

What's happening this week at Salvation Army Ramsgate?

Sunday 14 th 10 am	Ramsgate Church at Home (YouTube)
Sunday 14 th 11.15 am	ZOOM fellowship
Sunday 14 th 12 noon	ZOOM Youth Group
Sunday 14 th 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)
Monday 15 th 7.30pm	APEST
Tuesday 16 th (10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank
Tuesday 16 th 7pm	ZOOM Pancake Social
Wednesday 10 th 7pm	ZOOM Ash Wednesday Meditation
Friday 19 th (10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank
Sunday 21 st Worship –	1 st Sunday in Lent
Tuesday 23 rd 7pm	Corps Council



There is a full day of activities on Fortress Radio.

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

Songs of Praise Sunday 14th 13.15pm Love and Lent

Sean Fletcher visits Ripon Cathedral to hear reflections on Lent, and Katie Piper meets a Christian in Leeds who donated a kidney to a stranger.

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

Hollie 16-Feb

Jasper 17-Feb

Prayers please for

Captain John Garbutt who is very unwell at this time. For **Ingrid**, and for **Val** following the loss of her dog.

Helen as she continues to recover after her fall, for **Mo's dad, Ossie** who is still in hospital with breathing difficulties following major heart surgery and Mo's and his family who will remember the passing of his mum one year ago on Wednesday.

We continue to pray for **Muriel** recovering at home, for **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment. For **Joyce Hill** as she returns to health. For full recovery for **Kate**. For Tracy's dad **Ivan**. Continued prayers for **Paul**, son of Hazel and for **Archie**, Lisa and Scott.

For **Ray**, grandfather of Hannah's friend Josh.

For **Steven**, the grandson of Kate's friend Madeleine and for **Victoria**.
O Lord hear our prayers for these two young people.

AMEN!



Office of the Chief Secretary

Colonel Paul Main
Chief Secretary

Tel: 020 7367 4610

10 February 2021

To: All Officers, Members and Employees of The Salvation Army

Dear friends,

An update from the Chief Secretary

I am grateful for this opportunity to communicate with you and be able to update you on the important matters of our territory. I am conscious that this is God's Army – his church, his mission and his Kingdom.

I acknowledge and honour the leadership of my predecessor Colonel Lee Graves and thank him for his preparation for my arrival into this responsibility. Jenine and I are delighted to be back in our home territory and appreciate the support and assistance we are receiving in these early weeks in our respective appointments. While we have arrived in unprecedented circumstances, we very quickly appreciated the tremendous work, ministry and faithful service of our employees, volunteers, members and officers. A sincere thank you for everything you have done to support the mission of The Salvation Army particularly in the past 11 months during the pandemic. It has been a traumatic year for so many people, but it could have been much worse. Your cooperation and contributions have made a significant difference. Thanks to those of you who have worked throughout to keep essential services running well. Thank you to those who have worked from home as well as those who have been on furlough for months and months. This is not taken for granted. The pandemic is not finished yet so please take good care of yourselves, your families and friends.

We continue to be grateful for the faith and trust placed in The Salvation Army. The general public has been very generous and supportive of our work. We are amazed that our Christmas appeal 2020 has brought in an additional £7.3 million to date, and while I express deep gratitude to the HQ fundraising team, I recognise it is because of the amazing work and ministry undertaken at the frontline that has caught the attention and gratitude of the public. Thank you, thank you!

While our financial position is better than we feared at the beginning of the pandemic, we also recognise that other income streams: the Big Collection, legacy delayed in probate, charity shops, SATCoL, and corps fundraising have been significantly impacted. Due to budget constraints we have had to put on hold our property planned maintenance programme, mission development fund and delay replenishing our reserves.

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Christian Church and registered charity

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The Salvation Army Trustee Company, registered number 00259322 (England and Wales). Registered office: 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN
General: Brian Peddle Territorial Commander for the United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland; Commissioner Anthony Cotterill

We have been able to benefit from additional government support and many areas have been able to reduce expenditure. However, the future is uncertain, and it is likely that demand for our services will consistently be called for and relied upon in the coming months and years.

We are particularly concerned about people who are still not back at work. The UK Government's furlough scheme is scheduled to finish at the end of April. This is a cause of great stress and concern for many employees and their families. Unfortunately, as communicated by the Chief Secretary back in October, we have been engaged in a consultation with some employee whose regional and THQ roles we can no longer sustain. In the last few days we have announced multiple redundancies as we begin the journey to balance our budget. I appreciate that THQ is not alone in having to face these realities, with divisions, corps, centres and charity shops having to make similar decisions. These decisions are never taken easily and come at some considerable cost. This is always a painful experience particularly as we have lost very fine employees who have given many years of faithful service.

