



## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020: Worship at Home

Welcome to this week's edition.

If you can get online join us

Sunday 10.30am	Sunday Worship
Sunday 12 noon	Youth Zoom (11+)
Sunday 4pm	Kidz Club (5 -12 years)
Tuesday 7pm	Bible study this evening
Wednesday 7pm	NO Quiz night this evening
Saturday 4pm	Merge -Youth Zoom (14 years plus)

Call Carl on 07900497326 or email [carl.whitewood@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:carl.whitewood@salvationarmy.org.uk) for the ZOOM information. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>.

And you can **ring into Zoom by phone!** If you ring 02034815240, followed by 8651865167# then you will hear the meeting! Calls charged at normal UK rate.



Would you like to ZOOM?

We will soon have some mini computers (tablets with internet) available for loan – ask Carl



Commissioner Anthony Cotterill speaks this week about going forward

So, may we all ask the question: "Lord, what do you require of us? What do you require me? What is it Lord that you want me to be and then what do you want me to do?" And I ask the question: "Lord, what do you require of us, The Salvation Army in these days?" And as we look forward and we step forward into this next accelerated chapter of history that God is inviting us to walk with him. May you and may I and may we have the courage to obediently step forward with him day by day for the glory of God, for the service of our people who are in our communities as we stand with them and as we live out the Jesus life.

So, have a good week, keep stepping forward. Even though we can't sing together may we know the joy of the Holy Spirit working through us, for his praise and his glory. the Holy Spirit helping us thrive, being authentic (not behind a mask) and living out the Jesus life.

Watch on YouTube <https://youtube/ZL3qujguEn0>  
or Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/428148164>



Listen again to your favourite Salvation Army melodies on Fortress Radio. **Every day** from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm we broadcast Salvation Army.

Check out the schedules for more details.

<https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>

**Maggie** is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.



### **Sunday on the BBC:**

#### **Sunday Worship – Radio 4 – 8.10am**

Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrates Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi live from Westminster Cathedral.

#### **Sunday Worship – BBC 1 – 10.45am**

A service for the First Sunday after Trinity from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester, led by Sarah Bradley, youth and children’s minister.

#### **Songs of Praise – BBC 1 – 13.15**

Aled Jones is in Pains Hill Park in Surrey, looking back at stories of people who find spiritual inspiration in the great outdoors.

### **Birthdays**

Firstly, sorry to **Doreen** whose birthday we missed yesterday Friday 12<sup>th</sup>  
We promise not to miss it again!

Peter Ford	17-June
Alan Barrett	18-June
Frances Pointer	20-June

Prayers please for

Val, Maurice, and Brenda , sister of Maurice, Maggie, Joyce and those supporting bereaved friends and colleagues.

Pray for Kidz Club – that those who have not joined soon will

## **Places of worship will be allowed to open for private individual prayer under government plans announced this week.**

If you want to read the plans they are here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic#section4>

Our understanding is as follows

One person – or one family who live together may come into the hall to pray. Others may also enter at the same time but must be distanced.

We (Carl or Heather) are not allowed to lead these prayers and we should avoid providing prayer materials that will be touched and re touched by successive people. We are not permitted to offer food and drink as part of the prayers.

There can be no singing (or playing brass instruments!)

So this is what we plan to do

The hall will be open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday between 10 am and 12 noon (other times by arrangement)

Please call or text to let us know you are coming (where necessary we may ask you to delay your visit to stop overcrowding)

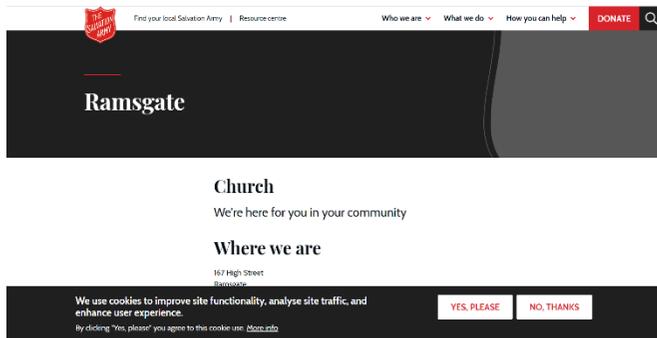
Tables and chairs will be placed around the hall to ensure distancing

Prayer material will be available at each station – which you can use and then take away.

If you are in the high risk (shielded group) please talk to us before you plan to come and we will do our best to minimise contact risk.

Any question please call or text Carl on 07900497326

# NEW WEB SITE



You may have seen that the Salvation Army have created a new format for each Corps' web site.

We are still trying to get to grips with the new design tools. We have not yet been able to upload any of our current information about our activities during Covid, how to give to the food bank, how to receive help....So watch this space.

## The Christian faith of George Floyd. By: Heather Tomlinson



The death of George Floyd has sparked worldwide protests, and led to many vowing to change their attitudes and actions on racism. But who

was George Floyd? How did he come to faith? And how should we remember him?

George Floyd's death is infamous, and as a result, his history and character are being both eulogised and demonised as he becomes a target of the ugly culture war that is engulfing the West.

While much of the media reporting is now focusing on the mass protests, removing of statues and heated debates on social media, we must not overlook or forget his life. George Floyd's personal story is one of faith, of trying to escape the lifestyle of drugs and crime that surrounded him, and working to improve his community.

Floyd was closely involved in a church in Houston and friends have spoken of his deep spirituality and his concern for the people around him who were involved in violence. He warns in one video: "One day it's going to be you and God...You going up, or you going down?" In another he urges his community: "I've got my shortcomings and my flaws and I ain't better than anybody else. But these shootings going on, man, I don't care what hood you from, man, where you at, man... put them guns down."

He grew up in the tough 'Third Ward' neighbourhood in Houston, Texas. "People are still living in shot-gun shacks that were erected in the 1920s," rapper Ronnie Lillard told the BBC. "The poverty is thorough...and being from that area, it's hard to escape."

