

JULY/AUGUST

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FROM THE C.O'S DESK

As I start this article I am mindful that some readers will not be aware of our family setup. We have two sons, The eldest, James is an aircraft technician in the royal navy and based in Cornwall. He is married with two beautiful children aged 3 and 1.

Our youngest son is a primary school teacher living in Beckenham. He should be married however the wedding has been postponed because of the Covid 19 virus. Like many others we have not seen any of our family, (other than via social media) since March.

During the first week of June, James had to attend a fire fighting course on a Naval base in Portsmouth It was arranged that we would drive down to Southsea and meet up one evening . Having arrived early we waited for James to finish work and join us, and then spent four precious hours together.

We walked along opposite the common and sat for a while. We walked back and splashed out on chips and ice creams. We sat on the common and on the stony beach socially distancing all the while. It really was lovely. In a strange way it was enhanced because for those few hours James was our son, not a husband or a father to two lively children constantly needing oversight. I hope you understand what I mean. There were no distractions. We talked about family and work and well, some of the time we didn't talk just sat in each other's company.

When we parted James made comment to the fact that we had had time to just sit and be "with" each other.

A couple of weeks later Chris and Katherine arranged to visit. We planned a barbeque so we could be in the garden. Just as they arrived the rain started and we sat under two massive fishing umbrellas. We talked, we ate and it was lovely being with each other.



I think one of the benefits of this period of lockdown is that we have been able to get to know people for who they are, not as members of the band or as local officers or holders of some responsibility, and that too has been of benefit. No distractions, just you.

Now here comes a confession! I do not like praying in public. I find it hard to make the words flow, and as I focus on that, I forget to articulate what I want to.

My preference is to sit quietly, and just be together. Psalm 139 tells me quite plainly that God knows what I am going to say even before I say it, so there is no need for me to “babble like the pagans”.

For me that works, for others it is different. We have had two different

meetings with our sons. One where we had periods of silence and one where the conversation didn't stop. Both precious, both beneficial, both appreciated.

When you spend time with God, be natural. Just enjoy the experience of being with each other. If you have something to say, say it, and I guess God will make His thoughts known too! But allow time to just sit together, to enjoy being together. Speak or be silent, just be yourself and enjoy being with your Father.

Major David



Hills and Rainbows.

Just a little note to say we miss you while we're locked away.

This virus has caused such heartache and pain
 Keeping apart means we will be together again.
 Good days and bad days we get through them all
 With Houseparty, Zoom or an old-fashioned call!

Hugs, kisses, we very much miss but keeping loved ones safe is our greatest wish.

So thank you to our brave NHS heroes,
 Keep smiling at the beautiful rainbows.
 Key workers, volunteers and all the others
 We praise your great courage whilst we're undercover!
 We count all our blessings and are thankful for each
 Over the rainbow and up to the sun!

We love you and miss from the bottom of our heart As soon as it's over no longer apart!

Anna & Lily Ludlow

Tribute to Gordon Barker



Gordon was bought up in the Sunday School at Woking, joining the YP band and then into the senior band. At the same time Ruth was also at the Sunday School, singing company and the band.

They got to know each other better in their teenage years when they started “going out” together. The teen age “crush” turned into a real “love affair” which has lasted and will last for ever. They married in 1963 and then had Steven and Debbie.

Gordon started as an apprentice with a heating engineers, and when his training finished he joined Calor Gas where he spent the rest of his working life.

Beside the ordinary work of in-

stalling and maintaining Calor Gas equipment he was also called upon to help various TV and film companies. He would tell of the times he had to set up and operate controlled ‘fires’ and ‘explosions’. One of the TV programmes I remember he talked about was the ‘Bill’ on ITV.

The other love of his life was his grand children, Steve and Jackie having had Chloe and Sophie and Debbie and Mick had Matthew. Matt would often have a sleepover at Nan and Grandads where Gordon would become ‘Devils Advocate’ when getting into a discussion with a teenage grandson.

