



**Sunday 18 April 2021**

**We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.00 am**



**We have made the hall as Covid-Safe as we can; intensive cleaning, ventilation, spaced seating, temperature checks, masks, hand sanitiser. We cannot sing or greet each other – but we are together for worship.**

**Also Sunday worship on is on  YouTube**

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type.....

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate) and select **Church on YouTube**

**AND at 11.15 on ZOOM**

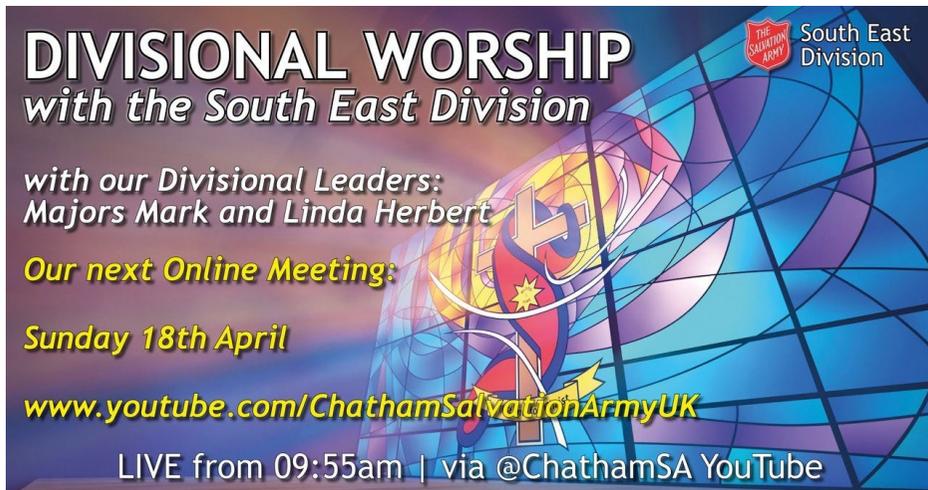
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>

**Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167**

**AND DVDs of the service** are available for those who would like them



# What's happening next week at Ramsgate Salvation Army?



**DIVISIONAL WORSHIP**  
*with the South East Division*

with our Divisional Leaders:  
Majors Mark and Linda Herbert

*Our next Online Meeting:*

**Sunday 18th April**

[www.youtube.com/ChathamSalvationArmyUK](http://www.youtube.com/ChathamSalvationArmyUK)

LIVE from 09:55am | via @ChathamSA YouTube

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> **10.00 am**

Worship at the Ramsgate hall

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> **11.15 am**

ZOOM fellowship

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 12 noon

ZOOM Youth Group

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 4.30 pm

ZOOM Children's Church Kids Club  
(up to 11 years)

Monday to Friday (6.30am-9am)

Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm

Bible study

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 7pm

Zoom Fellowship

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> (10am - 12 noon)

Food Bank (Food Bank now only on Fridays)



There is a full day of activities  
on Fortress Radio.

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

And don't forget Songs of Praise Sunday at 13.15pm



**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.

### **Birthdays**

Ruth Kilian	18-Apr
Garry Price	18-Apr
Steve Catlin	20-Apr
Joy Lenton	20-Apr
Adrian Knight	23-Apr
Maggie Crump	24-Apr
Kathleen Warner	25-Apr

Prayers please for

**Sheila Parfitt** who has a bad chest infection and on a lot of medication.

Continued prayers for **Jean Mayton** in a nursing home in Westgate-on-sea. Jean, praise God, has made progress, is able to speak and can go to the day room.

For **Chris**, a friend of Gay.

For the family and friends of **Melvin Harris** who recently passed away. There will be a service of thanksgiving at QRBC on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 13.45. Numbers are limited. Please see Carl if you would like to attend.

We continue to pray for **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment. For Tracy's dad **Ivan** and her family . **Paul** , son of Hazel, has completed his chemo and awaiting a scan to see its success.

For **Archie**, Lisa and Scott.

For all who are suffering from **long covid** (or post-covid). This is a sadly forgotten – large – group of people who are suffering from many health issues – having never fully recovered from the primary disease. We pray for healing and understanding and caring support from employers.

# Caring Aldi Cliftonville staff praised for paying last respects to bargain-loving customer John Garbutt

theisleofthanetnews.com. Kathy Bailles



John Garbutt loved shopping and finding a bargain

Cliftonville Aldi staff will stand outside the store tomorrow to pay respects to a much-loved elderly customer who has passed away at the age of 96.

Daughter Joyce Green says banter and care from the shop staff brightened the life of her father John Garbutt, who was known for his love of a bargain, and she is thankful after they agreed to be outside the store as his funeral cars pass by.

John was born one of three children in Camden Town. He met wife to be Peggy in 1942 at the British Museum before attending a communist rally.

Four months later he proposed in Ravensbury Park, which is where family will scatter the couple's ashes.

The couple married in September 1943 and had four children – Brenda, Joyce, Geoffrey and Graham.

The grandad-of-nine and great-grandad-of-21 and wife Peggy served the Salvation Army after John took on the role of Auxillary Captain in 1971.