STRUCTURAL REVIEW

The Salvation Army is a large organisation that needs to continually adapt. For the past 12 months, Lieut-Colonel Michael Highton has chaired a working group of representatives from around the territory to develop options for structural change in light of the Fit For Mission Review. This group of stakeholders has completed its task with rigour and professionalism despite the significant challenges of working during a pandemic. Their recommendations have been gratefully received by the Cabinet chaired by the Territorial Commander. This detailed and quality work will now be progressed by a the Structural Coordination and Design Group (SCDG) with the appointment of a core team – Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant (Secretary for Communications) – Chair, Colonel Jenine Main (Territorial Secretary for Leader Development), Major Howard Russell (currently the Assistant Chief Secretary), Major Greg Morgan (Divisional Commander, Southern), Major Paul Kingscott (currently Divisional Commander, Ireland), Jo Mosely (HR Director, THQ), and Retired Corps Sergeant-Major Andrew Avison (Bath Citadel /Territorial Advisory Council).

The Cabinet has received the following recommendations:

- A reduction in the number of divisions. The Cabinet reaffirms this will not be done before thorough planning and piloting has been undertaken.
- Greater attention is given to culture change across the territory. The Cabinet confirms that the work of the People Strategy and the Identity Task Force need to align and enhance any future structural changes.
- THQ and DHQ need to be aligned for greater efficiencies. Cabinet recognises the need for DHQ and THQ to work much more closely together in the future. The functions of THQ were not part of the previous working group's Terms of Reference, but they must be fully assessed and integrated during future planning and piloting.
- A flexible structure that ensures local expressions of Salvation Army mission have the support they require. Cabinet agrees that a 'one size DHQ structure' will not be imposed on DHQs. Divisional teams in the pilot divisions will be fully involved in the planning and piloting work.

It is our intention to reconfigure some divisional boundaries over the summer, to assist us in thinking through the recommendations the SCDG are considering, so that these pilot divisions will be able to assist in and test any new structural changes. I appreciate that this in itself will bring some level of uncertainty for employees and officers alike, but I want to reassure all DHQ officers and employees who will understandably be concerned. We will actively work through the implications of the divisional boundary changes with those involved, so please do not jump to conclusions and assume this is a 'done deal'. People not involved in pilots should not assume that changes in one part of the territory will automatically happen everywhere. We are committed to an evolutionary process undertaken in an informed manner that responds to local context and difference and, of course, to complying with any duty to formally consult that may arise in due course. You can expect the SCDG to communicate regularly.

DIVISIONAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

On behalf of the Territorial Commander, I can announce the following: -

From 1 July 2021 the following divisions will be established:

Wales Division - bringing together the corps and centres in the current South & Mid Wales Division and the Welsh corps from the North West England & North Wales Division.

North Western Division - bringing together corps & centres in the current Central North Division and the English corps from the North West England and North Wales Division.

I commit myself, in partnership with each of you, to continue serve the Lord, so that his love will be shared in word and in action. Keep the main thing the main thing! Love God with all your heart, your soul and your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself.

If you have questions or comments, please write to me at THQ or send me an email at chief.secretary@salvationarmy.org.uk and I will ensure you that I or the appropriate person responds to you.

May God continue to bless and guide us – thanks for all you are doing.

Yours faithfully,



Colonel Paul Main
CHIEF SECRETARY

PRAY

Father God, we thank you that your extravagant love has been poured out for us on the cross and poured into us by the Holy Spirit. We want to taste and experience more of the depth and breadth and length and height of your amazing love in order that we might live out our Christian faith through our actions. Amen.

MEDITATE

1 John 4:11-21 has an overarching set of inter-related truths.

1. God is the source of all love.
2. In response to God's love for us we should love others.
3. As we love others, God's love is brought to full expression within us.

God is love. The greatest expression of God's love is that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 1 John 4:11 says, "Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other." "As we live in God, our love grows more perfect" (v17), and "His love is brought to full expression in us" (v12).

PRAY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SALVATION ARMY

Pray for those who are suffering in the world through conflict, violence, poverty, natural disasters and who lack basic necessities such as clean water, food and shelter.

Pray for those who struggle to find acceptance in their own communities due to prejudice or ignorance.

Pray for Christian brothers and sisters enduring civil conflict, persecution, poverty and injustice as they seek to serve and use their gifts to build community and care for others.

Pray that we can support our family of God in regular prayer and financial support.

Pray for officers, leaders and missionaries around the world, particularly those

ministering to people in remote areas, that they will be devoted to the Gospel and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Racial Justice Sunday is organised by Churches together in Britain and Ireland



Addressing racial injustice

In June 2020 Commissioners Anthony and Gillian Cotterill, Territorial Leaders of The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland, made the following statement.

The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland today affirms that it stands in solidarity with people around the world (including our own members and employees) who experience racism, both in its blatantly ugly and its more insidious forms.

Our hearts are heavy and hurting because it is increasingly obvious that BAME (black, Asian and other minority ethnic) people in the UK continue to suffer institutional racism in all areas of life. Our hearts are heavy and hurting because racism infects the church – and we acknowledge and confess that this is true even in parts of Salvation Army life. We are deeply concerned by the research showing that people from BAME groups in the UK have suffered disproportionately from the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise this is a critical time and today we want to recommit to our journey of togetherness with people from BAME communities and respond with positive action.