Gordon loved his holidays, even more if his family joined him and Ruth for all or part of the time away. One of his joys was towing a caravan on the roads of France, his only concern that as Ruth was the map reader she would miss the lovely countryside so when Sat Navs became the thing he made sure he got one so that Ruth wouldn’t miss anything.

After their wedding they lived in Connaught Crescent Brookwood for a number of years till they moved to a bungalow near Fleet. Gordon was concerned that Ruth had quite a journey to the Army, so when they decided to move again he made sure that her journey would be easier so they moved to Farnborough.

It was after Ruth was ill that Gordon started to attend the morning service, much to everyone’s delight. We spent many mornings after the meeting sitting round the table with a cup of tea and a biscuit putting the world to right.

Gordon suffered a ‘mini stroke’ driving home from the meeting one Sunday in 1st March and was taken to hospital

After recovery and returning home for re-cuperation Gordon contracted corona virus, so was once more hospitalised.

After a period Gordon appeared to be

recovering well, but sadly was suddenly “Promoted to Glory” on Tuesday 21st April.

Little did we know in March that our meeting together with Gordon would be his final one with our Army family.

Our love, thoughts and prayers are with Ruth and his sister Diana, and all the family at this time.

Light lunch and Bible study group
Led by Gill Gregory

We normally meet together at my house, or in my garden if the weather is good, on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Due to Lockdown and the circumstances we find ourselves in I decided to try an email version, everyone was willing to take part. The first study was about the Canaanite woman, I asked some questions and invited them to reply in their own way to what they found in scripture and some of their own thoughts as well.

Last Friday we looked at what we know about Mary Magdalene with the same format.

Both studies went well and I was able to do a summary of the comments that had been made. I know it is not very “high tec.” but it seems to be working, the only thing missing is the lunch!

5 Lessons on COVID19 from Bangladesh

Captain Richard Bradbury

We stayed, albeit not without a few wobbles, and so we experience yet another crisis through the eyes of a different culture. Once again the response has been typically chaotic but exceptionally moving. Currently, most people accept that Bangladesh is in an extremely vulnerable position when it comes to COVID19. On a national level, it is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with over 160 million people living in a small area half the size of the UK. We have one of the lowest testing rates for coronavirus and social distancing is near impossible. Add into the mix, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers returning to the country in the last 2 months due to the global lockdown situation and a refugee camp for close to 1 million people and it is easy to see why no-one is quite sure of the current picture in relation to the precise extent of this devastating virus.

So, here are 5 things I have learnt about living away from my passport country during the turbulent times of the corona virus crisis

Being 'with' people is harder when it impacts on your family

I'll start with my own struggles. Many of our friends have agonised over a difficult decision to be

either evacuated out by their embassy or stay and work. Most have gone. Watching from our roof as the evacuation planes fly over your apartment block is not for the faint hearted and brings all sorts of feelings of confusion and self-doubt. Questioning whether I am being a good father by keeping my children in a small apartment with no outdoor activities or walks, manoeuvring 3 months of distance learning schooling with minimal resources and increasing their uncertainty about when they will ever get to see grandparents again is not a great feeling. I understand why people are leaving and a big part of me wishes I could be home, finding some security in our National Health Service but for me I believe The Salvation Army has an important role to play at this challenging time. So we stayed, helping to support the life giving emergency relief projects and life saving, essential medical services here. Only time will tell whether that was a wise decision or not but the act of being present with people is one thing we definitely signed up for. It feels important to be journeying together with the people we serve alongside right now but it is not without fluctuating emotions. We continue to pray that our faith remains stronger than our fears in the days ahead!