Floyd has been described as a 'gentle giant' who played sport and had big hopes for the future.

Getting involved in the trouble that surrounded him meant he was convicted of several drugs offences before he spent five years in prison for armed robbery. But this sentence prompted a change of heart.

Following his release, he got involved with Resurrection Houston, a church in the area. Its website describes a focus on making disciples in the region, as well as a heart for social justice. “George Floyd was a person of peace sent from the Lord that helped the gospel go forward in a place that I never lived in,” said Patrick PT Ngwolo, pastor of the church, according to the US-based Christian magazine Christianity Today. And the change in lifestyle inspired others around him. “His faith was a heart for the Third Ward that was radically changed by the gospel, and his mission was empowering other believers to be able to come in and push that gospel forth,” Nijalon Dunn said.

He also acted as a gateway for the church to reach out to the community. “He said, ‘I love what you’re [the church] doing. The neighbourhood need it, the community need it, and if y’all about God’s business, then that’s my business,’” Corey Paul Davis, a Christian hip-hop artist who attended the church, told Christianity Today.

Floyd’s death at the hands of Minneapolis policemen was caught on multiple video cameras, which showed he was not violent or out of control, or behaving in a way that warranted intensive restraint. He repeatedly told the policemen holding him down, “I can’t breathe.”

His story highlights his love and concern for others, the difficulties of his community and the challenges of a person coming to faith who has a drug dependency.

Many are now hoping his death will bring about lasting change. As Clorisa Curtis said at his memorial yesterday, “I think everything that’s going on right now is powerful. I never seen us as a culture come together let alone multiple cultures coming together so I think right there shows a lot on what change is coming.”

# Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Made for each other

## Genesis 2:18–24

“I take care of him. When he’s happy, I’m happy,” says Stella. Merle replies, “I’m happy when she’s around.” Merle and Stella have been married for 79 years. When Merle was recently admitted to a nursing home, he was miserable—so Stella gladly brought him home. He’s 101, and she’s 95. Though she needs a walker to get around, she lovingly does what she can for her husband, such as preparing the food he likes. But she couldn’t do it on her own. Grandchildren and neighbours help with the things Stella can’t manage.

Stella and Merle’s life together is an example of Genesis 2, where God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” (v. 18). None of the creatures God brought before Adam fit that description. Only in Eve, made from the rib of Adam, did Adam find a suitable helper and companion (vv. 19–24).

Eve was the perfect companion for Adam, and through them God instituted marriage. This wasn’t only for the mutual aid of individuals but also to begin a family and to care for creation, which includes other people (1:28). From that first family came a community so that, whether married or single, old or young, none of us would be alone. As a community, God has given us the privilege of sharing “each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

## Reflect & Pray

How is it helpful to know that no matter our marital status, as believers in Jesus we’re never alone? How have you seen the body of Christ in action?

*Dear God, thank You for creating man and woman for each other and for instituting community so that none of us are truly alone.*

# Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June How to Rebuild.

## Nehemiah 2:11–18

It was night time when the leader set out by horseback to inspect the work that lay ahead. As he toured the destruction all around him, he saw city walls that had been destroyed and gates that had been burned. In some areas, the vast debris made it tough for his horse to get through. Saddened, the rider turned toward home.

When it came time to report the damage to the officials of the city, he began by saying, “You see the trouble we are in” (Nehemiah 2:17). He reported that the city was in ruins, and the protecting city wall had been rendered useless.

But then he made a statement that energized the troubled citizens: “I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me.” Immediately, the people replied, “Let us start rebuilding” (v. 18). And they did.

With faith in God and all-out effort, despite enemy opposition and a seemingly impossible task, the people of Jerusalem—under Nehemiah’s leadership—rebuilt the wall in just fifty-two days (6:15).

As you consider your circumstances, is there something that looks difficult but that you know God wants you to do? A sin you can’t seem to get rid of? A relationship rift that’s not God-honouring? A task for Him that looks too hard?

Ask God for guidance (2:4–5), analyse the problem (vv. 11–15), and recognize His involvement (v. 18). Then start rebuilding.

## Reflect & Pray

What are a couple of “destroyed wall” situations that are troubling you? How will prayerfully asking for God’s help and guidance help you start the rebuilding process?

*God, I need Your help. I can’t fix these problems alone. Help me to understand the situation, and then to seek Your help and guidance in resolving the challenges before me.*

# Tuesday 16th June. Just-in-Case Idols

## Jeremiah 11:9–13

Sam checks his retirement account twice each day. He saved for thirty years, and with the boost of a rising stock market, finally has enough to retire. As long as stocks don't plunge. This fear keeps Sam worrying about his balance.

Jeremiah warned about this: "You, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns; and the altars you have set up to burn incense to that shameful god Baal are as many as the streets of Jerusalem" (11:13).

Judah's idolatry is remarkable. They knew the Lord was God. How could they worship anyone else? They were hedging their bets. They needed the Lord for the afterlife, because only the true God could raise them from the dead. But what about now? Pagan gods promised health, wealth, and fertility, so why not pray to them too, just in case?

Can you see how Judah's idolatry is also our temptation? It's good to have talent, education, and money. But if we're not careful, we might shift our confidence to them. We know we'll need God when we die, and we'll ask Him to bless us now. But we'll also lean on these lesser gods, just in case.

Where is your trust? Back-up idols are still idols. Thank God for His many gifts, and tell Him you're not relying on any of them. Your faith is riding entirely on Him.

## Reflect & Pray

What good thing are you tempted to turn into an idol? How might you use this gift while still depending fully on God?

*Father, all my hope is in You. Help me trust in You alone, not in my abilities and assets.*

# Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June Dancing Before the Lord .

