



Newcastle City Temple Connected

Reimagining Church Together

Dear Friends

"We're not out of the woods yet" is a phrase I've heard several times over the past few weeks as various experts from the field of science, public health and politics have been called to give their opinion on the ongoing pandemic. My heart sank a little further as I watched the BBC Breakfast News on Saturday morning as reports suggested that the Government is considering the imposition of a new national lockdown due to the ongoing resurgence of coronavirus cases.

Political Editor Laura Kuenssberg warned the new restrictions could be announced as early as Monday ; and whilst it is not considered to be as serious as the first stay at home initiative that we all remember from back in March; it will inevitably have an impact upon how we live day to day and potentially dash any hope of the easing of current restrictions in time for Christmas.

In light of this I have to say that there are no plans to recommence public worship at Brunswick before the New Year. We shall instead continue with the weekly NCT Connected Worship Bulletin and online activities via 'Zoom'. In addition to this, David Richardson and myself have begun to look at how we can produce a pre-recorded worship service; utilising video recordings of prayers, bible readings and the message alongside media clips of songs and band/songster selections. We hope to share this via Social Media and possibly make it available in DVD format for those without internet access. The first attempt at this will be shared next week on Remembrance Sunday, and so I anticipate a shorter meeting on Zoom which will also enable people to observe the 11am silence from their own doorsteps, something which is being encouraged nationally.

Based on the success of the first effort, we then hope to produce a pre-recorded Carol Service, and maybe some short pre-recorded Advent Reflections, and a special service for Christmas Day too.

Harvest Giving

Further Harvest 'Altar Service' Donations have been received this week taking the total to.... £1,400.00. Thank you for your generous giving. There is still opportunity to give for those still wishing to do so.

Virtual Christmas Fayre / Sale of Work

Thank you to all Makers, Bakers and Coordinators of the planned Virtual Christmas Fayre. Whilst we still hope to be able to run this event to some extent—in light of the proposed national lockdown this may need to be delayed and possibly 'scaled down'. We had hoped to 'go live' from the 12th November. The idea was for people to place orders 'on line' via Facebook or by telephone having had the opportunity to view the items available for purchase. Photographs with product details were to be posted on Facebook and also printed in a special brochure which was to be published alongside this weekly bulletin. Items made would then have been collected from those who had made/baked them and delivered to the intended recipients—with full observance to current social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

The proposed 'month long national lockdown' (assuming it comes into force) is likely to impose tighter restrictions on 'non essential travel' - and it will be paramount that we do not breach this, nor any other restrictions. We shall therefore only launch the Virtual Christmas Fayre if we believe we can do so safely and in accordance with local restrictions. It may be that we have to forego the intention to offer short life perishable items (e.g. cakes and other baked goods) for sale and make available only non-perishable goods (hand crafted items and knitwear) and sweet treats which have a much longer shelf life (Santa soups, sweet cones, sweet wreaths etc) due to the unpredictability as to when we will be able to arrange collections and deliveries; mindful that the closer we get to Christmas the busier people may be. Risk Assessments have been submitted to DHQ and are awaiting approval.

As they say WATCH THIS SPACE and further updates will be given as things become clearer.

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Annual Christmas Toy and Gift Appeal

A number of people have started to ask about this year's Toy & Gift appeal and whether or not this will be going ahead.

The simple answer is YES, although again it will need to be organised a little differently this year in accordance with current government guidelines.

As with previous years, the appeal stipulates that all donated Toys and Gifts will need to be **NEW & UNWRAPPED**.

For those who plan on purchasing Toys & Gifts, where possible these can be dropped off at the Quarters or collected from you. Due to the unpredictability of local restrictions (especially with regards to non-essential travel) could I encourage those wishing to purchase gifts to do so sooner rather than later—thus maximising the window of opportunity for collecting, sorting, allocating and delivering the toys.

Alternatively—and perhaps a better option would be to make a '**cash**' donation to the appeal which would enable us to purchase age specific toys or gift cards for the intended recipients.

Cheques made payable to 'The Salvation Army' can be sent to either myself or Iain Murray - (please include a note so that we know what it is for!)

A **Just Giving** Page has been set up for those who are able to make an online donation

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newcastle-city-temple-salvation-army>

And, for those who might be interested in purchasing goods via **Amazon**, then I am hoping to set up a Newcastle City Temple Annual Christmas Toy and Gift Appeal 'Wish List' which means that you will be able to purchase gifts from there and have them delivered directly to the quarters. I hope to release details on this by next weekend.

This year, due to the restrictions accessing Brunswick Methodist Church, Major David Burns (Divisional Commander) has kindly offered us the use of **DHQ** for the sorting and allocating of gifts. The number of people involved in the appeal will need to be restricted, but I am looking for teams of up to three to assist me in the appeal—and so if you would like to be involved this year, please let me know as soon as possible. Please note as it is not possible to share vehicles with those outside of your own household or bubble, you will need to be able to make your own way to Divisional Headquarters when required. A Risk Assessment, detailing how I intend to run the appeal this year, has been submitted to DHQ for approval.