In these days following Pentecost, and the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the world, we increasingly understand our responsibility, in the words of Jesus himself, not only ‘to proclaim good news to the poor’ but also ‘to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour’ (Luke 4 v18-19, NIV). The work of ‘recovery of sight for the blind’ and setting ‘the oppressed free’ is a priority in the fight against racism.

Consequently, The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom and Ireland will intentionally seek ways to confront and fight racism wherever it is found. We will take positive action to ensure that our culture is increasingly one in which our members, employees, service users and officers, of majority and minority ethnic origin, feel included – that is, respected, valued, trusted, safe and have a sense of belonging.’

The Territorial Commander asked the Territorial Advisory Council to research racial justice in The Salvation Army and to listen to the experiences of people of different ethnic groups. Following that detailed research, the Race Inclusion

Working group was set up to find ways of implementing the recommendations that TAC council presented to leadership.

The Salvation Army in the UK and Ireland will intentionally seek ways to confront and fight racism wherever it is found.

COMMISSIONERS ANTHONY AND GILLIAN COTTERILL
TERRITORIAL LEADERS



Major Marjory Parrott writes
(Galatians 3:26-29, GNB)

“26 It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. 27 You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. 28 So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.”

When I was about six years' old, I was friends with a boy called Nicholas. The fact that he was white and I was brown made no difference to our friendship – we would walk down the hill from school, hand in hand, with our mums walking behind us. Then, one day, Nicholas discovered an important fact. I had fallen over, cut my knee, and bled, and when we met our mums, he rushed to tell his mum, 'Marjory bled red!'. Nicholas had made the important discovery that we really were the same inside.

There is a tendency to trot out the Bible verses above, when pointing out that all lives matter, not only black lives. The trouble is that, although it is true, it only counts if all human beings are recognised as of equal value, in the eyes of God and in the eyes of the rest of humanity. When we look in the mirror in the morning, whatever we think about what is reflected back at us, the truth is that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and the person looking back at us is no more wonderful or less wonderful than anyone else. We are all capable of great acts and we are all capable of terrible acts – the colour of our skin does not determine who we truly are.

It is rather apt that this Sunday is not just Valentine's Day, when there will be cards, chocolate and commiserations spreading around, but also Racial Justice Sunday. Racial justice needs to take place on more than one day a year, just like love – to be real - needs to be shown on more than one day a year. Whatever emotions are evoked for us by the date '14th February', let it also inspire us to show true love, God's love, in action, to everyone. We all 'bleed red'. We all matter to God. As God's children, let us make sure that truth becomes a reality.

Thoughts from Major John

Getting Going!

I often say a little thank you prayer when I get in my little Toyota Aygo and it starts easily on a cold morning and is so reliable even though it's over ten years old. I can remember years ago, when on cold, damp and wintry mornings it would be touch and go if your car would start. It was not at all unusual to hear starter motors turning over and over, gradually dying as the battery got flatter and flatter. Another feature of cars from that era was the provision of a choke. Today's cars have an automatic choke which you do not even have to think about, but time was when you had to pull out the choke, which was on the dashboard of the car, to be able to start the car from cold. It enriched the petrol mixture to make it easier for the car to fire up, and as the engine warmed up the choke was gradually pushed back in.

What has all this got to do with the price of fish you well may be saying. Well!

Thoughts of cars and chokes came to mind this week. It was a cold, dark day and I was finding it difficult to get inspired in my prayers and devotions. I recalled some advice in a book written by Leslie Weatherhead, I think it was. For such occasions, using the illustration of the car, he suggested using a spiritual choke, to warm up our spirit and heart. It could be a favourite scripture passage or Psalm, words of a song or chorus, or a particular piece of music, something to warm the heart.

For me on Tuesday it was words of a favourite worship song that got me going and inspired me. I think it is a lovely song of pure worship. (237 SASB)

All Heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?
Forever he will be the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee and worship him alone.
I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord'
Who once was slain to reconcile man to God.
Forever you will be the Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee and worship you alone.

Following on from those words, I often turn to Revelation chapters 4 and 5. St. Johns' vision of worship in Heaven, when he sees the Lamb upon the throne. Add into the mix Isaac Watts magnificent hymn (163 SASB) inspired by those chapters in Revelation, what blessings!

Jesus is worthy to receive
Honour and power divine;
And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord, forever thine.
By the end of those readings I am truly warmed up in spirit and ready to...
Gladly bow the knee and worship him alone.

Time to Smile

Feeling stressed out, a man decided to take a long hot bath, but just as he had got in the doorbell rang. The man climbed out of the bath, wrapped a large towel round him, put on his slippers and went to the front door. It was a salesman selling brushes. Slamming the door he went back upstairs and got back in his bath.