2. We are not all equal now but we do have things in common

I have seen and heard so many times that this crisis makes us all equal. It



does not. We are not. Yes, it is indiscriminate and yes, we are all facing the same storms but this does not equate to a new found global equality. We are not all in the same boat! Even in Bangladesh, the corona virus does not make things equal between its anxious citizens and residents. I am able to selfishly stock up on food and medicine for a few weeks, while most people in Bangladesh are daily wage earners and struggle to live hand to mouth. I have ample space in my flat to isolate while less than a few metres away people are nervously couped

up together with anywhere between 5 -10 living in a one roomed shack, sharing water and toilet facilities at risky public points. This crisis has also laid bare the poor state of health systems in some of the developing countries, where health insurance or state care are not even a remote possibility. However what emerges are beautiful commonalities of a wounded humanity in crisis. We all share kindness, strength and resilience as general societal and individual characteristics.

Through this crisis, we have seen this all over the world. Kindness abounds across the country when it comes to generously sharing with others, no matter where you live. Sometimes it takes a disaster to bring out the strength in people or a population. Resilience is found in the least likely of places, unexpectedly reminding us that we all have a lot to learn from those who constantly bounce back from setbacks and crisis.

3. Fairtrade is not necessarily fair during times of crises

We are all connected, not just by handshakes or door handles but on a much more colossal scale. We have seen things from a unique perspective in Bangladesh and identified that in these connections, we see the best and worst in people. The best comes through the big-hearted support given by government, charities, businesses, individuals and for us, our supporting offices and territories. We have been enormously in-

spired by the selfless Salvation Army Officers, employees and volunteers in Bangladesh who, without any query or question, step up and step out to help the most vulnerable in their communities. But it is also very difficult to sit and watch as many of the companies we use back home simply just cancel or put on



hold orders or demand instant discount condemning millions of Bangladeshi garment workers to be being sent home, unpaid and unemployed. I understand business is business but I can't help thinking that it is easy to have good ethics and fair trade when things are going well but as soon as something goes wrong, once again the problem gets shifted down the line and ultimately it is the poorest who are the most vulnerable and hardest hit

4. Local solutions are possible

With a global scramble for equipment we are seeing local solutions emerging and the very best of the creative and innovative Bangladeshi minds coming to the fore. In the rural communities, the same

inventiveness is on display when it comes to making your own soap or disinfectant and awareness raising activities. Bangladesh has a great history in implementing successful community based programmes in relation to family planning, TB and Leprosy and child illnesses (which TSA has been part of) and we can see this shining through again. The Salvation Army is present in communities and participates in the daily life of many of these innovative and creative approaches. It is resourceful and faithful people that inspire hope, that somehow manage to reassure us that everything might not turn out as bad as is being predicted. One leading NGO Executive Director puts it this way 'while I am worried, I also have endless faith in Bangladesh's ability to rise in a moment of crisis. Even when outsiders see us as a basket case, we see an innovative path forward'.

5. We need to unlearn and learn new ways of doing things

Our Strategic Plans, Mission Statements, budgets and logframes don't prepare us for disasters, shocks or corona virus. They never have and never will. The developed world is understanding this more than ever right now but for most of the developing world, this is just the next in the line of disasters and shocks. In the midst of corona virus, Bangladesh is also preparing for dengue fever and monsoon season. My friend Matt White spoke really challenging words recently about how this is a time when maybe we



ties of life of those living in poverty, regardless of which country you live in.

need to unlearn things while we have space to reflect; a sincere challenge for organisations as well as individuals. We can no longer just revert back to the way we used to do things, especially when that way largely benefits the agenda of the developed world. We need to find a new way and more flexible way of doing things that reflects the reali-

Worship at Woking

Worship at Woking or Birmingham, or Chelmsford or Regent Hall or Basingstoke or maybe even All Souls Langham Place or a local church, Songs of Praise or Fortress Radio. Certainly Lockdown opened the flood gates for innovative worship and a complete change to our usual Sunday routine.