Joyce said: "Mum and Dad were wonderful officers and brought a lot of happiness to the people they served."

John had suffered several health scares over the last few years including throat cancer, a broken hip and sepsis. Joyce said her dad had been looked after by a dedicated team of carers.

But shopping was also something John loved and Aldi was a favourite for him.

Joyce said: "Dad loved shopping. We had our favourites, Lidl, Morrisons and Aldi. The staff in Aldi were amazing to my Dad and they also really cared, for when I broke the news of his death, there were tears. Dad loved a bargain so much so that if we ever got one we would buy it for Dad and enjoy showing off our reduced price finds."

Joyce wrote to Aldi Cliftonville's store manager to say thank you but also to ask if staff might stand outside when John's funeral cars go past the store.

She wrote: "Sadly my Father John Garbutt died on 13 March. He was 96 and had a wonderful life. But his last years were enriched by the lovely banter and care from your Aldi staff, even the Security Guards were kind to Dad, especially during this last difficult year.

"When I told the ladies about Dad's passing they were very sad, in fact Rosanne cried. Dad and I became a bit of a double act, and he loved going shopping. Dad's funeral service is at 1pm on 13 April. I have asked for the funeral cars to come pass Aldi on the way to the crematorium.

“I was wondering if the staff who remember Dad would be allowed to stand outside as we pass by.”

Joyce says she is delighted that the store manager has agreed and staff will be outside at 12.40pm tomorrow as the funeral procession goes by.



The service for John will be led by Carl Whitewood and Major John Watson from Ramsgate Salvation Army.

Joyce added: “There was a very special bond from Major John Watson and Dad relished his visits and had struggled over the past year, not quite understanding the Covid pandemic and the restrictions the government imposed. He wanted to go to London to demonstrate.

“I know Dad is in a good place now. No more pain. Promoted to Glory. Thank you for being our Dad, our friend, always bringing

words of comfort, a shoulder to cry on. Always an inspiration. Always there with so much love and advice. You will be sorely missed.”

### **Asda Store Manager donates £20 of his personal prize money.**

We received a range of foods as well as clothing to be used to support those in the shelter and on the streets. Bob Ellender won manager of the year and chose to use his prize money to support local work. It’s not the first time he has done this and we are so blessed by his generosity. Thanks Bob .....



0 and Asda

## Springtime

Walking by the hedgerows this week I have been amazed again by the irresistible force of nature in springtime. New growth is forcing its way up and trees and hedges are bursting into bud. The early blossoms are out, birds are singing and making their nests and nature is coming alive.

In 'The Circling Year' Ronald Blythe writes of spring...

'There is movement in the pastures, in the ditches. Live things thrust through dead things. New lambs totter in the grass, new shoots depend on old boughs. But it also reminds us that at a time of growth we must grow. Grow up! It should be good just to be alive.'

There is a verse in the old song book which is a favourite of mine which resonates with the thought of springtime and the resurrection of Jesus at Eastertime ...

Earth with joy confesses,  
Clothes herself for spring'  
Greets with life reviving  
Her returning King.  
Bloom in every meadow,  
Leaves on every bough,  
Speak his sorrows ended  
Hail his triumph now.

## **Time to Smile**

A husband and wife were travelling on holiday in Wales. As they approached the town of Machynlleth they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town. The argument continued until they went in for lunch. As they stood in the restaurant the husband asked the girl behind the counter: 'Before we order, please could you settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are, very slowly?'

The girl leaned over the counter and said: 'Burrrr....gerrrrr....Kiiiiing.'

A baptism was being held during the morning service at a church well known for its ritual and ceremony. As Grandad, not a dedicated church goer, made his way

down the aisle he spotted a large stand with its array of lighted candles. Admiring the flames, he exclaimed, 'I didn't know we were coming for a barbecue!'

When parishioners of the church in Burton Latimer used to complain about the cold church, the rector used to remind them sternly: 'Many are cold but few are frozen.'

### Quiz

- 1.What is compote?
- 2.Which play by George Bernard Shaw inspired 'My Fair Lady'?
- 3.Which became the 50<sup>th</sup> American State?
- 4.Which family of fruit does the kumquat belong to?
- 5.Michael Henchard was the mayor of which fictional town?

### Books

- 1.What was the first book in English to be printed in England?
- 2.In which decade did Guinness start to publish their 'Book of Records'?
- 3.In which county was Jane Austen born?
- 4.What is a Bibliophile?
- 5.What was the name of 'Poirot's Last Case'?

**Anagram** What is the only English anagram of FINISHED?

<b>Answers</b>
<b>Quiz</b>
1.Stewed Fruit 2.Pygmalion 3.Hawaii 4.Citrus 5.Casterbridge
<b>Books</b>
1.The Canterbury Tales 2.1960's 3.Hampshire 4.Book Lover 5.Curtain

# The Salvation Army South East Division Worship Sunday 18 April 2021

**Introduction** : Major Linda Herbert

Welcome to our Divisional Sunday worship here in the South East Division. Today is the third in our series of four meetings. Whether it is your first time of joining us in this way or whether you are turning out to be a regular, you are most welcome. We hope that in our gathering today you will sense the presence of God to be close to you, however you are feeling today. Our prayer is that today you will hear God's voice encouraging you in just the way you need.