Two minutes later, the doorbell rang again. The man climbed out of the bath, wrapped his towel around him, put on his slippers and trudged downstairs to the door. It was an energy supply company trying to get him to change his power supply. Slamming the door, he went back upstairs and got back into the bath.

Five minutes later the doorbell rang again. On went the slippers and towel, but as he made for the bathroom door, he slipped on a wet spot and hurt his back falling against the hard porcelain of the bath tub.

Muttering under his breath, the man struggled into his clothes, with every move causing him agony, he drove to the doctor.

After an examination, the doctor said: 'You know you've been lucky. There are no bones broken, but you need to rest and relax. Why don't you go home and take along hot bath?'

Two pensioners were talking about their husbands over a cup of tea. One said: 'I do wish Bert would stop biting his nails. It's such a nasty habit.'

Her friend said: 'My Sam used to do the same. But I cured him of the habit.'

'How did you do that?'

'I hid his teeth!'

- 1.Which motorway goes across the Pennines west to east?
- 2.How many points wins a game of badminton?
- 3.Which story was 'West Side Story' based on?
- 4.Carnophobia is a fear of what?
- 5.What is the deepest land gorge in the world?

Books

1. Which books do castaways automatically receive on 'Desert Island Discs'?
2. Which book had to be owned compulsorily by every member of his country's adult population?
3. Who wrote the 'Downing Street Years'?
4. Which book title links Jules Verne and Michael Palin?
5. In which county was Catherine Cookson born?

Anagrams. Films

1. NITATIC
2. CHOPYS
3. HE THAT FORGED
4. WHEAT ODOR FIZZ
5. HIS DRILL SCENTS

ANSWERS

Quiz
1. M62 2. IS 3. Romeo and Juliette 4. Meat 5. The Grand Canyon

Books
1. The Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare 2. Chairman Mao's Little Red Book 3. Margaret Thatcher 4. Around the World in Eighty Days 5. Durham

Anagrams
1. TITANIC 2. PSYCHO 3. THE GODFATHER 4. THE WIZARD OF OZ 5. SCHINDLER'S LIST

The Territorial Commander has joined other Church leaders to call for an end to using ex-military barracks as asylum accommodation. 11.02.20



Commissioner Anthony Cotterill is a co-signatory on an open letter sent today to the Home Office expressing concern about the welfare of asylum seekers housed across Ministry of Defence sites. The letter calls for an immediate end to using military barracks and for the Government to work towards long-term sustainable action plan that delivers dignified accommodation.

Dear Secretary of State

We have watched with growing concern events unfold at Napier Barracks in Folkestone, Kent and are extremely concerned about the welfare of asylum seekers housed across Ministry of Defence sites.

As you know, in the absence of safe and legal routes to apply for refugee status outside the UK, many have no choice but to make a dangerous and perilous journey to seek safety from conflict, persecution, and violence. After such a traumatic journey, having had to often spend time behind wire fences in refugee camps, it is simply insensitive to house people in such environments. In a global pandemic it is nothing short of irresponsible and risks the lives of residents and staff alike. Even as a temporary measure, ex-military barracks are unfit for purpose and entirely inappropriate. Requiring members from different households to use and live in shared facilities greatly increases the risk of infection and residents cannot be held responsible for virus transmission rates when social distancing is not possible.

We are therefore calling for an immediate end to the use of military barracks as accommodation for those seeking sanctuary in the UK. It is not a fair or justified

response to your legal duty to house asylum seekers who would otherwise become destitute. We understand it is the Government's intention to move all individuals in contingency accommodation into suitable dispersed accommodation as soon as reasonably practical. Can you therefore confirm that the Home Office will not expand the use of military barracks for contingency accommodation and whether the Government will set out a timeline for their closure.

We do appreciate the unprecedented pressures the Government is facing to provide accommodation to those who are awaiting a determination of their status, following the welcome decision not to evict people from asylum accommodation through a period of the pandemic. However, a long-term sustainable action plan has to be put in place to secure suitable, dignified dispersal accommodation. Steps to speed up accurate processing of asylum applications will also reduce pressure on the system.

Our shared faith as signatories to this letter, leads us to view all human beings as equal and deserving of respect, dignity and welcome. We have witnessed at first hand, the generous welcome provided by civic and faith groups to those seeking protection. When asylum seekers are housed within communities, it allows for better integration and access to support services. Asylum seekers are often no longer seen as "other" but as neighbours and friends. It is in this environment that asylum seekers physical and mental wellbeing can be protected, and they are also able to better engage with their asylum application.

We ask that the Government continue to work constructively with local authorities, devolved administrations and support organisations to secure sufficient and appropriate dispersal accommodation in local communities and to end the use of barracks as a matter of urgency.

We look forward to hearing your response to the issues raised.

Church at Home – 14th February

What kind of love?

More than an Invitation....