## Mark 14:1–9

A number of years ago, my wife and I visited a small church where during the worship service a woman began to dance in the aisle. She was soon joined by others. Carolyn and I looked at each other and an unspoken agreement passed between us: “Not me!” We come from church traditions that favour a serious liturgy, and this other form of worship was well beyond our comfort zone.

But if Mark’s story of Mary’s “waste” means anything at all, it suggests that our love for Jesus may express itself in ways that others find uncomfortable (Mark 14:1–9). A year’s wages were involved in Mary’s anointing. It was an “unwise” act that invited the disciples’ scorn. The word Mark uses to describe their reaction means “to snort” and suggests disdain and mockery. Mary may have cringed, fearing Jesus’ response. But He commended her for her act of devotion and defended her against His own disciples, for Jesus saw the love that prompted her action despite what some would consider the impractical nature of it. He said, “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me” (v. 6).

Different forms of worship—informal, formal, quiet, exuberant—represent a sincere outpouring of love for Jesus. He’s worthy of all worship that comes from a heart of love.

## Reflect & Pray

Why do you think we’re critical of unfamiliar forms of worship? How can we change our thoughts about a form of worship that’s outside our comfort zone?

*I bow before You, Almighty God, and worship You now. You’re worthy of the highest praise and adoration.*

# Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Straight Ahead

## 2 Kings 22:1–2, 8–13

It used to take the steady eye and the firm hand of a farmer to drive a tractor or combine down straight rows. But even the best eyes would overlap rows, and by end of day even the strongest hands would be fatigued. But now there's autosteer—a GPS-based technology that allows for accuracy to within one inch when planting, cultivating, and spraying. It's incredibly efficient and hands-free. Just imagine sitting in a mammoth combine and instead of gripping the wheel, you're gripping a roast beef sandwich. An amazing tool to keep you moving straight ahead.

You may recall the name Josiah. He was crowned king when he was only “eight years old” (2 Kings 22:1). Years later, in his mid-twenties, Hilkiah the high priest found “the Book of the Law” in the temple (v. 8). It was then read to the young king, who tore his robes in sorrow due to his ancestors' disobedience to God. Josiah set about to do what was “right in the eyes of the Lord” (v. 2). The book became a tool to steer the people so there would be no turning to the right or left. God's instructions were there to set things straight.

Allowing the Scriptures to guide us day by day keeps our lives in line with knowing God and His will. The Bible is an amazing tool that, if followed, keeps us moving straight ahead.

## Reflect & Pray

How is Bible reading a part of your daily routine? What Scriptures has God been using to keep your life on track?

*God, the Scriptures are a gift that brings truth and freedom to our lives. Help me to hunger and thirst for Your words.*

# Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Life to the Full

## John 10:7–11

Seventeenth-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes famously wrote that human life in its natural state is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” Hobbes argued that our instincts tend toward war in a bid to attain dominance over others; thus the establishment of government would be necessary to maintain law and order.

The bleak view of humanity sounds like the state of affairs that Jesus described when He said, “All who have come before me are thieves and robbers” (John 10:8). But Jesus offers hope in the midst of despair. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy,” but then the good news: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (v. 10).

Psalms 23 paints a refreshing portrait of the life our Shepherd gives us. In Him, we “lack nothing” (v. 1) and are refreshed (v. 3). He leads us down the right paths of His perfect will, so that even when we face dark times, we need not be afraid; for He is present to comfort us (vv. 3–4). He causes us to triumph in the face of adversity and overwhelms us with blessings (v. 5). His goodness and love follow us every day, and we have the privilege of His presence forever (v. 6).

May we answer the Shepherd’s call and experience the full, abundant life He came to give us.

## Reflect & Pray

How would you describe the life that Jesus came to give? How can you share this life with others?

*Jesus, You’re the source of true life, abundant and full. Help me seek my fulfilment only in You.*

# Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Is God There?

## Isaiah 8:16–18

Lela was dying of cancer, and her husband, Timothy, couldn't understand why a loving God would let his wife suffer. She had served Him faithfully as a Bible teacher and mentor to many. "Why did You let this happen?" he cried. Yet Timothy continued to be faithful in his walk with God.

"So why do you still believe in God?" I asked him frankly. "What keeps you from turning away from Him?"

"Because of what has happened before," Timothy replied. While he couldn't "see" God now, he recalled the times when God had helped and protected him. These were signs that God was still there caring for his family. "I know the God I believe in will come through in His own way," he said.

Timothy's words echo Isaiah's expression of trust in Isaiah 8:17. Even when he couldn't feel God's presence as his people braced for trouble from their enemies, he would "wait for the Lord." He trusted in God because of the signs He'd given of His continuing presence (v. 18).

There are times when we might feel as if God isn't with us in our troubles. That's when we depend on what we can see of His works in our lives, in the past and present. They're the visible reminder of an invisible God—a God who is always with us and will answer in His own time and way.

## Reflect & Pray

What signs can you see of God working in your life? How can they remind you that you can still look to Him for hope and comfort?

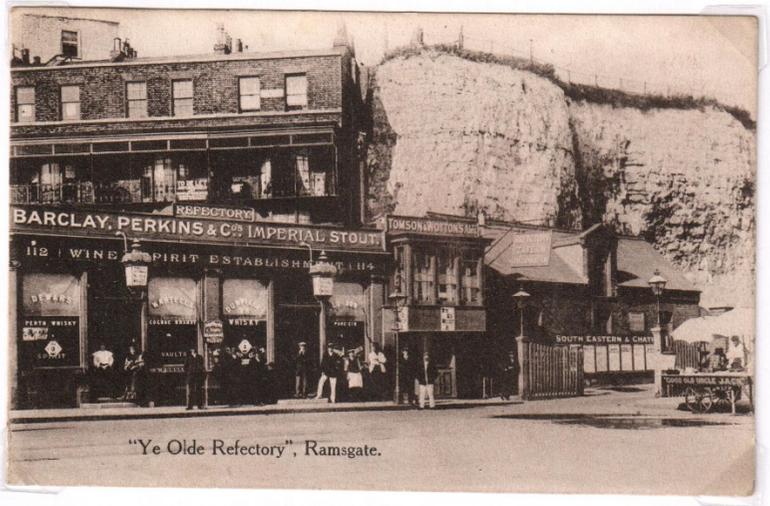
*Father, thank You for always being there for me. Give me the strength to trust in You even when I don't understand what's going on.*

KENT TERRACE

Kent Terrace, built in 1833. Once known as Victoria Place. The cafe in front is the Victoria Dining Rooms, next to it is Barns Saloon and the Harp which was one of the first singing rooms in the country.