In each of our Divisional on-line meetings we have been highlighting one of our 4 key missional tools. APEST was our first consideration. So, in your thinking have you worked out whether you are predominately an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd or Teacher?

Last month we shared something about the New Expressions which are emerging across the Division. This has stirred many positive conversations. Has God spoken to you about the new thing he wants you to be involved in?

Today we will be looking at NCD - NCD stands for Natural Church Development. Major Iain Stewart is our Divisional NCD specialist, as well as the corps officer at Horsham Corps along with Ann his wife. Iain will be taking time later this morning to explain to us what NCD all is about.

This month we take our third look at the same passage of Scripture. If you were in the room I would give you a prize if you could remember where the passage of Scripture is found! If you can't remember, fear not because before we sing, Drew Tinsley who provides local leadership to the Brighton Bevendean Corps and also works as part of the team at Hove Corps, will share that reading with us. As we listen to the scripture and then sing our first song, look out for the word compassion, it will be key in our thinking this morning.

**Bible Reading: Matthew 9: 35 - 38** Drew Tinsley

The Workers Are Few

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

## **Song Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not.  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest.  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above.  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth.  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Captains Berri and Callum McKenna are the corps officers at Hythe corps. As a corps they felt compelled to reach out in compassion to offer accommodation to a refugee family. Callum is going to tell us a little about that journey, lead us in our prayers before we sing that beautiful song of worship, ‘Everyone needs compassion’.

## **Time of prayer: Captain Callum McKenna**

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 is a date that I’ll never forget. I remember looking at the newspaper front pages on that day - all of them displaying the photograph of Alan Kurdi. Alan was a toddler who had fled Syria with his family during the

Civil War and who had hoped to rebuild a life in Europe. He had drowned on the journey and now a photograph of his lifeless body, being inspected by a Turkish soldier and washed up on the shores of the Mediterranean, was plastered on the UK front pages

We knew we had to do something. Hythe's proximity to the English Channel made it feel like it was on our doorstep. We felt compassion: that deep rooted sense that you can't sit back and you're moved into action. An ecumenical prayer group started. The phone was ringing - people wanted to donate stuff. A few people took stuff to Calais to donate to the SVP, but it felt tiny in the cast warehouse. The Corps band and songsters went to Calais and Dunkirk to support the Corps there for a weekend and played in the migrant camp where there were children everywhere. It all felt insignificant - we wanted to do something that would really make a difference.

Around that time we heard about the Community Sponsorship Scheme. Part of the government commitment to welcome 20,000 Syrian refugees. It was the opportunity to pull together as a community to sponsor a Syrian family to move to the local area. We worked together to provide housing along with all of the other support (language, relationships, school, health etc) that someone would need to rebuild their lives in the UK. We couldn't solve all the problems in the world, but we could make a real difference in the life of one family.

Fast forward to August 2019. Sunday afternoon. The family had been here a week. We sat in their house eating a Sunday lunch- bountiful food. Our kids were all playing together. Tea and coffee and cakes flowed. Laughter. Gestures. I felt a real sense of God's presence: Matthew 25... Jesus says, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. I knew what that meant for myself in a very real and powerful way and not because we'd done something for a family but because I week ago I was a complete stranger to this family and now they'd welcomed me into their new home- a stranger like me- and made me feel welcome and cared for and fed me copiously...even when I couldn't eat anymore!

And that's what compassion is about. Yes- it's about seeing the needs around us in the world, yes it's about getting our sleeves rolled up and being moved to do something, but it's recognising that this all is the overflow of the

compassion that we've received from God- it's recognising that we are, in many ways, hungry and empty handed and in need and we find great compassion in Christ.

Let's pray together:

God of all compassion and grace,

Thank you for welcoming strangers like us into your family.

When we were far away from you, your love and your grace went even further.

You saw us in our need, and you didn't not withdraw or pass us by but you came near and you clothed us with your love through your Son, Jesus.

Move us with compassion Lord into the world which you made and which you love.

Everyone needs compassion.

Holy Spirit, cause your kindness, your joy, your love to grow in us, that we might share it with those around us.

To the glory of God and the Salvation of the world we dedicate ourselves afresh this day,

Amen.

Song: Everyone needs compassion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bRz2Nwli6w>

Everyone needs compassion

A love that's never failing

Let mercy fall on me

Everyone needs forgiveness

The kindness of a Saviour

The hope of nations

*Saviour, he can move the mountains*

*My God is mighty to save*

*He is mighty to save*

*Forever author of Salvation*

*He rose and conquered the grave*

*Jesus conquered the grave*

We have been grateful for the positive way in which you have been receiving these monthly Divisional meetings, it's certainly enabled us to keep connected and well informed about important matters.

One of the many things that has been said is that you have liked hearing about what is happening in other corps within the Division. It's good to have our eyes opened to the good, creative and diverse expressions of Kingdom ministry across this amazing Division.