Standing Day

We are still hoping to be able to go ahead with the planned Standing Day at Morrison's Cowgate between 9am and 6pm on Friday 4th December. I need to recruit volunteers to assist with this. Strictly One person/One Bucket per hour. (NO BAND) If you think you might be able to help, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

GIVT

Those who have 'logged in' to on line worship from other corps may have spotted reference to a cashless giving app called GIVT. As we move towards offering pre-recorded worship via social media, with a possible reach far beyond our own corps - we too can now offer this application as a means of encouraging monetary gifts to support our work.

Details of how GIVT works can be found on the next page.

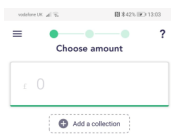
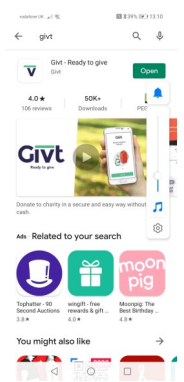




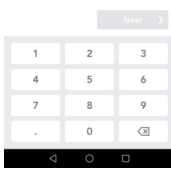
GIVING without CASH

1. In order to give using Givt people will need to first download the Givt application on their smartphone or tablet.

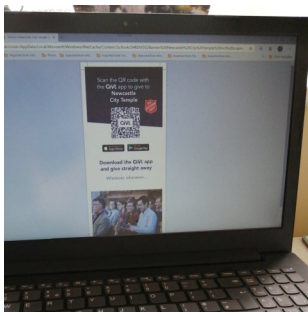
The Givt app can be downloaded via the Apple App Store or Google Play.



2. On this screen users of the app can state the amount they want to give.



3. On the next screen they can choose the way they want to give. For example if they click on the second option they will be given access to the QR scanner.



4. People can make their donation by scanning the QR code seen on the screen during worship

Scanning the QR Code opposite will take people directly to the Newcastle City Temple Givt giving page. This is for general donations / collections. It can be displayed on a screen during worship, printed in publications as illustrated here - or on banners to encourage cashless giving during standing days for example.



You're ready to give.
Scan this QR code with the Givt app.



QR codes can be easily created for specific projects, including the building fund. Giving via Givt bears no additional charges for the giver, and if they are tax payers Givt can ensure that gift aid is added to donation. Whilst a small charge per donation is payable by the corps, in such a time as this, where cash giving has been adversely affected, the benefits of using Givt are quickly being realised by corps who have signed up to the application.

If anyone has questions about Givt please direct them to Major Liz Hancock.

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Reimagining Church - Let's Worship Together

SUNDAY: 1st November 2020

Theme: Come Dine with Thee

Key Text: Luke 22:19



Introduction

We commenced this series back on the 13th September following the governments Eat out to Help Out scheme... well I'm not sure that the opportunity to 'eat out' will still be an option, depending of course, on the statement coming from Downing Street later today! (Saturday 31st October). However - the invitation to dine with Jesus remains, and what a comfort it is to know that we can enter freely into his presence at any time and in any place. In His presence we don't need to concern ourselves with social distancing - so come, '*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you*' James 4:8

There's a beautiful song by Sandi Patty called In His Presence - let's quiet our hearts and allow God to minister to us through these words;



In the quiet of this hour
As we kneel before You now
I believe Your promise to be faithful
I don't always understand
What Your perfect will demands
But I learned to trust You more
In Your presence, Lord

*In Your presence, there is comfort
In Your presence, there is peace
When we seek to know Your heart
We will find such blessed assurance
In Your holy presence, Lord*

There can be such sweet reward
When we wait upon the Lord
As we take the time
He gives His perfect wisdom
To be found in Him alone
All our deepest secrets known
We're surrounded by His grace
When we seek His face

*In Your presence, there is comfort
In Your presence, there is peace
When we seek my fathers heart
We will find such blessed assurance
And ever open door
To know our Saviour more
In the presence of my Lord*

Sandi Patty

Band Piece: In His presence <https://youtu.be/TI-Pwx6-JsI>

Our series commenced in response to words found in Revelation;

'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door. I will come in and eat with them, and they with me'. (Revelation 3:20)

We considered the **Parable of the Great Banquet** (Luke 14:1-24), A meal shared in the home of **Mary and Martha** (Luke 10:38-42); how Jesus invited himself to dine with **Zacchaeus** in his home (Luke 19:1-10) and His anointing as He shared a meal in the home of **a Pharisee called Simon** (Luke 7:36-50). This week being a week in which we remember with Bonfire Night on Thursday and Remembrance Day on Sunday; I thought we would take a look at the dining experience where Jesus said "Do this in Remembrance of Me" Luke 22:19

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Reimagining Church - Let's Worship Together

Continued....



Scripture: Luke 22:9-22

Video Presentation of the Last Supper: <https://youtu.be/zBFUnc3qXZU>

Remembrance is an important aspect of Christianity. As believers we are encouraged and strengthened by remembering the faith and deeds of those who have gone before us. (In some Christian churches this is formalised by the observance of All Saints Day and All Souls Day). We remember that ours is an ancient faith, we remember the promises of God's word, and as we do so our confidence is built in trusting God and living in his truth.