"YE OLDE REFECTORY."



Who knows what a "singing room is"?

## **From Major John      INTO THE PRESENCE**

How do I come into your presence, Lord?

Not hurriedly – in quietness it must be,  
Not with presumption, although your word  
Has counselled boldness in my liberty.

I come, reflecting on your love and grace,  
My heart responding to your willingness  
To grant a sinful soul a cherished place  
Where power and love and mercy heal and bless.

And as I come, I feel you draw me near,  
For in such tender mercy, you are here.

Amen

HR

To be in your presence,  
To sit at your feet,  
Where your love surrounds me  
And makes me complete.

This is my desire, O Lord,  
This is my desire.

To rest in your presence

Not rushing away;

To cherish each moment,

Here I would stay.

SASB 345 Noel Richards

### Time to Smile

A man had a problem getting up for work in the mornings and was frequently reprimanded for being late. It got so bad he went to see the doctor who gave him a pill to take at bedtime. After taking the pill, the man slept soundly, and woke up refreshed had a leisurely breakfast and went into work. "Hi, I feel great" he told his boss. "I think all my timekeeping problems are a thing of the past." "Terrific," said his boss. "But where were you yesterday?"

A nap in the middle of the day can do you good. If you wake up in your pyjamas – its morning. If you are in your clothes – it's time for tea. Thora Hird

- To what do you attribute your long life?

- To the fact that I haven't died yet. Malcolm Sargent

The late Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Runcie had a great sense of humour. He would undoubtedly have appreciated a report of his funeral in a national newspaper, which reported, "His mother was a hairdresser and his roots were very important to him."

### The Shipping Forecast?

We have so many places to buy groceries these days Radio 4 dedicated a programme to it. It goes something like -Tesco, good occasionally busy later. Sainsburys, moderate to good, sale on cornflakes. Asda, slight to moderate, heavy crowds in the evening. Marks & Spencer, fair. Co-op very fair. Waitrose,

fair to moderate, spillage in aisle five. Lidl, rough early on, moderate to good later.

They call it the Shopping Forecast.

For Keith,

The big brass musical instrument was broken. They repaired it with a tuba glue.

## QUIZ

- 1.Which Cornish village claims to be the birthplace of King Arthur?
- 2.Who was jilted on her wedding day in 'Great expectations'?
- 3.What time is it that Wee Willie Winkie runs through the town?
- 4.Who founded the Jesuits?
- 5.What bird is associated with Lundy Island?

## WORLD TOUR

- 1.Which Canadian Island has Victoria as its capital?
- 2.Which US State is known as the Lone Star State?
- 3.How do the Argentinians refer to the Falkland Isles?
- 4.Fuerteventura is in which Island group?
- 5.How is Byzantium and Constantinople now known?

What is the only English anagram of LIONESSES?

<p><b>ANSWERS</b></p> <p><b>QUIZ</b></p> <p>1.Tintagel 2.Miss Havisham 3.Past 8 o'clock 4.Ignatius Loyola 5.Puffin</p> <p><b>World Tour</b></p> <p>1.Vancouver 2.Texas 3.Las Malvinas 4.Canaries 5.Istanbul</p> <p>The only English anagram of LIONESSES - <b>NOISELESS</b></p>
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## Our Service

This week's pose from your officer is with the fire brigade.



I wonder who it will be next week?

Of course, it is a privilege that we are seeing so many come to help, and it is humbling that we can support in many ways.

But this is the challenge – the way that we are doing church has changed radically over the last 3 months. Think back to when we met on Sundays – or for that matter for every other event where we gathered in the hall.

I think that every week we saw at least one new person come into our hall – and we had the opportunity to greet them and to invite them to return. Come to lunch club, come to Kids club, come to bible study, come to Sunday worship, come to Alpha. And thank God, this happened – people came and continued to come.

But what now? What should we do?

If you listened to Lection365 you may have been challenged as I was.

The bible verse was from Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. ***And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.***

The Lord ***added to their number daily***. Now, that is a challenge! When was the last time I saw someone meet Jesus and come into the life of the Church? Has Covid stopped God's work among us. NO, again I write NO. But what we do needs to be different.

I once heard a story of a church leader who told God that he would leave his church unless he saw people being saved and added to the family of God every week. That year he saw 67 come to new life in Jesus, the next year, 84, and the year after that, 104.

Desperation birthed prayer and a lifestyle of focused intention on mission. It bore fruit, and continues to do so to this day.

Are we ***desperate*** to see people come to faith? Are we still a ***Salvation Army***?

Please ask God to challenge you this week.



**This week** we continue our feature from a guest contributor. We are looking for 600 words. A testimony, a poem, a reminiscence, a comment, a dream or vision, a prayer.....Ben Anderson shares this week.....

Anyone reading the “War Cry” or “Young Soldier” in the mid-1900s would no doubt have noticed articles and stories written by David Hester popping up from time to time. This was my father, an officer in the Salvation Army. So from an early age I, too, was encouraged to put pen to paper – not that anything I wrote ever appeared in any of the Army papers! I did earn a prize once, though. When I was about nine years old my headmaster spotted an essay I had written about my dad, entitled “The Fresh Air Fiend”. He made me read it out in Assembly and gave me sixpence, and I rushed home to show it to my mum and dad. Then I wished I hadn’t, because Dad promptly wrapped it in tissue paper and put it inside the clock on our mantel-piece – the one which played “Nearer, my God, to Thee” on the hour, every hour. I never did get to spend that sixpence.

