish to join these groups and are able to meet the level of commitment expected. There will also be the opportunity to attend open rehearsals when planned by the section leaders. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of this change should initially speak to the Bandmaster/Songster Leader or other member of the section's team of local officers.

Open rehearsals for Songsters will be held every Thursday at 8 p.m. for approx 90 minutes.

Open rehearsals for Band will be on occasional Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. and notice given via Chatham Chatter.'

### **ZOOM BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

Bible Fellowship this Wednesday 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.

### **TODDLER GROUPS**

We restarted the Mainly Music and Mummy and Me groups last week. We have just a small number attending and are taking 'baby steps' as we proceed cautiously to keep everyone Covid-safe.

But it is great to be back! We would appreciate prayer as we care for the families who have returned and seek to rebuild relationships.

Sue and the team

(Irene, Lesley, Patti and Val)

### **\*\*\*\*\*URGENT APPEAL\*\*\*\*\***

As you all know before Covid lockdowns hit we were involved with New Road School by leading an after-school club. The school is now asking if we can return. We require a minimum of five people in attendance for it to continue. Tracy requires three people to help her on Mondays 3:30 (club starts 4pm) Finish at 5pm sharp. It is a great ministry that has seen young people come to Sunday school and BP Sections so if you can give time to this important outreach please can you contact Tracy. **For those who work, how about asking your company if they could gift two hours through their 'Corporate and Social Responsibility' to The Salvation Army in engaging with young children.** This ministry is extremely important please give it some consideration and contact Tracy.



### **'ONE STOP HUB' PROJECT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

One Stop Hub on Wednesdays includes; advice, clothing bank, Job Centre support, CAB surgery, Adult Education Classes, lunch, advice on

low income and budgeting, Kent fire safety at home, Kent police community engagement, drug and alcohol support, shower facilities, refreshments or 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 any ideas or need details, please contact Marilyn Watson.

[marilynucywatson@gmail.com](mailto:marilynucywatson@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Chatham SA in partnership with Medway Sunlight Rotary Club will be providing support to individuals and families on Christmas Day. If you would like to volunteer for any of the programme we are looking for Volunteers for the Prep day on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>**, drivers to deliver **Christmas Day**, (small number) and others to help Christmas Day; serve lunch, buddy people, sandwich and food preparation, wrapping presents etc. More details will be following. Can you please let Gill know in the office if you are wanting to volunteer. Also, can you let her know if there is anyone who needs an invitation for Christmas Day and/or a dinner delivering; delivery only for those completely housebound.

[gillian.hopkins1@talktalk.net](mailto:gillian.hopkins1@talktalk.net)

## CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Again, this year we will be giving out toys to families in Medway. Our Toy Service will be on Sunday 5th December 10am. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy. Any further information required, please speak to Wendy.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MEDWAY

### SAINTS ALIVE

Sunday 31st October - Saints Alive; 7.30-9.00 at the Kings Church, New Road Avenue, Chatham.

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday 12th December 2021 from 6.00-8.30pm. Joint Christmas Carol outreach event @ KICC, Buckmore Park, Maidstone Road, Blue Bell Hill, Chatham. ME5 9QG. Chatham Band will be participating.

## SAVE THE DATE:

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK 25-31 OCTOBER 2021

Get ready to explore, celebrate and support The Salvation Army's work tackling poverty and injustice around the world with social media challenges, podcast episodes, a virtual quiz night and resources for International Development Sunday. More details coming soon from [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id).

## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Here is this week's article explaining and giving information on the subject. **TURKEY Number 25 in the WORLD WATCH LIST**



## 25. TURKEY

How many Christians are there in Turkey?  
There are just 171,000 Christians in Turkey. The country's population is 83.8 million and the majority are Muslim.

### How are Christians persecuted in Turkey?

In Turkey, religious nationalism is very strong and growing, putting enormous pressure on Christians. The atmosphere of increasing nationalism leaves precious little room for anyone to proclaim a different message, and Christians must take great

care in sharing their faith with others, as it can arouse suspicion.

Converting to Christianity from Islam is not illegal but converts are likely to face opposition from their family and the local community. The dangers mean some believers hide their conversion.

Christians have limited access to state employment, and experience discrimination in the private sector, especially where employers have ties to the government. Since religious affiliation is still recorded on old identity cards and the electronic chip of new identity cards, it is easy to discriminate against Christian applicants.

Meet Hans-Jurgen Louven

*“The only reason I can think of [for forcing me to leave] is that we are people of faith, and at times we have shared our faith with the local people.”*

What’s life like for Christians in Turkey?

Without warning, the Turkish government notified Hans-Jurgen Louven - who has worked for two decades in the tourism sector - that his routine application to renew his residency visa had been denied. He was then ordered to leave Turkey - where he owns property and planned to stay for the rest of his life - within 10 days.

The notice from the Migration Bureau of the Turkish Ministry of Interior (MOI) gave the tour agent no explanation for the cancellation of his long-term visa in Mugla province. Although 15 specific reasons for refusal listed on the form were left blank, only one item was checked: ‘Other Reasons’. But there were no further details.

This is not an isolated case. According to the Association of Protestant Churches, since January 2019 almost 60 foreign na-

tionals - many working in Turkey as pastors or community leaders - have been told to leave or have not been allowed to re-enter the country.

Is it getting harder to be a Christian in Turkey?