There are several places in Scripture where we are encouraged to remember, but the commandment from Jesus spoken on the night he was betrayed stands out from the rest. There is a deep and vibrant meaning to this instruction, and this remembrance continues to be a cornerstone of our faith.

In March 1996, General Paul A. Radar appointed an International Spiritual Life Commission to review ways in which The Salvation Army cultivates and sustains the spiritual life of its people. The Salvation Army's approach to the sacramental dimension of life was also included in the review - and from that review came the 'Call to Celebrate Christ's Presence'

We call Salvationists worldwide to rejoice in our freedom to celebrate Christ's presence at all our meals and in all our meetings, and to seize the opportunity to explore in our life together the significance of the simple meals shared by Jesus and his friends and by the first Christians.

We affirm that the Lord Jesus Christ is the one true sacrament of God. His incarnation and continuing gracious presence with his people by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the mystery at the heart of our faith. We hear our Lord's command to remember his broken body and his outpoured blood as in our families and in our faith communities we eat and drink together. We affirm that our meals and love feasts are an anticipation of the feasts of eternity, and a participation in that fellowship which is the body of Christ on earth.

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Events in the Old Testament often serve the dual purpose of fulfilling God's promises to his people in the moment, while also providing a view of what is to come. This occurrence is one of the most obvious of these, as Jesus fulfils the meaning of Passover.

This verse takes place within the context of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. This meal was a part of the Jewish festival of Passover, which had been observed annually since Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. The original Passover was a miraculous occurrence, and the pivotal event in the formation of God's people as a nation. After having been enslaved in Egypt for centuries, this represented the night that their tormentors were punished and the Israelites were freed from slavery according to God's promise of restoration. The account from Exodus 12:12-14 describes what happened:

"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord's lasting ordinance."

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Reimagining Church - Let's Worship Together

Continued....



The Jewish people had observed this meal every year in order to remember God's fulfilment of his promise. Every year they re-enacted the preparation of fleeing Egypt, and being prepared for whatever came next. On the occasion of the last supper Jesus took this concept to its completion as he revealed that He is the true fulfilment of the Passover.

Just as the blood of the lamb covered the doorposts, the blood of Jesus covers our sins. The disciples would certainly observe this meal again, as would the entire nation of Israel and the church to come, but Jesus added adding a deeper meaning to it; going forward, not only would people remember freedom from physical slavery, but also the sacrifice of Jesus which offers freedom from spiritual slavery.

Whilst many in the church choose to practice this command by doing what the Church has done for centuries: regularly observing communion together, prayerfully and thoughtfully considering what the Lord has done for them; The Salvation Army's Spiritual Life Commission urges Salvationists *'to seize the opportunity to explore in our life together the significance of the simple meal shared by Jesus and his friends and the first Christians'*. Whilst, The Salvation Army does not, *generally*, practice the Eucharist, it does instead choose to see Christ in all aspects of life, especially in our mission to the world.

In his blog 'Equipping His People, Rob Westwood Payne states that *'Salvationists are a sacramental people. We find God living and at work not in bread and wine but in our every day life experiences. We celebrate his presence in our own lives and the lives of others by connecting them with the earthly life of Jesus. Radically, we also find God in our mission. We believe that when our lives bring grace, healing and reconciliation to the world around us, then Christ can be seen'*.

Robert Street, in His book 'Called to be God's people' which explores the implications and challenges of results of the International Spiritual Life Commission, writes;

'General Albert Orsborn's expressive song 'My life must be Christ's Broken Bread' My be easier to sing than to put into practice. (But) at it's heart are the prayer and intention which Salvationist's confirm and live out when being true to their calling... Christ's body was broken for us. Whatever form of worship we use to remember his supreme act of love and salvation, we are called to use our lives in his service and for his sake. To give, to share, to die - and live again.

*My life must be Christ's broken bread,
My love his outpoured wine,
A cup o'erfilled, a table spread
Beneath his name and sign,
That other souls, refreshed and fed,
May share his life through mine.*

*2 . My all is in the Master's hands
For him to bless and break;
Beyond the brook his winepress stands
And thence my way I take,
Resolved the whole of love's demands
To give, for his dear sake.*

*3. Lord, let me share that grace of thine
Wherewith thou didst sustain
The burden of the fruitful vine,
The gift of buried grain.
Who dies with thee, O Word divine,
Shall rise and live again.*

*Albert Orsborn (1886-1967)
© The General of The Salvation Army.*

International Staff Songsters: My life must be Christ's broken bread <https://youtu.be/9rERE2143IA>

William Booth said; *'Let us do all that we do in remembrance of his dying love. Every act of our life ought to be religious . Every day ought to be a Sabbath in the sense of its being sacred and devoted to the glory of God, and every meal we take ought to be a sacrament'*.

COME DINE WITH THEE