Many years later I enrolled on a Creative Writing course run by Thanet College, which taught me a lot. When it ended, several of my fellow students formed a writers’ circle, meeting once a fortnight. We were expected to bring something we had written each time we met, and had to be prepared to have it critiqued. Quite fiercely, as it turned out! They didn’t pull any punches. But, I told myself, that’s how you learn, isn’t it? My problem was, whatever could I write about?

The accepted thinking for beginners is to write about what you know, but I didn’t really think I knew much about anything that might be of any interest, until my thoughts turned to my upbringing as an officers’ daughter in the days when the Army’s word was law. And so “A Child of the Regiment” was born. And grew. To me, born and bred in the Army, it was astonishing to realise that most of the members of our group knew nothing about the Movement and the kind of life we led in those days. They were fascinated, and if I turned up without “the next thrilling instalment” woe betide!

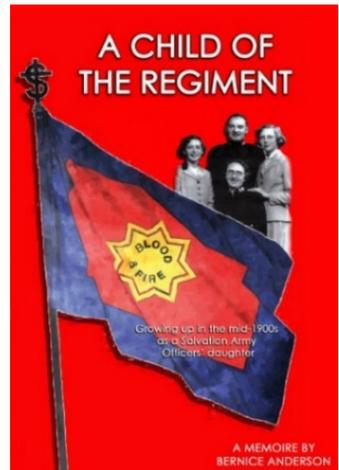
At last I finished the book. My husband Dennis was a bit peeved that he only appeared in the last chapter, but I told him that once we had met I no longer thought of myself as a child, so it had to finish there. Then I was urged to publish it, so I prepared it for printing. To my surprise, the printer I found, in Wellingborough, happened to be situated in the same road as the Salvationist Publishing and Supplies depot, so someone at SP&S was able to pop along to the printers to replenish their stock as necessary. I also advertised in “Salvationist”. Expensive!

Then I had the book formatted for sale on the Amazon Kindle Store, so people could read it on their tablets. I was overwhelmed by the reviews.

I was delighted to hear that there were people who recognised friends in the narrative with whom they had lost touch, and happily they were able to renew their acquaintance.

It was even suggested by some well-seasoned officers, who could personally relate to our experiences, that the book should be on the suggested reading list for cadets in the Training College!

“A Child of the Regiment” is based on the life of our family and how we managed to cope and keep smiling. The following excerpt is set on Guernsey, shortly after the German occupation. I would have been five years old, and my sister Pearl, three.



### **GENERAL ORSBORN'S VISIT TO ST. PETER PORT, GUERNSEY**

(slightly abridged)

Our parents were heavily involved with the Red Cross in rehabilitating the islanders in the wake of the German Occupation, and word had reached International Headquarters. Mum and Dad were notified that the General of the Salvation Army, Albert Orsborn, would like to come to Guernsey for a week to see for himself what was going on. Dad was to arrange everything.

‘Dave!’ exclaimed my mother in some panic, ‘does that mean that the General will be coming here?’

‘I expect so, Evie,’ said Dad. ‘What’s the problem? You can cope with a general.’

‘The kitchen you built! You didn’t get permission and the DC doesn’t even know it exists!’

Army protocol demanded that the Divisional Commander accompany the General and his entourage on such visits, so he would be bound to notice the magical appearance of a new kitchen for which Dad, whom he already considered headstrong and with whom he’d had a few tussles, had not sought permission.

After some prayerful debate Mum and Dad decided to leave that one with the Lord and worry about it later if they had to.

So Dad contacted the Bailiff, who said he would be delighted to accommodate the General and some of his entourage and offered to hold a reception at Government House. The Harbour-Master agreed to have the harbour floodlit for his arrival (at six in the morning) and Dad arranged for the bands from the two other Army corps on the island, L'Islet and St. Sampsons, to join our band on the quay-side to play him in.

Mum gave Pearl and me a pep-talk. We knew about General Orsborn: we were always being told that we had to wipe our feet and not scratch the polished table and refrain from scribbling on the wallpaper, because "it belongs to the General". Mum reminded us to be polite and say "please" and "thank you" and "excuse me".

The great day arrived. It was too early in the morning for Pearl and me to go to the harbour, so we had to wait until Dad brought the General home before we could meet him. We wore white voile dresses which Mum had made for us. She had spent hours sitting by the window to get the best light for embroidering them with multi-coloured smocking and they really were very pretty. Pearl wore the new red shoes for which she had clamoured for her birthday and we had enormous bows of ribbon in our hair. We were the perfect picture of dutiful officers' daughters, Children of the Regiment, and we were very excited.

When Dad led the General and his aides up the steps to our quarters, Pearl and I stood behind Mum as she opened the door. She took them inside and we were ushered forward to meet the great man. I obediently followed Mum's instructions to the letter, smiling shyly and holding out my hand. He enveloped it in his own, beaming benevolently and asking my name.

'Bernice. That's an unusual name. A good name. It means "Bringer of Victory". (As if I didn't already know that. It had been drummed into me from the day I was dedicated.) He nodded in Pearl's direction.

'And what is your little sister called?'

Before I could answer, Pearl took a step forward, put her hands on her hips, tilted her head to one side and said, 'Hello, General! I'm Pearl. I'm free and a half and I hope you like the way we've looked after your old furniture!' She beamed happily, glad to have got all that off her chest.

The General looked round at the furniture. Although the soft furnishings were all well-scrubbed and the wood was as highly polished as elbow-grease could make it, he could not help but notice its faded antiquity. He looked back at

Pearl. ‘Please don’t blame me for everything, Pearl,’ he smiled. ‘But yes, you have looked after the furniture very well. Thank you.’