Facebook, virtual worship, WhatsApp, the Internet and emails so many different ways of communicating and logging on to some

form of worship. That obviously causes a problem for the non-computer owner or a device that needs up-grading. Majors David and Margaret have planned and emailed round a carefully scripted meeting plan each week which included all the words for the songs used and also the Bible reading. They also included YouTube links for those who had the means to use them. We could take our time over the meeting plan and the YouTube

clip have introduced us to some beautiful cotemporary songs or fresh arrangements of some old favourites.

Our W@W was flexible giving us time to visit other corps that were providing virtual worship whilst others could tune into Fortress Radio and listen to some of the older music that are gems when it comes to traditional Army worship.

But worship has taken place during the week through daily 'Prayer List Updates' as we followed Major Karl Gray's 8 week battle through Covid19, supported Ruth and Gordon's journey through Covid 19 which had the saddest of endings and the many other prayer requests that came in.

Very quickly into Lockdown a virtual Bible Study was put in place through Zoom. Led by Majors David and Margaret it was so great to see each other on the screen. Sometimes up to 25 have logged on with the opportunity for all to take part whether through reading the scripture or making a comment, with the understanding that no answer was wrong.

There's been worship on the doorstep as team mates have made Neighbourhood Visits and prayed on the doorsteps with some of our friends across the way.

Week by week Majors David & Margaret have delivered the Army

papers along with hard copy meeting plans where needed, they've phoned round to see how people are and organised prayer buddies.

And in the midst of all that the Songsters made their first video recording, 'O Holy Spirit, we pray', a particularly beautiful worship song by Amanda-Jayne and Tristan Lanceley. What an experience!

Our church building may be closed but our Church, Woking Corps is alive and well and active all over the place. Frimley, Farnborough, Ash, Woking. Hard not getting together, not seeing each other, not being able to shake hands or hug each other but perhaps we are more appreciative of our church, of each other and maybe worship in all its forms, although different, has been a hallowed and much blessed and enriching experience.

We wait in anticipation of what the next weeks will hold particularly with the prospect of churches being allowed to reopen. Although perhaps for a while we may well have a different kind of worship. Will we be able to sing? Will the band be able to play? Guess all will be revealed in due course!!!!

WORD SEARCH

Countries the Army operates in
With initials A and B

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

AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGOLIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA,
AUSTRALIA, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH,
BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BELIZE, BERMUDA, BOLIVIA,
BURUNDI

Sudoku

Each vertical and horizontal line and each block of 9 squares will each have the letters ‘SALVaTION’ in them. The principle is exactly the same as Sudoku, but letters instead of numbers.

I			O	S			T	N
		N			A			
T	A				V	a		
A	S		T				V	O
		I		O		L		
O	a				N		I	
		S	L				N	V
			S			T		
L	T			I	a			S

Gentle

Challenging

				a	I			T
O								
			O			a		L
		A		S			I	
		O	a		T	V		
	N			O		A		
T		N			L			
								V
L			S	V				

Amazing Talent at Woking!!

I couldn't believe my ears when my lovely wife and Songster Leader said something like 'I think we can do one of those videos where you put all the individual recordings together whilst we are in lockdown'. Personally I was unconvinced but once Jo gets an idea in her head it is difficult to get it out, until it is accomplished. So how do we do it she asked. We put our heads together and agreed all the songsters would need to listen to the same backing track and record themselves singing it. We just needed a decent backing track, to a song we already knew and someone to stitch all the videos together.

The answer to who could do both those things was easy, we just needed to ask them, oh and then persuade as many of the songsters as possible (including yours truly) to sing solos – as that's what it's like. The backing track would of course be provided by Penny, our amazing pianist and we knew what Gavin did for a day job, so if he was up for it, Jo knew who could do the stitching of the videos together. Of course both Penny and Gavin said yes.