This morning it's a joy to introduce Amy from Canterbury Corps and Lauren from Ramsgate who are people of compassion serving God in their Corps and local community. In between hearing from them we will listen to or join in the singing of the song 'Filled with compassion'.

So let's listen into the conversations between Anita our Divisional Youth Specialist and Amy and Lieutenant Carl Whitewood, Corps Officer with Lauren.

## **Amy and Anita**

### ***Hi Amy, how are you?***

Hi Anita, I'm doing very well! Keeping myself busy!

### ***What does a typical week look like for you at the moment?***

A typical week at the moment is a little bit busy but I love it like that.

Monday to Thursday, I am spending my time at Canterbury Corps, helping to ensure that the food bank services are running smoothly alongside our team of volunteers. I also put together Postal Church packs for members of the corps that may not be able to access the online meetings or newsletter that goes out. Once a month, I help to put together Postal Messy church packs for not only families who would usually come to Messy Church when it was in person but also for families who have asked for packs via our Facebook page. When we started putting these together, we had about 50 children, we are now up to over 110 children who receive Messy Church once a month. I don't do this alone though; the postal messy church team and our cohort of delivery drivers are amazing, and this ministry wouldn't be able to continue without them. I am also a part of a pastoral team who are looking out for people within the Corps during this unprecedented time. At the beginning of this year we took on the fortnightly newsletter that started over lockdown called KIT (this stands for keeping in touch), this newsletter has been a great

way for members of the corps to announce news to each other and share thoughts on scripture.

Alongside this I am in my final year of university and so I am in the throes of writing my dissertation at the moment. I'm studying Counselling Coaching and Mentoring. During the pandemic my time has freed up a lot with the flexibility of online learning. Also, the number of lectures have reduced as well which has given me a lot of time to volunteer more.

***Can you tell me about your work with the Community Centre in Canterbury?***

Sure, so I spend my time answering the phone and emails with enquiries at the hall, coordinating food parcel deliveries with drivers and being the point of contact for people needing to access the food bank service at this time. This is a role I have sort of stumbled into as I was only doing postal church from the hall, but they needed someone to cover as our community coordinator had left.

***How do you see compassion in what you do? (Matthew 9:36)***

The compassion I've seen over these past few months whilst volunteering at the hall has been immense and at times unexpected. There is an overwhelming sense of people wanting to help as much as they can. We have so many people ringing to see if they can donate items and whilst we can't accept a lot of things because of restrictions at the moment it is comforting to know that people want to help. We also have a team of volunteer delivery drivers who give up so much time for us and I don't think you could do that without a lot of compassion.

I see compassion in the volunteers who come in week by week without fail and give up their time to help those who are in difficult circumstances. They care so deeply about the work we do and put in 110% effort in making up the food parcels and we couldn't do what we do without them.

I see compassion when I put out a call to Action for the KIT newsletter and get responses back from people in the Corps. They put so much thought and care into what they submit, and it shows in their writing. I see how they want to keep in contact with the corps family and share with them.

I see compassion in the pastoral group when we pray about the members of the corps, we talk about who we have seen this week, if there is anyone that needs our prayers at the moment or who may need a phone call from a friendly voice, to let them know that people care about them.

***You recently attended a DFL on-line conference. What did you learn about yourself and what did God say to you?***

It was intense! DFL was a 3-day weekend where we got a chance to really look back at the times in our life where God had spoken to us. I'd never really sat down and really reflected on my life and Christian journey in this way before, from start to finish as I'm not much of a reflector but being able to see my journey in front of me and being able to pick out the key parts was really powerful. I could see the times where I had a choice of paths and how the one I chose led into other aspects of my life.

One aspect of DFL that I found really powerful was being put into small groups and being able to talk through your journey and your faith with one another. Before that weekend I was concerned about having to talk about what I had experienced with a big group of people because I knew how popular these territorial events can be and so the idea of speaking about my faith in front of like 30 people was terrifying. Being able to be in a group of about 8 people and creating that close-knit group was comforting. The great thing about being in that group as well is that it was like having a fresh pair of eyes on your journey. When we were discussing our spiritual gifts questionnaires there were times when we couldn't see those gifts in practice but someone else in our group could see it and they could tell us.

I learned a lot about myself from DFL, it reaffirmed that God has a plan for my life and has done since the beginning. I learnt that the path that I may want to be on isn't necessarily the one that God has planned and that that is okay. God will equip me to do the work that he wants me to do and I have to give myself over to that process. I feel a stronger connection to my calling and have a clearer view of my future. There's still that uncertainty but I don't feel uncomfortable in that anymore.

***Tell me about what your plans are going forward.***

So I am finishing university in the next couple of months which is both exciting and nerve wracking at the same time. I'll be in Canterbury until about the middle of June then I go back home to Cannock for about 2ish months. I'm moving to Addlestone in September to embark on the gap year that they run at the corps there for a year. This gap year will give me a chance to really focus on my work for God and the church and will also help me to improve those God-given spiritual gifts and skills needed to embark on the path God has set out for me. I'm hoping that this gap year will also help me to further narrow down the calling that God is giving me and keep me focused on him at all times.