He turned back to Mum, and was about to speak, but Pearl hadn’t quite finished.

‘Please, thank you, and excuse me!’ she announced, then she turned sharply on her scarlet heels so as to make the skirt of her new dress flare out, and bounced out of the room.

Fortunately the General knew all about small children and had a good laugh when Mum told him how we had been primed.

As for the new kitchen, Mum, encouraged by his friendly manner, and obviously deciding that attack was the best form of defence, took the bull by the horns and asked if he would like to be shown round the house. She started in the cellar, explaining, ‘the kitchen used to be down here, but my husband felt it was too gloomy and dangerous, so he built me a new kitchen upstairs from things he’d salvaged. Would you like to come and see it?’

General Orsborn went and saw. Then he asked Dad all about it and congratulated him, in front of the DC, on his initiative and expertise and on managing to do the job at such little expense. Somehow, without quite perjuring himself, Dad managed to convey the idea that the work had been approved by Headquarters. The General turned a look of approbation on the D.C.

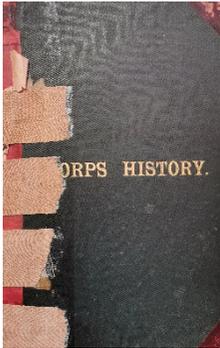
‘I’m pleased to see you’re looking after your officers, Colonel.’ Dad beamed. The DC smiled without the smile quite reaching his eyes. We heard no more about it, but I am sure that, like the Virgin Mary when she was visited by the angel, the DC “kept these things and pondered them in his heart”.

Carl writes

Ben – thank you so much for this. We look forward to further contributions in the weeks to come.

## Ecclesiastes 3: A Time for Everything

G N I H T Y R E V E R O F E M I T F  
E N N P S K R Y N L G I T N R U O M  
P P R I T Y N W T H R O W A W A Y S  
P C D F J Y M I W U P O V H M U E K  
E Y T I V I T C A Y R E V E C R Y T  
Z Z R U E C A R B M E T A H Z M W Q  
T X P E T O O R P U D B X H W C D S  
E D L Y C N K I S L H D P E E K G N  
A Q Y J P N R E H T A G Z D L L I K  
R S R A W E A O F S K N P M L P V R  
D E X O V N E D B M N K T Q R I E M  
O A G R I K Q W N M F L A S C S U J  
W R E F R A I N P E A C E E M Z P B  
N C K H D V H T Z W M E D A P M G G  
U H F L Y E D Y C N R K V S O S B T  
M U Y R S C A T T E R S T O N E S V  
L A U G H G Z W Q T D B V N L A E H  
F M S I L E N T K Q I D D Y Q G R E



This week, I found many pieces that would have interested us all. However, one piece spoke out to me and so I thought I should share it with you all, dear readers.

The event (or events) took place on 18th and 19th November 1933, and the Corps leaders, were at this time Major and Mrs Aves. We had a visit from the Salvation Army's Chief of Staff (Commissioner H Mapp) who was accompanied by Colonel E Smith, Many officers and high-ranking Salvation Army officers came to Ramsgate for this event, which began with an informal meeting of officers on the 18th November. Tea was served, and all were happy and the meeting itself was "a splendid prelude", which was followed up with a fine soldiers meeting. The whole of our hall in Ramsgate was "nearly full", so I can only imagine what was spoken about, what issues were raised, and how many suggestions were given. The following morning, Sunday 19th November, a Holiness Meeting was held which drew another "fine crowd". I can again only imagine how joyous and excitable the Sunday worship was on that morning!

The Sunday afternoon brought a lecture on The Salvation Army by the Commissioner Mapp, and the subject of the lecture was "The Secret of It's Success". This lecture in particular was evidently a good one because our town mayor in 1933 came to listen... and sat in the seat of honour (otherwise known as the "Chair). In reading this particular entry I noted many names written down, including a gentleman named E.E. Dye, who was supported by the Ramsgate Corporation as well as numerous ladies and gentlemen, as well as local ministers. Again, the hall was full and the gallery was very well used.

The nightly meeting on the 19th November saw our largest crowd yet; whilst not stated, I imagine from this comment there was not a seat to be had! Also glorious in this paragraph are the words "Praise God! We Finished with 49 Seekers for the weekend". 49 Souls who, after hearing the Commissioner speak, came to seek and know God and develop love for Him in their hearts.

Our thanks to Hollie again for compiling this **Worship at Home:**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
(With huge thanks to Lieutenant Rachel Hepburn)

**A call to worship**

From the comfort of our homes we gather to worship.  
Whether through printed word, or through the gift of technology  
we are a community.  
Here we seek connection to the Divine.  
Come, let us worship God,  
shown to us through the risen Christ.

**I rejoice that God is in charge of time and the seasons by reading aloud  
ancient words of praise from Psalm 104**

'Praise the Lord, my soul.  
Lord my God, you are very great;  
you are clothed with splendour and majesty.

He set the earth on its foundations;  
it can never be moved.

He made the moon to mark the seasons,  
and the sun knows when to go down.  
You bring darkness, it becomes night,  
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.  
The lions roar for their prey  
and seek their food from God.  
The sun rises, and they steal away;  
they return and lie down in their dens.  
Then people go out to their work,  
to their labour until evening.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.  
May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
as I rejoice in the Lord.'

V1, 5, 19-23, 31-34

### **Sing or Read Song 892 (Tune 492)**

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

## A question of timing

*What have you spent more time on since lockdown started?*

*What have you spent less time doing?*

The Office for National Statistics has collected some data on this, and compared minutes spent on activities in March and April of this year, to March and April in 2014-5.

Unsurprisingly, the average adult is spending 1 hour and 6 minutes less a day either commuting or using transport in general.