You have all been invited at this time to this special place

We don't just want an invitation

We want to be welcomed

You are offered a special welcome to this place at this time

We don't just want a welcome

We want to have a voice

Welcome to this place where there will be time for listening

We don't just want a voice

We want to be heard

Welcome to this friendly space where your story will be heard

We don't just want to be heard

We want to be believed

Welcome to this time and place where no-one's truth is denied

We don't just want to be believed

We want to be trusted

Welcome to this place and time where your words are accepted

We don't just want to be trusted

We want to be loved

Welcome to this time and place where God's love embraces everyone

We don't just want to be loved

We want to know we belong

Welcome, and we pray you will feel you belong among us at all times

Richard Becher

One delight our children will have one day will be to read the love letters that Heather and I sent to each other. In the olden days before mobile phones and the internet there was just one telephone in the student accommodation where Heather lived - shared between 20 women. To dial when it was not engaged was a miracle – so instead we wrote letters – every day – well I wrote a letter every day - and used carrier pigeons to send them to each other. Ok I'm exaggerating.

One letter they might find may say this

Dearest, dearest darling Heather, my love for you is beyond measure. There is nothing that my love would not prevent me from doing. I'd climb the highest mountain, sail the widest ocean, cross the hottest desert, walk to the ends of the earth - just to see you.

P.S.—I'll see you at the weekend if it doesn't rain."

What is love?

So I have a number of things here that you might associate with valentine's day



They calculate that in the UK over £1 billion will be spent – a large increase on last year because many people have not been spending their money – during lock down – and will spend it on their loved one.

So if you haven't already – expect very big gift-

And of course the card.

If the postman has got through the back log of undelivered snow post there will be a record number of cards received .

I remember sending cards to Heather. One year I thought it would be great fun for her to receive cards posted from places across the country. At the factory I worked there were lorries that delivered our products to every corner of the UK, so I prepared cards and gave them to the drivers. What I didn't expect is that when they arrived - and Heather opened them – the messages inside were not what I had written!

I read a fascinating article about the creation of the best-selling Hallmark Valentine's card.

This involved an 80-person research analysis of previous Hallmark's card sales 100,000 customer interviews, focus groups and in-store observations of the roughly 2,000 cards in Hallmark's Valentine's Day range line as well as another 2,500 Hallmark products such as cuddly bears.

Eventually the groups came up with two designs and the production artist, typography artist, art director, editorial director and a quality planner studied the card to make the final adjustment.

The ladybirds had too many spots. An ellipsis must be added. Foil lettering would look best in fuchsia.

The final tweaks have been made. A Valentine is born.

This best Valentine's Day card in 2016 sold more than five times more than the other cards.

Here's what it said: "For the One I Love" on the outside. Inside: "Each time I see you, hold you, think of you, here's what I do ... I fall deeply, madly, happily in love with you. Happy Valentine's Day."

Millions of people would wake to read the same message. Created by a team of marketing executives to produce the world's most perfect card.

But love must be more than words?

We are going to look at love this morning and to see that it is so much more than words – and a very conscious response to the most profound act of love in the world.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 3:16-18 - 4:7-12

Sing song 399. To God be the Glory

Sing song 29 Have you ever stopped to think how God love you



Film - 2 Burkina Faso and Mali

Hello and welcome to the second of our films for this year's Self-Denial Appeal.

This year, we're revisiting some of the people and places we've featured before. In a moment, I'm going to be talking to Nana Togo. Nana presented last year's films from Burkina Faso, she and her husband Andre started The Salvation Army's work there in 2016. They began as just 8 Salvationists but when we visited there were 182 Senior Soldiers and 36 Junior Soldiers from two corps and two outposts.

While we were there, we saw 20 senior soldiers and 9 junior soldiers being enrolled. We saw how The Salvation Army has been helping people who are struggling, women from the local community have learned to read and write, and to sew and to dye cloth. Micro enterprises projects mean these women now earning enough money to send their children to school. And outreach projects mean some of the local men have started to come along on a Sunday. So, I'm going to get in touch with Nana, and find out how she and Andre are getting on.



The story of Kim Casali is both touching and sad. Both she and her husband died of cancer at a very early age, he in his 30's she in her 40s – yet she created an icon – her characters still appear daily and seen and enjoyed by millions. They started with her drawing a small love note which she gave her husband each day, she began to sell booklets of them for \$1 until they were noticed by a newspaper and it made her a millionaire.

But sweet as they are, even they don't really tell us what love really is.

So here we are on valentine's day – do we have an answer?

So what is love if its more than words?

Now one definition of love is this

You may remember last week we played a little quiz game when I asked you to finish a bible verse, John 3:16

God so loved the world that He



Quite rightly Heather told me that there may have been people listening who had not heard of John 3:16 and I should have finished the verse.

She had a point.

There are so many 3:16 verses. (All answers are in the newsletter)

3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that.....?

3:16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you

3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and

3:16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to.....

and finally

3:16 This is how we know what love is.....

Part of the problem with language is that the word "love" is not sufficiently descriptive in English.

So what is love if its more than words? When John wrote his letter what did he mean?

