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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">The Salvation Army United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland Coronavirus - information document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mission Service Update No 1</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Issued: 31 March 2020 By Mission Secretary</p> |
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Welcome to the Mission Service update

In this 'new norm' thank you to the many corps who have been creative in sharing their online corps/church services and programmes or as our corps officer has renamed our gatherings 'Vurch'. For many these are enabling us to 'gather' and keep connected to one another and such a blessing.

Community Services

Our people with Learning disabilities

At this time it's important to 'dig a little deeper' into how people are doing through the crisis which I know many of you will be doing but we just wanted to highlight. Many people who are vulnerable anyway will not necessarily say so and others have become more so as a result of COVID-19. This is true of people of all ages especially those who are older and have disabilities.

It's often not until you ask the question that people will say how they are 'really' doing. It might be helpful to go through your records of corps and community contacts (even those you haven't seen for a while) and if you can get in touch with them. Trusted volunteers can be asked to do this as well as officers and employees. Questions like 'how are you?' work for most people but others need to be asked more specific questions like " Have you been unwell? When did you last speak to someone? How many meals have you got food to make? Many vulnerable people were socially isolated before the crisis and will be even more so now, especially if they are in the 'shielded' Category. We are in the process of producing some guidelines on telephone befriending but in the mean time your Community Regional Specialists will be able to offer some advice and guidance. Whilst a one-off phone call is of course helpful, regular contact during the weeks ahead will be a real support to people.

Practical Assistance Records

This is a gentle reminder to keep a record of the practical support you are giving in response to COVID-19 crisis. It is vital that we are able to recount the details of the support The SA is giving. If you are currently using the Practical Assistance Record database (PAR) we have now added two more options under main reason (Self isolation due to COVID-19 and Loss of employment). If you are not using the PAR please use the systems you have in place. If you would like to start to use the PAR please get in touch with your Regional Specialist for Community or Gill Bedford.

Personal Giving

In these days when income is severely impacting budgets for every level of The Salvation Army, I want to remind us all of our Christian responsibilities to continue to give as we should as disciples of Jesus and Salvationists. Now is the time for us to keep on giving regularly by whatever means possible to the life and ministry of our corps. Your giving is never more important to enable the mission in your community to reach out in Christ's name. In our new normal we are looking to other electronic means for us to give as easily as possible, watch out for more communication in future bulletins.

Employment Plus

Employment Plus are continuing to serve the existing caseload of job seekers remotely using online platforms and telephone appointments, this includes the clients we serve contractually. If corps have people presenting, or contacting them requiring help or support to claim benefits

and/or to apply for work, they can continue to contact their existing Employment Plus contact who currently supports their Corps.'

Music and Creative Arts (MACA)

The MACA regional specialists are producing material / resources each day for Facebook - as follows:

https://www.facebook.com/musicandcreativearts/?_tn_=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARB7SThsbBQDIYGBYzuMHJbZjNommeMT_GxIV1bTiJgU25LOWsKUHc5x6Cf2m92vUH3q7KyxX_tdzL66

Morning Daily Facebook ministry

Monday - Devotional day / written word - music video clips

Tuesday - Dance Fit

Wednesday- Stillness- video

Thursday - Dance Fit

Friday - Fun Day /Quiz

Dance Fit FM has gone live stream. On Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes people are tuning into the MACA Facebook page to do a live Dance Fit FM session. The 40-minute work out to Christian songs including a prayer time in the cool down is being done by people who would normally do a weekly Dance Fit FM class up and down the Territory, but also by lots of people who are doing it for the first time including non-Salvationists.

Today MACA DANCE will be launching their at home dance challenge. They will be asking any dancers young and old to choreograph their own dance to the Transmission tracks given. They will then select a different one each day of Holy week to show on Facebook. This will be a joint MACA DANCE and MACA Facebook page release.

There has been significant increased traffic to the MACA Facebook site in the last month alone, please go there to find helpful resources for your corps.

Sports Mission Enabler, Enabling Mission Team

As some of you may or may not be aware, we are having to cancel this year's Sport & Christianity Gathering because of the situation we find ourselves in regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.



Therefore, we wish to make you aware of a few bullet point details:

- We are looking to host an online Faith & Life Zoom/Skype sports gathering for anyone currently signed up or who wishes to sign up and be part of this on Saturday 20 June from your own house! We will communicate details, timings etc. during the next few weeks.
- We are also launching some new online resources for anyone involved in sports mission before the Summer
- We are also looking to host some Spotlight talks and podcasts online in the next few weeks/months.

So here's what I want you to do, with God's help: take your everyday, ordinary sporting life - your playing, competing, training, goal-setting, win, lose or draw life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't fit so well into the culture of sport and play that you turn out like everyone else. Instead, fully focus on God. Your play and performance will be changed from the inside out. [Romans 12 paraphrase, according to Sport.]

Youth & Children's Ministries

During this period of uncertainty we can always find fresh wisdom and hope in the story of another.

Episode 6 of the *All -Terrain Podcast* is now available with our guest Doug Ross, Director of Stabal, a new global online content platform broadcasting live concerts from unique venues.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-all-terrain-podcast/id1482048880#episodeGuid=allterrainpodcast.podbean.com%2F0d6bf72b-531e-5789-b09b-eba32c29b1d9>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0DXS43JtQv13g11bP5XtOj?si=DFLR6GvQRuOmZhmr-SFcSQ>

<https://www.podbean.com/ei/pb-68w2p-d755ee>

There is updated guidance on GOV.uk on supporting the mental health and well-being of children and young people, which includes guidance for parents. Please see link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Palm Sunday - Children's Resources

The Youth and Children's Ministries Unit have pulled together a number of resources to help support children's workers and CO's ahead of Palm Sunday. With resources for use during a group call, for children to try on their own, or for parents to try with their children, the opportunity to pick and choose your material is available via the Youth and Children's Ministry Dropbox. The Dropbox also contains a number of other helpful resources which you may like to use during this time.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yz93leu4070v4nr/AACQL-1OljqqtHhkLNJJxllka?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR0BCkbml-ZFHAUcgl3BTj7qfNDImk6tZiEs_5bh-HYI5G6T8XPXOU81Wks