Instead, the average adult spent 44 more minutes a day on entertainment or free time activities. Currently, the average adult watches 2 hours and 53 minutes of TV or streaming videos, 28 minutes a day reading and 16 minutes a day contacting friends or family on the phone. There was also a substantial increase in the time spent gardening and doing DIY by 147% to 39 minutes a day, and on average we spent an extra 18 minutes sleeping or resting.

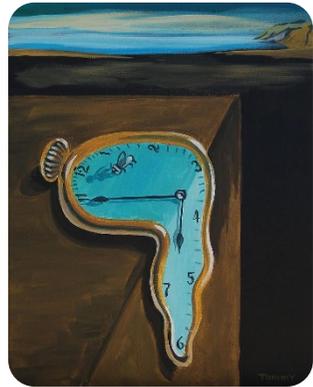
*How has the passing of time seemed to you these last three months? Has it seemed slower, or faster?*

(Today is the 14<sup>th</sup> June – we are almost halfway through 2020!)

March seemed extraordinary long. April and May seemed to have passed rapidly. Strictly speaking, none of that makes sense. There were 31 days in March, as always, and there were 30 in April and 31 in May, as always. The weeks seem to pass surprisingly quickly, but some days seem to last an eternity. Lockdown does strange things with time! Why?

I think it is because time is undifferentiated – it is stripped bare of the usual divisions and markers. I am so thankful for Sundays – when we pause for this worship together yet apart, which punctuates the beginning of my week.

Time, the past and future, is divided in our minds into milestones, events and seasons of life. Without them, time seems more shapeless.



In today's Bible passage, we find the author, named as the 'Teacher', reflecting on those milestones and markers in life. As you read it, reflect – what 'time' is it for you now? Which of these 'times' have you experienced?

### **Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 - A Time for Everything**

**3** There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
**2** a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
**3** a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
**4** a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
**5** a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
**6** a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
**7** a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
**8** a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

**9** What do workers gain from their toil? **10** I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. **11** He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet<sup>[a]</sup> no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. **12** I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. **13** That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. **14** I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

<sup>15</sup> Whatever is has already been,  
and what will be has been before;  
and God will call the past to account.'

**Sing again – what time is it? Song 332**

**Tune 596**

Come, now is the time to worship,  
come, now is the time to give your heart;  
come, just as you are to worship,  
come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

One day every tongue  
will confess you are God,  
one day every knee will bow.  
Still, the greatest treasure remains  
for those who gladly choose you now.

Come, now is the time to worship,  
come, now is the time to give your heart;  
come, just as you are to worship,  
come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

*Brian Doerksen (born 1965)*

**Prayer Time – voice the names of those people who need God’s peace in  
these different seasons**

Seeking peace in a broken world,  
but also knowing God’s peace through God’s presence,  
we pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

Seeking peace in suffering, illness, and pain,  
but also feeling God’s peace through healing, prayer, and those who help,  
we pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

Seeking peace through our distress, depression, isolation, and fear,  
but also feeling God's peace through the words of loved ones  
and the hope we see in the world,  
we pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

Seeking peace through the pain of worshipping separately,  
longing for our holy community to be gathering,  
but also feeling peace through God's presence with each of us  
as we worship together distantly,  
we pray to the Lord.  
*Lord have mercy.*

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, loving Lord.  
We need you now, as we have needed you every day.  
We cannot live without you.  
Amen.

### **Sing or Read – to our unchanging God -Songs of Fellowship 89**

Faithful One, so unchanging,  
Ageless One, You're my rock of peace.  
Lord of all, I depend on You,  
I call out to You again and again.  
I call out to You again and again.  
You are my rock in times of trouble.  
You lift me up when I fall down.  
All through the storm Your love is the anchor,  
My hope is in You alone.

*Brian Doerksen (born 1965)*

## A time for... no thanks, I'll skip that one.

Ecclesiastes 3 lists some of life's milestones: some of the markers in time that we experience as human beings. Which of them would we choose for ourselves? Laughing and dancing and embracing? Which of them would we prevent if we could? Dying? Mourning? War? Hatred?



The poem, with seven pairs of opposites, lists some of the realities of life. Many of them we'd prefer never to happen. Peter Pan, in J.M Barrie's children's book, overhears his parents talking about what it is like to be an adult, and decides he would like to stay a child forever. He flees to Neverland, where he ceases to age, so he never grows up. And maybe, looking at the seasons of mourning and weeping in this Bible passage we can understand a little of his reticence.

Frodo, in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, is suddenly struck by the enormous darkness and evil that he is trying to defeat, and which threatens the peace and existence of Middle Earth. He thinks,

"I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened."

Gandalf the Grey, the wise wizard tells him,

"So do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you."

Peter Pan and Frodo, when faced with pain and difficulty, wished that it had not happened. So do all of us. When I look at the impact Covid-19 has had on the world – with its deaths, and impact on health and its effect on the economy, and the current loneliness and pain caused by lockdown, I too *wish none of this had happened. So do all who live to see such times.*

But Ecclesiastes 3 (and Gandalf) reminds us that we don't get to choose the times. We don't pick the seasons of our life. No-one chooses weeping or mourning. The New Testament reminds us that as followers of



Jesus, we are not exempt to suffering. In fact, Jesus said we would be treated like the world treated Him. (John 15:20) Since the Fall, when God’s perfect creation became subject to corruption and decay, there has been death, and war, and weeping, and sickness and pandemics and racism and rioting. We don’t get to choose the time we’re in.

### **A time for... is there a timetable for these please?**

The author of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher, writes as if he feels a bit imprisoned by the sequence of times. He knows these activities will happen in his lifetime, but he cannot anticipate their timetable. He can’t stand outside time and see them mapped out beginning to end.