Certainly when John wrote he had a richer language to use and the Greek word for love he used was agape

So what is agape love

It is the highest form of love and its worth for a minute or so comparing it with some of the other Greek words for love.

C. S. Lewis identified four types of love in Greek which he writes about in his book "The Four Loves."

Storge is family love. The love you share with your parents and with your siblings and wider family too. It is a love based upon shared heritage, shared blood. It can be very profound and when family life is good it is very strong and protective.

Eros is romantic love. Lovers are often completely preoccupied with one another. Within a deep relationship – so long as it is bolstered by other forms of love – it can be very potent. However if it is the only thing that connects you it will fail because it has only one dimension.

Philia is friendship love. C. S. Lewis wrote "To the Ancients, Friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves." Philia occurs from bonding over similar interests. Whereas lovers are both preoccupied with each other, friends are both preoccupied with the same things. Friends, of course, care about one another, but it is similar interests that attract them to one another. "Philia" is the opposite of "phobia," literally meaning that those experiencing philia are drawn to one another.

In Romans 12:10, Paul urges the believers to be devoted to one another in brotherly philia.

So finally to Agape

Agape could be defined as charity. However, we often think of charity nowadays as giving away money or things, which doesn't encompass all of what agape is

about. Agape love is unconcerned with the self and concerned with the greatest good of another. Agape isn't born just out of emotions, feelings, familiarity, or attraction, but from the will and as a choice. Agape requires faithfulness, commitment, and sacrifice without expecting anything in return.

This is the type of love the Bible speaks about the most. The New Testament references agape over 200 times.

To the Greeks, proper agape meant a general empathy or lovingkindness for all people. Though in the Bible, Christians are indeed expected to care for all in the name of Christ, Christianity took this a step further. Biblical writers used God as the standard for true agape.

Agape love, in the Bible, is love that comes from God.

God's love isn't sentimental; it's part of His character. God loves from an outpouring of who He is. As 1 John 4:8 states,

“God is love [agapos],” meaning He is the source of agape love. His love is undeserved, gracious, and sacrificial.

We are to love God and others with agape love. Agape is a choice, a deliberate struggling for another's highest good, and is demonstrated through action.

This is our theme - love can never remain as words – it is a profound act

God set the standard for agape love in sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners.

Matthew 22:37-39, also known as “The Greatest Commandments,” instructs us to agapao God and our neighbours, while Matthew 5:43-46 instructs us to even agapao our enemies.

1 Corinthians 13 lays out a list of things that define agape.

Agape is patient, Agape is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Though agape can be accompanied by other types of love, agape is not just a feeling, but a choice.

Sing Song 29 – Have you ever stopped to think how God loves you?

And in particular reflect upon these lines

3 Wider than the human mind can realise,
His love is unlimited and never dies;
Though we don't deserve it, every day it's new;
That's the love of God for me and you.

His love is unlimited.....

For 40 years Eunice Pike worked with a tribe in South America. During this time she has discovered some interesting things about the tribe. For instance, the people seldom wish someone well. Not only that, they are hesitant to teach one another or to share the gospel with each other. If asked, "Who taught you to bake bread?" the village baker answers, "I just know," meaning he has acquired the knowledge without anyone's help. Eunice says this odd behaviour stems from the concept of "limited good." They believe there is only so much good, so much knowledge, so much love to go around. To teach another means you might drain yourself of knowledge. To love a second child means you have to love the first child less. To wish someone well - "Have a good day" - means you have just given away some of your own happiness, which cannot be reacquired.

Limited good? No, we can do good without any limit, because we serve a limitless God!

The powerful words of Annie flint say
He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labours increase,
To added affliction He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

His love has no limit, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men,
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half-done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

These last 10 months have be desperately hard – especially if you have been a care giver. I really pray that you will trust in the God who never stops giving. So that you need never stop giving

So let us return to 1 John 3:16

John ask us this question -what is love?

It is not the verse in a card made by a 1000 strong design team

Its not flowers, or chocolate, or breakfast in bed

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material

possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. – 1 John 3:16-18 NIV

The phrase “laid down” is used here with the sense of giving up, or laying aside a right or possession. It’s directly in line with the use of agape as the word for love in this same verse (v.16).

Jesus chose to lay aside his very life; his right to live. That was love, and it comes with no conditions.

Jesus didn’t wait until people reached a certain level of holiness.

He didn’t wait until people stopped rebelling against him.

He didn’t wait until people stopped being mean to him.

It wasn’t a matter of waiting until people reached a level of deserving that kind of love.

Can you imagine if parents loved their children conditionally? Wait until they reached some level of deserving it— when you start appreciating who I am in your life, then I’ll start loving you properly.

Unconditional love lays down. It doesn’t mean that Christians must accept or condone abuse, or must ignore sin from others. Jesus didn’t do that. People still need to be held responsible for their actions and they will endure consequences for what they do.