So now to the song, we needed to keep it relatively simple as this was our first ever recording and if it was good enough it would be published for all to see and hear. The song of choice was a newish one to Woking Songsters, 'O Holy Spirit, we pray', so we were now good to go. Over to Penny first. With the backing track recorded it was circulated to all the songsters with the instructions to listen to the backing track via headphones and record yourself singing via another device – with of course both video and sound. Out went the request to all songsters and slowly the recordings started to come in to Gavin. There were a few teething prob-

lems with getting the recordings over to Gavin but after a couple of weeks Gavin had them all. I know personally I recorded about 6 or 7 videos before I was happy with the end result – even then you think you sound rubbish and just hope that when it's all put together it will sound ok.

So Gavin then had the tireless job of stitching the videos together. You can imagine that everyone would have started their recordings at different times so I am sure it would not have been easy to put all the tracks together. But aided by an amazing delivery of sweets by the Songster Leader to Gavin (and Naomi of course) the work to put the recordings together came along very well. I would say that before Gavin shared the finished article with Jo, he did send her the audio only of all the voices and piano and I can tell you now there were tears of joy rolling down Jo's face – it was beautiful. A few days later the finished video was shared with Jo and as many of you will can testify it is beautiful. So a huge thank you to Gavin for his time and skill in stitching the videos together and for the persistence of the Songster Leader knowing just what her Songsters are capable of. Will we do another one? May be.

'O Holy Spirit we pray' – written and composed by Amanda Jayne & Tristan Lancelley

You can still watch it on

<https://youtu.be/Y0oPHhsviY>

Since Corona has popped up in our lives and tried to push us apart, here at the Woking Salvation Army congregation, a bible study group came to life and a WhatsApp Group was created. To me, this was a blessing, as not only did I move back to Germany for various rea-

Zoom Bible Study – The German View



Since Corona has popped up in our lives and tried to push us apart, here at the Working Salvation Army congregation, a bible

study group came to life and a WhatsApp Group was created. To me, this was a blessing, as not only did I move back to Germany for various reasons - the financial aspect caused by Brexit being the major factor - after 26 great years in England, I also moved away from something that had grown so very dear to my heart.

I had come to this Salvation Army Group with my dear friend Linda Carter. She wanted to find out about the courses and groups offered here, and, as I had been wanting to come here and hear about the worship for quite some time, leapt at the opportunity and tagged along. I remember it like it was yesterday, that we were greeted by Major John Martin on a late sunny Wednesday morning. After talking to him, I knew there and then, that I had finally arrived at the right place for me. And what a wonderful blessed place it proved to be!

Such lovely, cheerful and caring people. The love everyone spreads and feels for each other here is invaluable. A unique place indeed!

Thus, moving back to Germany and leaving all of you and everything involved behind was one of the hardest things I ever had to do and I can't wait to come back and visit as often as I possibly can manage. Spare Room anyone?! 😊

Then, something unexpected happened which was to change all our lives. The arrival of the Corona virus, on the one hand, a devastating threat, but on the other, also a blessing in disguise. It broadened people's horizons and minds to come together again when being pushed apart everywhere, new bridges were built and more helping hands emerged that nobody ever knew were there.

As a consequence, here, the WhatsApp Group came into being and so did the Zoom Bible Study Group. The first brought us all so much closer than before, and from the comfort of our home, it enables us to communicate about anything with everyone at the same time, all the time. For me, this was a most fortunate appearance, as my geographical distance had been suspended; I was still able to be an active part of our congregation, albeit far away.

The latter, The Bible Study Group via zoom, is a perfect setting for uniting us while being scattered all over the place on the globe. Even on holidays, one could log on and not miss a session.

At the beginning of a meeting, until everyone is logged on, we always have a bit of a chat with each other. The same goes at the end, albeit briefly, when we say goodbye to each other after a concluding prayer led by Major Margaret House.

The Bible study itself is a light-hearted but serious session where Major David House leads the discussion and provides invaluable information about the historical background of the section we are exploring, while we are being encouraged to contribute our own knowledge as well.

When we are analysing the meaning of the chosen Bible section, everyone contributes their thoughts and, thus, we all learn and broaden our understanding of the Bible.