**Song: I dare to be different**

I dare to live the life of faith,  
The life of challenge God has planned;  
Of holiness and victory,  
For truth and righteousness to stand.

*I dare to be different I dare to believe;  
I dare to be different God's Spirit receive;  
I dare to be different, my life sacrificed;  
I dare to be different by living like Christ.*

I dare to ask the Spirit, come,  
To match with power my heart's desire.  
My life to cleanse and energise,  
With mighty Pentecostal fire.

I dare to want to live like Christ,  
According to his will and way;  
His love to know, compassion share,  
And serve him boldly every day.

**Lieutenant Carl Whitewood and Lauren**

Carl        So good morning everyone. We're from Ramsgate and I'm going to introduce a very special person to you.

Lauren     Thank you, Carl. I'm Lauren and I'm the project manager for the Thanet Winter Shelter.

- Carl Can you let us know how the shelter used to operate; this is its fifth year describe the model for the other four years.
- Lauren In previous years it has been the case, whereby the shelter has been hosted in church venues and church property. So every night a different Church would take turns into hosting the shelter. So it was kind of a rotational model, whereby everybody slept in the church hall, an evening meal was served, people went to bed and the next morning everything was all packed away and moved on to the next location. People went back out outside to whatever it is that they're doing during the day.
- Carl Okay, so we recruited you, I think, last September and the first thing we said to you is we can't run shelters. What was your solution?
- Lauren Well, after a few sleepless nights, many discussions and various different models looked at, we quickly came to the conclusion that we had to have one static location in order to be able to operate the shelter in a Covid compliant way. Asking around we were lucky enough to secure a language school. Which of course during Covid times, they weren't able to accept students and we're very happy for us to use it instead.
- Carl Now the way that the shelter operated during Covid took us a bit by surprise. What impact did that have on the volunteers and some of the things that you were hoping to do with the guests.
- Lauren It was unknown territory because of course we haven't lived in a global pandemic like this before and operated winter shelters like it. So there were lots of hopes, that unfortunately couldn't come into fruition, because of the restrictions placed on us by Public Health England concerning the hosting of people in a pandemic. So, for example, some of the enrichment activities that we were hoping to do we weren't able to do so; schools colleges were closed and we were no exception with regards to the restrictions that we have to abide by now.
- Carl Now normally by now the shelter would have been closed, and you'd be sitting on a beach somewhere. We got some extra funding and the shelter is expected to continue till the end of

June. What are you hoping to do in these next few months for the guests?

Lauren So we're going to be looking at things to do with trauma and such like - continuing that, and also with regards to arts and crafts and other pursuits that actually can bring a lot of value and to help build self-esteem by the people staying there.

Carl Lauren, I love statistics; give me some.

Lauren So since November 23rd 72 people have used the shelter. We've got 32 that have moved on into accommodation. With regards to the outreach side of things, getting food out to people, we take on average six meals out a night, plus various items of clothing, sleeping bags and suchlike, that people need as well. Jenny has reported that we have now cooked over three thousand meals in the shelter.

Carl Amazing, and I ought to ask you how many pairs of socks you've washed, but I'm not going to do that. What I want to do, and this needs to be clear for people that are watching, is that this has been a real partnership with Thanet District Council and so a lot of the operation of the shelter has been managed by Thanet Council through funding they've got from central government. Whereas in the past that would have been done entirely by our volunteer team. So there has been a different model this year. But I think we've learned a great deal with working with a local authority and their provider.

Carl What are the plans for the future Lauren, because you are the first manager that we've had that's on the 12-month contract; which gives you the space to think about what happens as we enter into next winter.

Lauren Well, at the moment, we are still living in uncertain times with regards to Covid and what that's going to mean moving forwards; whether there will be a return to the more dormitory-style accommodation. But really, I think that this has set the bar in a different manner and we can see that, with Covid restrictions lifting, if we were able to have a static venue where people didn't have to leave during the day that that could provide an amazing opportunity. So that would be my dream, that we would have one location that is purely ours, that we run from a trauma informed perspective, that runs

throughout the year. Twelve months a year, seven days of the week, and all hours of the day. That's my hope.

Carl Now, it's a very very likely, that Major Mark Herbert will be listening to this. So, hear it well Mark, this is what we want for Thanet.

Lauren It's not just what we want, it's what's needed.

Carl Absolutely, and you made light of the fact, and I just believe that there was a miracle working when the venue was found because we genuinely didn't know that we will be able to run a shelter. We were getting towards that date in November, when the weather had changed, and we just thank God that the venue came along, and you have the tenacity to keep working towards getting it to a reality. So that was fantastic Lauren, thank you very much. I hope that there's enough time for me to say "well done." It's been an amazing job, and we're just so delighted that you're going to be able to carry on for these next months to continue to make a difference in the lives of those that that need to know that they're loved so much.

Thanks Lauren. Thank you. Thank you.