Yes. Turkey has jumped 11 places since last year’s World Watch List, reflecting the increasing and stifling impact of religious nationalism on Christianity and a clear increase in reported violence.

The repurposing of two historic churches from museums to mosques last summer - including the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul - reinforced growing nervousness among Christians over the Islamic and nationalistic direction in which the country is moving.

There is growing fear among Christians, with some younger believers considering leaving the country and moving to the West. There is even evidence to suggest that younger people generally in Turkey are refusing to buy into the pervading religious nationalism.

How can I help Christians in Turkey?

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Turkey. Your gifts and prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

**PLEASE PRAY**

Dear God, help Your children as they seek to proclaim the gospel in a stifling and suspicious atmosphere. Grant them wisdom, discernment and boldness. Give foreign Christians favour in residency applications, and may those forced to leave know the assurance of Your love and provision. Strengthen and sustain all converts under pressure for following You. Change the atmosphere in Turkey. 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 2 SAMUEL 7:22

*How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.*

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

"I am Yahweh, who saved you out of Egypt. You must never have any other god but me!" The Lord God Almighty said at the beginning of the Ten Commandments. What else is there to say?

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

Holy, Righteous, and Only Living God, I hold you in the highest place in my heart. Forgive me when I do not hold you in the highest place in my life. Empower me with your Holy Spirit to give up all the little things that distract my allegiance to you and interfere with you being the Supreme and Sovereign God in my day-to-day life. In Jesus name. Amen.

### TUESDAY--PSALMS 19:14

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

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

God does so much for us. He is the strength and promise that undergirds our lives. He is the one who has saved us from sin and death. Our worship comes from our gratitude for what he has done and recognition of who he is. But worship can never be compartmentalized and fit into church places or quiet times. Worship involves every aspect of life. That is why it is so important for us to tune the words

of our mouths and the motives of our hearts to God's will and work. Then private worship, whether alone in quiet or in a group of Christians, becomes the tuning time for our hearts and lives so that our public worship, our lives lived out in the world, will play the song of God to a world who has not yet really heard it.

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

O Holy and Almighty God, I want this day to be a day of worship and honour to you. May my life praise you: not just in thought, not just in words, but also in action. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY--PSALMS 25:14-15

*The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare.*

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

Where does true deliverance come from? Only from God. Salvation is found in God through deep reverential respect for his holiness and might, through living in covenant relationship with him, and through maintaining our focus on him. Any other roads to salvation and deliverance are false and ultimately prove themselves to be a snare.

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

Precious Father, you have done so much to save me. You who are so holy and righteous have reached down to take my hand. Teach me your ways. Correct the wrongs in my life. Guide me into your truth. I want to not only be saved from my sin, but from days of uselessness and frustration. Make me a vessel that can be used to honour you. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

### THURSDAY --PSALMS 27:14

*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

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

If there is anything we don't like to do, it's wait. Maybe that is why God is so interested in us learning to do it! There is something purifying about remaining strong in tough times and remaining faithful when ill winds blow. So God

gives us times of waiting to see if our search is really for him or merely for something new.

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

Loving Father, I know you have waited for me so many times -- for me to show my faith, repent of my sins, grow in holiness, come to you in prayer, act more mature, give to those who cannot return my care...Help me as I wait for you to show me the way with my decisions, to meet my needs, and reveal your presence in my loneliness. I really do seek you with all my heart. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

#### **FRIDAY--PSALMS 37:4**

*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

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

Rather than seeing this as a way to get our wish list granted, let's see it for what it really is -- an invitation to seek a love relationship with God above all other things. In finding him, we will find our priorities properly aligned and our hearts tuned to know what is really valuable and what is not. Then we will see that what we have in him is our heart's greatest desire.

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

Awesome and Gracious Father, I confess to you that so often my heart is full of selfish things. But in moments like these, Father, I recognize that you are what I most need and your will is my heart's desire. Please kindle your Spirit in me so that I may see through any selfish, deception that would rob me of having you first in my life. Forgive me when I'm petty, selfish and shallow. May I know you as much as is possible for a mortal to know you, not so that I may be full, but that you may be honoured. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

#### **SATURDAY--PSALMS 51:12**

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

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

In the face of sin and separation from God, grace is a refreshing stream that restores salvation. But the joy of salvation is found only when we realize and accept the forgiveness, grace, and restoration God has given us --

when we drink from the stream of grace. The joy of salvation is sustained in a changed lifestyle and an ongoing recognition that we walk with God.

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

Holy and Righteous Father, I long for the outbreak of the joy of salvation like I see in the Book of Acts. I pray for your Spirit to lead us into another era of outreach, conversion, and celebration. I pray for wisdom to know and eyes to see those around me who are most open to the Gospel. I want to be a partner with you in your ongoing work of salvation. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

#### **SUNDAY --PSALMS 40:8**

*I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.*

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

Too many of us are paranoid about the word law and find it hard to hear a scripture like this. But we must recognize that the goal of the New Covenant of grace and Spirit is that God's law is written on our hearts, not on tablets of stone. Jeremiah prophesied of such a day. The focus, desiring to do God's will -- a passion to love the things our Father loves and despise the things he despises.

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

Abba Father, I do want to do your will. I want to please you, glorify you, and lead others to you. Give me spiritual discernment to know your will and spiritual courage to do it today. I want your character and righteousness to inform my heart when I am tempted not to live for you. Gently humble me when I am wrong or have lost my way. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.



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