I have been asked to quote a piece of scripture, and what I did get out of it. I find it difficult to decide which one, as everything is important and leads to further understanding of the Bible, as many sections are intertwined, so everything I learn enriches me, sometimes it is more the background information, and sometimes it keeps my thoughts revolving about our discussion for quite a while afterwards, when the ultimate answer cannot be

surmised and we have to simply just believe!

What does the Bible Study Group mean for me? It means that I am still included in our wonderful congregation and the geographical distance is, for a little while at least, no longer there. It does not really matter, that we are not in the same room, we are together nonetheless and talk and see each other, which is what really matters.

I look forward to our weekly sessions and enjoy getting more and more familiar with the Bible every week. There are quite a few of us in this group, so it seems we are all feeling the same way. I feel comfortable in our group, as we all know each other well and can all speak freely. David and Margaret are doing a great job and the prayer at the end is the perfect ending to the wonderful group study with guidance and exchange of thoughts.

Thank you all for letting me being a part of you and making every effort for everyone to be together!

Comedy Hall

D.O.H.

(Department of Humour)

Two businessmen walk into a diner in the countryside. They have decided to stop there for lunch, so without ordering anything they sit down, take out sandwiches from their bags and begin to eat.

The waiter sees this and says to them, "You can't eat your own sandwiches in here!"

So the businessmen look at each other, shrug and swap sandwiches.

Four members of the clergy had a theological argument, with the three male ministers siding against the female minister.

The woman prayed, "Lord, I know I'm right. Please send us a divine sign to prove it." A big storm cloud materialized and there was a clap of thunder.

"See," said the woman. "It's a sign from above." The three clergymen disagreed, saying thunder is a common phenomenon.

"Dear Lord," the woman prayed, "I need a bigger sign." This time a bolt of lightning slammed into a tree.

"See! I told you I was right," the woman said, but the men insisted nothing had happened that couldn't be explained by natural causes.

"Help me Lord," the woman implored and a deep voice came from the heavens: "Ssshheees's RRIIGGGHHHTT!"

The woman turned to the three clergymen and asked "Well?"

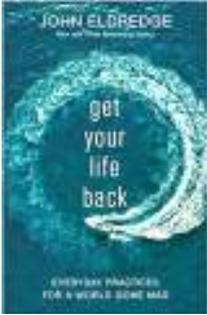
"Okay, okay," they said. "Now it's three against two."

The first rule of cleaning while listening to music: the toilet brush is never a microphone... never!

Keep smiling

Major Laugh

Get Your Life Back – Every day practice for a world gone mad John Eldredge



Within minutes of starting *Get Your Life Back* by John Eldredge I knew it was a book I wanted and needed to read as I could see parallels to my own situation and I suspect many others too. The book considers soul care and the neglected areas of our soul and the way social media, 24:7 availability and communication have taken over. Life is often lived at a frenzied rate and our souls become 'shallow puddles' rather than the 'deep vessels' they are intended to be. It's about more measured living, growth and deepening our life in Christ.

Highly descriptive passages, all with a purpose, transport the reader to some amazing settings. Each chapter contains suggestions of helpful practices to follow, to 'Give it a try' and so ease life, thereby giving more space to discover more of God. Taking 'One minute pauses' throughout the day, transition time between appointments, finding 'barometers' to warn of overload or simply unplugging devices and getting outside to name but a few!!!

Self-life, God's hidden life in us, appreciation of the beauty surrounding us and careful use of our God-given memory are some of the graces we are encouraged to contemplate and work through in our efforts to create a deeper relationship and union with God – which is the whole purpose behind the book.

A strange irony really, as the book has been read during Lockdown where, if anything, social media has been even more active. Zoom meetings, online worship, being bombarded from all directions with readings and video clips with the endless 'ping' of the mobile!

Read the book, ignore the 'ping' of the phone, step aside from the frenzy, create space and discover an enriched union with God. So glad John Eldredge tackled this subject and to have read his book has been a blessing and a challenge. Now I have to put it into practice!