If in listening today your heart has been stirred to think about ways in which you might be able to serve God in your Corps and community, can I encourage you to speak to your Corps Officer. If you want to explore more about God's calling on your life like Amy you might want to attend a Design for Life weekend. The next DFL weekend is to be held in May from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> and this will be held on line.



**DFL**  
DESIGN FOR LIFE

**ONLINE**

**£15**

**FRIDAY 21 - SUNDAY 23 MAY 2021**

**EVERYONE IS CALLED**  
THIS WEEKEND GIVES YOU TIME AND SPACE TO LISTEN  
TO GOD AND EXPLORE HIS DESIGN FOR YOUR LIFE

**PLACES ARE LIMITED!**

BOOK YOUR PLACE ON: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/design-for-life-tickets-116705420053>

CONTACT: [vocation@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:vocation@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Major Linda Perkin is our airport chaplain at Gatwick airport. Over these past months in particular when the airport has been very quiet, Linda has been working in different ways serving people out of her heart of compassion. In just a moment she is going to share with us about some of the chaplaincy opportunities we have across the South East Division. Again, perhaps something will resonate with you, maybe there will be a stirring in your heart to engage in some form of chaplaincy.

### **Chaplaincy: Major Linda Perkin**

My appointment within the SA as an officer for the last three years has been at Gatwick airport as a chaplain, where I find many opportunities of coming alongside people listening to them having great conversations and bringing my faith in Jesus into that.

Chaplaincy is an important part of mission and ministry. There are many opinions on how chaplains can be most effective. So to understand chaplaincy fully we must first look at Jesus and his early followers and take our example from them. People looked to Jesus and He helped them, he had a compassionate heart. He listened to them. We today are trying to be Jesus in the context of where we find ourselves, as chaplain. For me that is at Gatwick airport, trying to do what Jesus would do with the people I find myself ministering to, through giving a listening ear and help.

In the South East Division, indeed all over the UK or even all over the world there are many chaplains at work and opportunities for people to be involved in chaplaincy in a big way or a small way.

So here in the South East we have chaplains in the following places:

Villa Adastra Eventide home. Sharing in people's lives at the eventide of their lives. Coming alongside and being there for them.

Hospital chaplains, Mayors Chaplains, Prison chaplains,

Even a chaplain in A Night club - heavy metal

School chaplain, Police chaplain, University chaplain, Workplace chaplains

Probably others we don't know about, doing their part for God where they live.

Actually, you know in a sense we can all be chaplains, if we come alongside people. It's just that some of us have a specialised area of work in this way.

At the moment in the areas of chaplaincy because of the Covid 19 pandemic it's been really difficult as many chaplains have had to be careful and not been in hospitals prisons etc. Although that is getting better as the vaccine is rolled out.

Some chaplain's work as part of a team with other denominations and faiths and particular settings they are in. In my situation at Gatwick airport I am the free church SA I work with Anglicans, RC, other faiths Muslim, Buddhist.

### **How can chaplaincy be developed?**

We have to have our eyes open, very often seeing what's in front of us. Just think about your community, the openings that there could be.

Supermarkets, town centres, shopping malls, police, fire stations, sea cadets, air training cadets, army cadets, the ambulance service, even water ways, massive Covid 19 vaccination centres among NHS staff - which is recent development. Who knows what opportunities may develop.

In my role at Gatwick I meet people from all over the world. Some tell their live story in ten minutes then they are off. I have the opportunity to pray with people as well as help.

It may be that you have a burning desire and want to be involved in chaplaincy. Why don't you pursue it. If you have time on your hands to give in this way look for the opportunities that there are, pray about it. You need to be friendly; you need to be able to approach people you have never met and begin a conversation and think quickly. Do you have that heart of compassion that God is speaking to you through? Pray about it. Speak to someone, talk it through, look for opportunities and go forward who knows what your presence in a place with people could bring about.

**Linda:** We thank God for those who have given us a glimpse into their specific areas of ministry this morning. We thank God for every act of compassion shown in every corps by our officers and all of you who seek to serve with ‘heart to God and hand to man’.

At the start of our meeting, I mentioned that today we would hear about NCD - Natural Church Development, one of our 4 mission priorities in this division. Iain is going to share with us now about this and then we have the joy once again, of sitting back and seeing some of the sights you have captured over this past month from your neck of the woods, so to speak.

Again, keep sending your pictures into Caroline at DHQ by 8<sup>th</sup> May and we will use them again next month.

### **Introducing NCD: Major Iain Stewart**

I don’t know about you, but I love to see things growing. Whether it’s children, whether it’s plants and flowers, whether it’s individuals or whether it’s whole churches, growth really excites me. To watch things, and people especially, flourish and become all that God intended is probably my greatest joy - and to be part of that process of health, growth and flourishing is a real privilege when it happens.

The Bible tells us that God has built this capacity for health, growth and flourishing into the church. In the parable of the farmer in Mark 4:26-28 Jesus says that: “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatter seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts, and grows; though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain - first the stalk, then the head, and then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

God has built healthy growth and development into nature, and those natural principles apply to the whole of his creation: not just to the physical world, but to the spiritual world as well.