We too know that feeling. It’s like our life is painted on a huge canvas, but we are stood with our noses pressed right up against it. We can only see what is right in front of us, what is happening right now. Sometimes it’s a time of building, or planting, or searching, or laughter, or speaking. Sometimes it’s a time with death and mourning and weeping. Right now, with our noses right up against the canvas of our lives, we can see Covid-19 and lockdown, and rioting, and people we care about are sick or lonely, and we’ve lost jobs, or the business we work for is struggling, or our volunteering and service in the corps is on hold – we see all of that – in the bit of the painting that we’re standing right up close to.

And in one moment, it might be a time for silence, and in then it might be a time for speaking (v7). Or a time to plant, and then a time to uproot (v2). Each of these pairs are opposites. One reverses the other. The Teacher, it seems, who writes the book of Ecclesiastes, finds this difficult to accept. ‘But in the end, does it really make a difference what anyone does?! I’ve had a good look at what God has given us to do—busywork, mostly’ he cries! (Ecclesiastes 3:10 The Message) He is frustrated, his nose pressed up against the canvas of his life, unable to see the picture in full. Things seem futile – how can he plan when the ‘time’ might suddenly change.

Maybe you feel a little like the Teacher at the moment. Have the last three months felt like wasted time? Do you wish you could step back from the canvas and look at what is next?

*Guess what? The Teacher has an epiphany. Guess who can see the whole canvas all at once?*

**‘He has made everything beautiful in its time.’ (v11)**

We cannot ‘fathom what God has done from beginning to end’ (v11) but God is King. He has a plan. A plan which includes each of our lives, each canvas. And He has ‘set eternity in the human heart.’ (v11) We are bound by time, but we are wired for eternity. There is something that is built into each of us. A feeling that there has to be more than just *this* life. God has given us the capacity to discern that history has a purpose. And so, although we cannot see the whole of the canvas of our lives, although we cannot see the canvas for the whole of history, we can live lives that look towards eternity.

Last week, I heard a programme on the radio about how children develop mathematical skills. Research had been done into when children begin to understand time. Lots of four-year-olds were told about some delicious doughnuts. Kevin had a delicious doughnut yesterday, and Robert was going to be given a delicious doughnut tomorrow. Who would you rather be, they were asked – Kevin or Robert? Surprisingly, four-year-olds want to be Kevin, who had the doughnut yesterday. Children find it really hard to wait for things because time is quite difficult to calculate. If they are Kevin, they have already had the doughnut and they don’t need to wait!

We *are* waiting for the doughnut. We know it is going to be amazing. And right now, we wouldn’t have chosen this time, but we can’t change it. All we can do is ‘decide what to do with the time that is given to you’ (Gandalf, not the Bible...) What I would suggest we decide to do is this: we trust our time to the one who has set eternity in our hearts, and who is going to make everything beautiful, in its time.

How? The author of Ecclesiastes suggests three things:

1. I know that there is nothing better for people than to **be happy and to do good** while they live.
2. That each of them **may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil**—this is the gift of God.
3. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that **people will fear\* him**.

(\*fear = Biblical 'fear' of God is not the same as how we use the word fear now. To fear God means coming before God with trembling, reverence, awe, and worship — but not with cowering and terror.)

**Take some time now:**

- **Reflect on how you are feeling about this season of life at the moment.**
- **What difference does the eternity set in your heart make to this season?**
- **How can you 'be happy and do good'?**
- **Are you finding 'satisfaction in your toil'?**
- **Picture coming before God's throne with fear\* - offer him this season of your life at the moment – describe it to Him – ask Him to make it beautiful in His time.**

**Sing, pray, read: Song 566 Tune 543**

All my days and all my hours,  
all my will and all my powers,  
All the passion of my soul,  
not a fragment but the whole  
shall be thine, dear Lord,  
shall be thine, dear Lord.

Edward H Joy (1871-1949)

## **A final song. Song 570 Tune 138**

And is it so? A gift from me  
Dost thou, dear Lord, request?  
Then speak thy will, whate'er it be:  
Obeying, I am blest.

*I have not much to give thee, Lord,  
For that great love which made  
thee mine:  
I have not much to give thee, Lord,  
But all I have is thine.*

And dost thou ask a gift from me:  
The talents I possess?  
Such as I have I give to thee  
That others I may bless.

And dost thou ask a gift from me:  
The gift of passing time?  
My hours, I'll give, not grudgingly,  
I feel by right they're thine.

And dost thou ask a gift from me:  
A loving, faithful heart?  
'Tis thine, for thou on Calvary  
For me with all didst part.

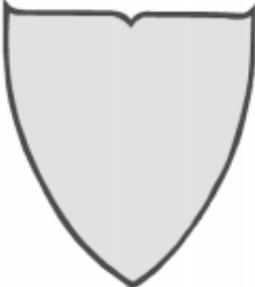
*Richard Slater (1854-1939)*

## **Benediction**

Ageless one, who created time  
And is sovereign over its every  
passing moment –  
Be near to us in this time  
Help us to look back and celebrate  
all you have done  
And all you have accomplished  
through us  
To build your kingdom of justice  
and peace.  
Help us to trust You with our  
futures

That in holy fear we might come to  
see our seasons be made beautiful  
in your timing  
And above all, fill us with your  
Spirit  
That we might look towards  
eternity  
Amen.

# BIBLE ARROW WORD I

				Tiresome	Fire Bird	Incorrect Past	Finish
				Announce Beast of Revelation			
				Gem Unity		Baker's dozen	Attendants
							Commotion
				Visitor Cease to exist		Place of sleep	Head covering
Make a choice (Picture)	Number of plagues	At the bottom	Woman at wedding Septets				
Peak	Sound Bird			Line			
		Thistle, for example		Clothing	Eternal		
Magnitude Plead			Centres of affection	Hoofed mammal			
		Female pronoun Slant		Rip			
In contact with	Consumed History			Stops Pots			
			Snakes Hearing organ		Centre of solar system	View	
Wrath				Donkeys			
Additional things	Roman language				Employ		
				Feel			

KEEP

SEASON