Major Freda Benneyworth

Care in the Neighbourhood – Major Margaret



We have been delivering craft care packages supplied by the Silver Charity in the neighbourhood. Each package contained the following message and things to do such as Sudoku, pencils & colouring books etc.

It is a difficult time for many seniors at the moment being asked to stay at home. We understand this is a challenging time for you and we want to make a small difference.

We have prepared a craft care package for you which we hope will be fun, creative and engaging.

We are thinking of you. Please stay safe.

With much love

*The Silver Team**

We also received 100 bags of Tyrrells crisps which we delivered on the last Neighbourhood visits and we have also distributed them around other folk who we have been calling on (All socially distanced!).

**www.silvercharity.org*

Painting our world in SILVER – Fun has no age!

Full Monty & Chit Chat Zoom get togethers

What do you do when a pandemic strikes and you are put into Lockdown?

The Full Monty chaps decided to double up and meet by Zoom twice a month. One for the Full Monty and the second meeting to be known as Light Bites.



Major Margaret was inspired and arranged for a Zoom Chit Chat get together for the girls. Purely a social time together but who knows what it will lead to?!!!

Can't wait for the suggested real meal!!



Direct Line

I don't know about you but there have been occasions over the last near 90 days when I've almost felt 'prayed out'. There has been so much, so many to pray about and for. Yet for all the negative and dreadful things Covid 19 has also brought about some positives.

From being a group of 10 – 12 people, who under normal circumstances meet together for prayer on a Sunday morning with a list of prayer requests in Direct Line we went to everyone on the corps email list being included so that every one would be aware of people's needs

Caroline setting up the WokingSallyArmyFriends WhatsApp group was truly inspired. As people have shared their particular needs so many prayers have been offered. It is an inspiration to see the love and care in the messages that are posted and also on occasions great humour.

Our prayers have moved outside of our fellowship as we have heard of those who were fighting the virus.

If on a human level, praying for the sadness, the hatred and distrust in the world seems immense, I for one, am, in the words of a children's song. grateful that 'Our God is a great big God, and he holds us in his hand!'

No need too small. No problem too great. He is big enough, loving enough to hear our prayers whether spoken, silent or just the groanings of our soul!

We know our prayers have been an encouragement to many, with those who have been strengthened by knowing that others were praying for them and so we pray on.

Blessings Freda

Ruby Wedding Anniversary's



Congratulations to
Ken and Sue Searle
On the celebration of their
Ruby Wedding Anniversary
On Sunday
28th June 2020



Congratulations to
Derrick & Lesley Curtis
on the celebration of their
Ruby Wedding Anniversary
On Sunday
2nd August 2020

Neighbourhood Visits - 2020

Please pray for our local community.

Visits, usually week day, have been made and will continue to be made when team mates are available and situations arise.

Continued prayer for our ministry to our neighbourhood friends is essential and greatly appreciated.

New team-mates are always welcome.

Please speak with Janet T, Alison Campbell or Majors David & Margaret

if would like to join the team.

IN THIS PRESENT TIME

See our outstretched hands in prayer, Lord,
 As we seek your aid today,
 Calm the fears that overwhelm us
 When we hear what people say;
 Grant us strength to challenge boldly
 Those who blame your hand, we pray,
 Show through us that love will triumph
 Even in the darkest day.

Prostrate here we bow before you,
 For our needs are very great,
 Answers to our cares evade us,
 Temp'ral calls our days dictate;
 Draw us, Lord, into your presence
 From the turmoil here of late
 That the peace which we so covet
 Can be ours through timeless grace.

Then renewed as you have promised
 In your grace we can remain,
 Sharing burdens that are heavy
 In and through your precious name;
 In the midst of trials remember
 You will ever be the same
 And however great the burdens,
 We will never pray in vain.

Malcolm Westwood
 April 2020

Can be sung to any
 8.7.8.7.D Trochaic metre tune such as
 Bethany, Blaenwern