It was Jesus himself who said to his followers “I will build my church”. What an amazing thought, that it isn’t actually up to us to build the church - because Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, has said that he will build his church.

Now that doesn’t mean we have nothing to do, because God’s word tells us clearly that God has appointed good work for each one of us to do. And our

joining in with the work that God is doing and that he has called us to is what natural church development is all about.

It's about following the principles that God has given for the growth of healthy churches, which first means healthy individual believers, and applying them where we are in our own lives and in our own churches.

The tested and proven biblical principles set out in natural church development have been clearly and demonstrably shown to work in all kinds of churches and all kinds of cultures all across the world. That's because it's not about following a program that worked in one church in one culture and trying to replicate it where we are, but applying universal principles given by God for the whole of his church to create unique environments that stimulate health, growth and flourishing.

NCD is about you and your church becoming what God intended you to uniquely be, just where he's placed you.

By focusing and working on whichever is most needed of 8 qualities of church, health such as empowerment, gift activation, passion, effectiveness, inspiration, community, need-relief and love,

((loving relationships, passionate spirituality, needs based evangelism, holistic small groups, empowering leadership, effective structures, inspiring worship service and gift based ministry)))

we release the all by itself growth potential that God has put in his church, in us.

Some of those things will come more naturally to us, some of them less so - and NCD, natural church development, is about discerning that reality and then releasing the energy and growth that God has placed within us, his people, to grow his church in the way that he always intended.

I would really encourage you to discover more about all that God has intended for you to be, so that you and the church where you are can become all that God intended for you to be individually and collectively. It's exciting to see health, growth and flourishing - especially so in yourself and those around you, and the thing is that it's totally natural and 100% in line with God's will.

So, come and join us on the what's been called 'The All By Itself Pathway' - the journey of becoming all that God intends you and your church to be - naturally.

If you'd like to know some more, drop me a line at the email address that will come up in a moment or contact me by phone via Horsham Corps. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. God bless.

[southeastncd@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:southeastncd@salvationarmy.org.uk)

### The Message

Good morning Church family. You are looking great today. It is obvious that many of you have taken the opportunity to visit the hairdressers or barbers this week. It has been worth the effort.

Even though I am not a Shepherd, allow me to offer some pastoral advice to those of you who look like you are continuing to follow the YouTube clip on how to cut your own hair. 'Please stop'. What happened in lockdown, stays in lockdown.

To the handful of you who seem to be taking the approach, 'If Boris can get away with it, then so can I', I lovingly say, 'You are in need of more help than we can give you this morning'.

This all leads me back to our word for today - compassion.

Matthew 9:36 'When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them...'

In this 3<sup>rd</sup> in the series of Divisional worship gatherings, we are looking at four verses of scripture, that if acted upon will change your life, and that of your Corps and community.

Here are those Bible verses again:

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, '*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.* <sup>38</sup> *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*'

These meetings planned under the heading of 'Sow What?'

In week 1, I introduced you to a new word, it is not a rude word, but it is a made up one - APEST. We have a God who sends us into the world, and we go

as Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd and Teacher. If you move the letters around you get the word 'PASTE'. APEST is the paste, the glue that holds our ministry and service together.

A - Apostle (Let's do this)

P - Prophet (Don't forget this)

E - Evangelist (Can I tell you this?)

S - Shepherd (Are you OK with this?)

T - Teacher (This is what this means)

Last time, in our second meeting, we asked the question: 'What is your harvest field?'

In 1996 the Government of Honduras built a bridge across a river to connect a main road with a new bypass. In a country known for hurricanes it was constructed to withstand everything nature could throw at it. And it did. It survived a massive hurricane. This bridge was the only thing that survived.

*Slide with photo of bridge:*

However, one thing that did happen was that the river changed course. It no longer flowed beneath the bridge. The lesson speaks for itself. The bridge became a bridge to nowhere.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for us to think again, to pray again, to ask the Lord of the harvest again, 'What is my harvest field?' For us to reach the people that no one else is reaching, we must do the things that no one else is doing.

We shared and spoke about many Fresh Expression opportunities. Faversham, Sheerness, Church on the run. New ways of reaching out into your communities. If we want to reach the people that no one else is reaching, we must do the things that no one else is doing. This is a once in a generation opportunity for us to think again, to pray again. The harvest is a sign of new life.

APEST - Fresh Expressions and now this morning we have heard from Major Iain Stewart about NCD - Natural Church Development.

What do you want your Corps to be known for? What is it known for? What do you think about your Corps? NCD helps us to work through these questions and develops ways of providing practical answers.

We love the Salvation Army, God has called us to be part of it, to serve him through it, but it belongs to him, not us.

Tucked away, near the beginning of the Old Testament, God describes himself to Moses. This God, whose Army it is, wanted this to be known about Him:

Slide:

*'And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness', (Exodus 34:6)*

This is the most quoted verse of the Old Testament in the Old Testament by Old Testament writers. God introduces himself - as compassionate. Centuries later when he walked this earth in Jesus, time and time again, Jesus was moved with compassion. Often what he did was shocking and startling, but his compassion always moved him to action.

