

Community zone - story bag script

Members of The Salvation Army believe that being part of a community is important. They also believe that part of their job as the church is to care for and love people who live in the community, especially those people who are often forgotten. We're going to find out what The Salvation Army does (in this community and) in communities all over the United Kingdom & Ireland. We have a story bag with some objects or clues inside to help us. With each clue or object we pick out of the bag we will meet a different person in the community and hear their story.

Invite a pupil to take an object out of the bag and either hold it, or place it where everyone can see it. If you have time, ask pupils what they think the object might have to do with The Salvation Army's work, then read the part of the script relating to the object. Repeat for each object.

Teapot

My name is Rose. On Monday afternoon the minister from The Salvation Army comes to visit me at home. I'm quite elderly and I find it hard to get out and about now. We sit and have a chat and a cup of tea and catch up on all the week's news. I tell her about my grandchildren and she fills me in on what's happening at church. She helps me with the washing up and hangs my washing out to dry. I'm so pleased to see her when she comes because I can't always get to church and I don't have many visitors. It can be lonely being stuck at home all the time.

Toy

Hi! I'm Alisha and I have a two year old son. I go to The Salvation Army community centre for the Parents and Toddlers group. Lots of parents and carers in the community bring their small children and we have a good time together. The children play with the toys, draw pictures and sing songs while the parents and carers have a cup of tea and chat. I don't go to church on a Sunday but it's nice to get to know the ministers and some of the other families who live in our town.

Tin of food

My name is Albert. Every Tuesday I pop along to the Salvation Army's lunch club. There are all sorts of people there. Some are elderly, like me. Others are homeless, and some just find it difficult to cook for themselves every day. The staff and volunteers are very friendly and chat to us while we eat. I've made lots of new friends by coming to the lunch club.

Item of clothing/shoe

Hey, I'm Nadine and I volunteer in the Salvation Army charity shop on my day off from university. People come and donate unwanted clothes and shoes, as well as books, toys and other things. We sort them and then sell them, and the money helps with the other work The Salvation Army does in the community. Charity shops are a great way to reuse and recycle things instead of throwing them away. Any clothes which are too worn out to be sold go to The Salvation Army's recycling centre.

Bible

My name is Jimmy. I've been in prison for two years. It's not a good place to be, but every week a Salvation Army minister comes to visit me and the other prisoners. Sometimes it's just good to talk about how I'm feeling or what I've been thinking about. Other times the minister reads from the Bible or prays for me, or we talk about God. It's important to have someone who takes time to listen to you and care for you, even if you've messed up and done things you're not proud of.

Polysterene/Red shield cup

Hello, I'm Janet and I'm a member of the Salvation Army church. I volunteer on the soup run every week. We go out on to some of the streets in our town at night time and offer soup and hot drinks to people who are living on the streets. People are usually grateful – for some it may be the only food they eat all day – and it's good to talk to them too. When you're homeless, not a lot of people have time for you. We try to give advice about getting off the streets and into a Lifehouse if we can.

Garden tool/paintbrush

My name is Constance. Last summer a group of young people from The Salvation Army organised a clean up where we live. They got rid of the rubbish, tidied up the gardens outside my flat and planted some vegetables and flowers. They also painted some of the other flats which had become run-down. It really made a difference. Now when I see them on the street I say hello and we have a chat.