He’s talking about the inner motivation of the heart in how we respond to people: do we love based upon a standard someone must earn in our eyes, or do we love based upon a standard God has given every person whom He created in His image?

Unconditional love lays down. Laying down requires sacrifice. It is a sacrificial, unconditional love. And we should do the same.

The opposite is to walk away

We are given a situation in v.17, kind of like a case study to see if we understand the command to love like Jesus loves: someone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need.

If you are the one who can help - what would you do?

Someone needs help with food; needs a lift to the hospital, needs clothing; needs a visit, a call of encouragement needs something that you are skilled to help with.

Here's the response to the situation: the one with the material possessions has no pity – the one who could help walks away

Now, what does that prove? The last sentence of the verse tells us: it proves that God's love is not in him.

Walking away is evidence of the absence of God's love.

Notice in the little case study given in v.17 that the person has all that is needed to help —he is able to meet the need. But he walks away

That is conditional love. Why do we walk away?

They won't appreciate it

They are taking advantage

They are lying

They don't deserve it

I'm busy

I would rather keep that for myself

I've got my own problems

I want to say how blessed we are as a corps family. You do not walk away. You care. You lay down

That was how we lived as a church before the lock down – and how in different ways we are living now.

We have recognised that agape love is not words – but actions.

Agape love is a choice

And so many of you chose to give of yourselves to help others.

In the test that John sets to us – do we lay our lives down and help – or walk away – I see so many people helping.

We recognise that Jesus didn't just say something but that he did something. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

Love isn't by word or talk but by making a difference – and making a difference to those outside of our circle.

Aren't you glad that Jesus didn't just say something but that he did something?

Let us not love with words or speech – but with actions and truth.

Christian love A song created especially for Racial Justice Sunday, inspired by 1 Corinthians 13.4-7 © John Campbell

Christian love is not romantic,
not soft-focussed, twee or sweet,
Christian love's not 'likes', nor dating,
far more real than text or tweet.
Christian love means life-long struggle;
lived-out kindness ev'rywhere.
Christian love must echo Jesus:
selfless, soulful, steeped in prayer.

Christian love respects the other,
seeks to understand, not judge;
takes delight in mutual learning
doesn't force and doesn't fudge.
Christian love's an arduous journey,
finding self by giving all;
serving, sharing, helping, caring;
full response to Jesus' call.

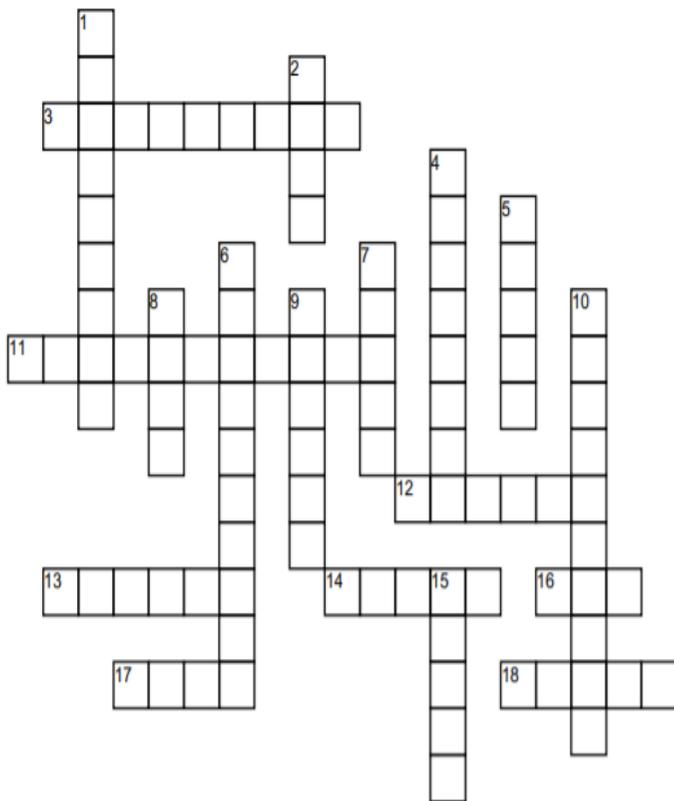
Christian love cries out for justice
wheresoever it's denied;
joins the struggle, makes the protest,
stays the course, eyes open wide.
Christian love rejects what's racist,
sexist, ageist, prejudiced,
turns against each nurtured bias,
learning daily to resist.

Christian love is learned from Jesus,
walks his way and bears his cross;
self-surrenders, like our Saviour;
gains much more than what is lost.
Christian love is so persistent,
it outlasts all other things;
by its hope, its faith, its struggle,
it's the song all heaven sings!

BENEDICTION

May God's grace and love fill the earth and also our hearts
May justice flow like a roaring, mighty river
May peace descend like a dove upon quiet waters
And may we be mindful always
That in God's Kingdom
All are loved to overflowing. Amen.