The word used to describe this Compassion was an amazing Greek word, which literally meant 'an inward aching, feel deeply, moved to action, or literally, literally, 'to have the bowels to yearn'. The bowels were thought to be seat for love and pity.

Compassion is a gut thing - from the depth of your being. Try it, at the end of our Service, turn to the person next to you and say, 'I love you from the depth of my bowels'. All the puns around this being a moving experience, were edited out when I submitted this sermon transcript!

Jesus saw, had compassion and it was always followed by an action - he had to do something.

The closer I get to Christ the more I care for the things he cares for. The whole of our lives is a response to the Word of God.

I think that's why centuries after Jesus, Spurgeon said, 'To say that you care and then not to act is not to care at all.'

There is always an excuse not to get involved. Compassion intrudes into the diary; Compassion costs us something - but here it is - compassion changes lives. The Holy Spirit within us enables us to respond to the overwhelming need in the lives of people around us. Jesus sets the example for us. We cannot look at human need and remain cold.

Sometimes we don't know how God will do something, but we know he will. Often we are the answers to our own prayers. We cannot finish what we haven't started. This is not a challenge to our minds but a promise to our hearts that the world we want is coming because there is a King and he is in charge and his name is Jesus. Remember, the first time God our Father, the Creator of the universe introduced himself, he described himself as compassionate.

God could have sorted all this out on his own, but he didn't. He called to you, you, you, you and you. And said, 'Do it'. We can be the answer to our own prayers. We must break the mentality that says, 'Because I can't do everything, I won't do anything'. Small things make a big difference.

So, do for one.

You know that thing you wish you could do for everyone, but you can't. You can't do every 'shut ins', shopping. You can't spend time with every parent struggling with their child; You can't give every lonely person huge amounts of time. But do for one. Pay attention to the nudges of the Holy Spirit.

Go deep with someone rather than wide with lots of people. Deep connections lead deep relationships

Go long rather than short. Walk through a crisis with someone.

Give time not just money. In terms of your financial giving, you are some of the most generous people I have met, so I say this carefully, just because you dig deeply into your pockets, don't think that is God's last word to you.

Do for one. I've taken too long this morning to preach this three-word sermon - Do for one.

To say that you care and not to act is not to care at all.

This morning's worship has given a few examples of Corps being moved by compassion and doing something. There are dozens of other examples. From Armada Spasy to Worthing; from Ashford to Tunbridge Wells, from Bognor to Sittingbourne and everywhere in between across the South East. If you're one of that vast army of largely unnoticed compassionate servants, thank you. May you know the smile of the God who certainly does notice you.

'When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them'.

What do you want your Corps to be known for - Do for one.

And to God alone be the honour and the glory.

**Song: Beauty for brokenness (God of the poor)**

Beauty for brokenness,  
Hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering,  
This is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
Justice, joy, peace  
Sunrise to sunset,  
Your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives,  
Cures for their ills,  
Work for the craftsman,  
Trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed,  
Rights for the weak,  
Voices to plead the cause  
Of those who can't speak.

God of the poor,  
Friend of the weak,  
Give us compassion we pray.  
Melt our cold hearts,  
Let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars,  
Havens from fear.  
Cities for sanctuary,  
Freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields,  
Scorched earth to green.  
Christ for the bitterness,  
His cross for the pain.

God of the poor,  
Friend of the weak,  
Give us compassion we pray.  
Melt our cold hearts,  
Let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame

**Song: Love Divine all loves excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of Heav'n to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in Heav'n we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Benediction: Captains Jonathan and Marion Rouffet, Eva, Camille and Bethan - Maidstone Corps**

May the beauty of God  
be reflected in your eyes,  
the love of God  
be reflected in your hands,  
the wisdom of God  
be reflected in your words,  
and the knowledge of God  
flow from your heart,  
that all might see,  
and seeing, believe!

# The South East Division



ARMADA SPASY  
MARGATE  
ASHFORD  
BOGNOR REGIS  
BRIGHTON  
BEVENDEAN  
BRIGHTON CONGRESS  
HALL  
BURGESS HILL  
CANTERBURY  
CHATHAM  
DARTFORD  
DEAL

EAST PECKHAM  
EASTBOURNE CITADEL  
EASTBOURNE OLD  
TOWN  
FAVERSHAM  
FOLKESTONE  
GILLINGHAM  
GRAVESEND  
HASTINGS CITADEL  
HASTINGS TEMPLE  
HERNE BAY  
HORSHAM

HOVE  
HYTHE  
MAIDSTONE  
MARGATE  
MINSTER  
RAMSGATE  
SHEERNESS  
SITTINGBOURNE  
STROOD  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
WORTHING



Trust in the  
**LORD**

with ALL your **HEART**

And DO NOT lean on your own  
understanding

In ALL your WAYS

acknowledge **HIM,**

And **HE** will  
make your paths  
*straight.*

PROVERBS  
3:5-6