PANCAKE TIME



Across

3. Cooking vessel for pancakes
 11. This famous writer liked pancakes and often mentioned them in his plays
 12. The word shrove is the past tense of the verb to _____
 13. Uncooked pancake mix
 14. The juice of this fruit is often squeezed onto a pancake
 16. Shrove Tuesday is followed by _____ Wednesday
 17. To turn the pancake over
 18. Pancake ingredient ground in a mill

Down

1. Shrove Tuesday carnival in some places of the world
 2. A pancake traditional activity
 4. Potato pancakes are traditionally served during this Jewish Festival
 5. The number of days/nights Jesus was in the wilderness
 6. This popular pancake topping was a sweet drink which was discovered by the Algonquin Indians
 7. A french pancake
 8. Shrove Tuesday is the day before this fast starts
 9. Lent ends on _____ Thursday
 10. To shrove means to hear a _____
 15. This town in England hosts an annual pancake and has done every year since 1445.

Three:Sixteens in the New Testament

Matthew 3:16

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Mark 3:16

So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter)...

Luke 3:16

John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Acts 3:16

And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

Romans 3:16

Ruin and misery are in their paths.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

2 Corinthians 3:16

But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

Galatians 3:16

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, 'And to offsprings', as of many; but it says, 'And to your offspring', that is, to one person, who is Christ.

Ephesians 3:16

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit.

Philippians 3:16

Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.

1 Timothy 3:16

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

He was revealed in flesh,
vindicated in spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among Gentiles,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

Hebrews 3:16

Now who were they who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses?

James 3:16

For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

1 Peter 3:16

Yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

2 Peter 3:16

Speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures.

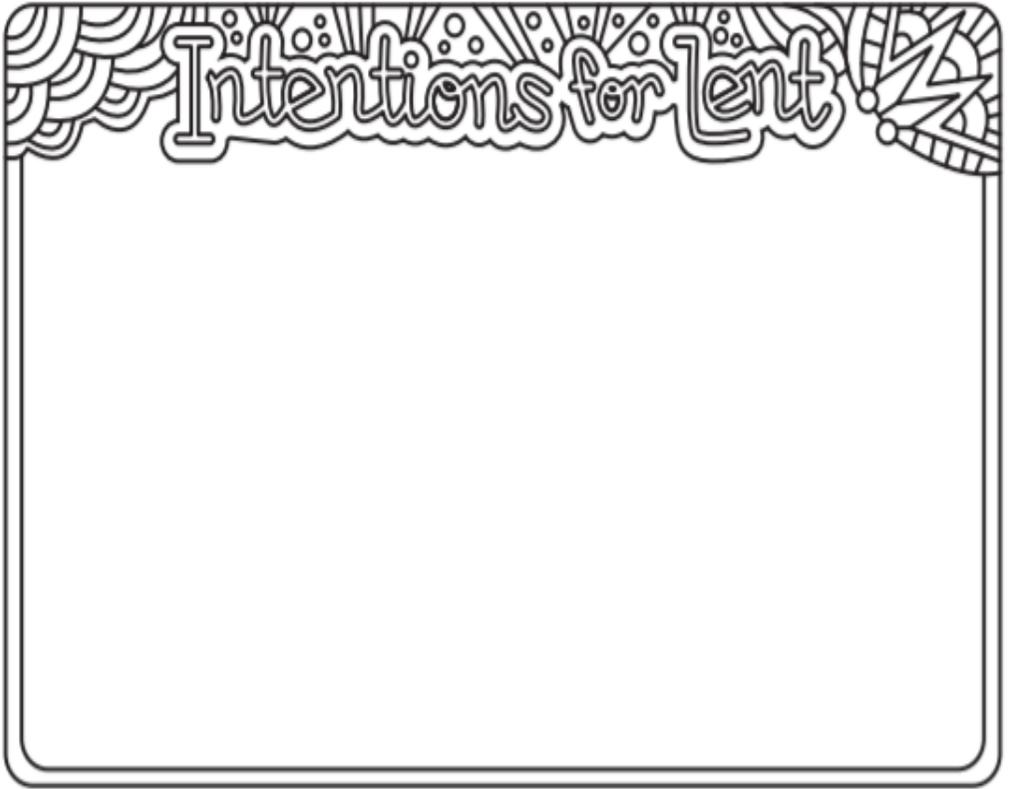
1 John 3:16

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Revelation 3:16

So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Books with no 3:16: 1 Thessalonians, Titus, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, Jude.



Loving God,
In our sufferings and joys,
in our relationships and daily lives,
we ask that your kingdom come.
Open our eyes to your presence,
open our ears to your call,
open our hearts to your love,
open our ways to your will,
open our actions to your compassion,
open our pain to your peace,
And, in doing so, open our world to your hope.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen

LENT

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

Ash Wednesday

Crucifixion

Forty Days

Jesus

Maundy Thursday

Prayer

Reflection

Sacrifice

Confession

Fasting

Good Friday

Lent

Meditation

Prepare

Remember

Thoughtfulness

Cross

Forgiveness

Holy Week

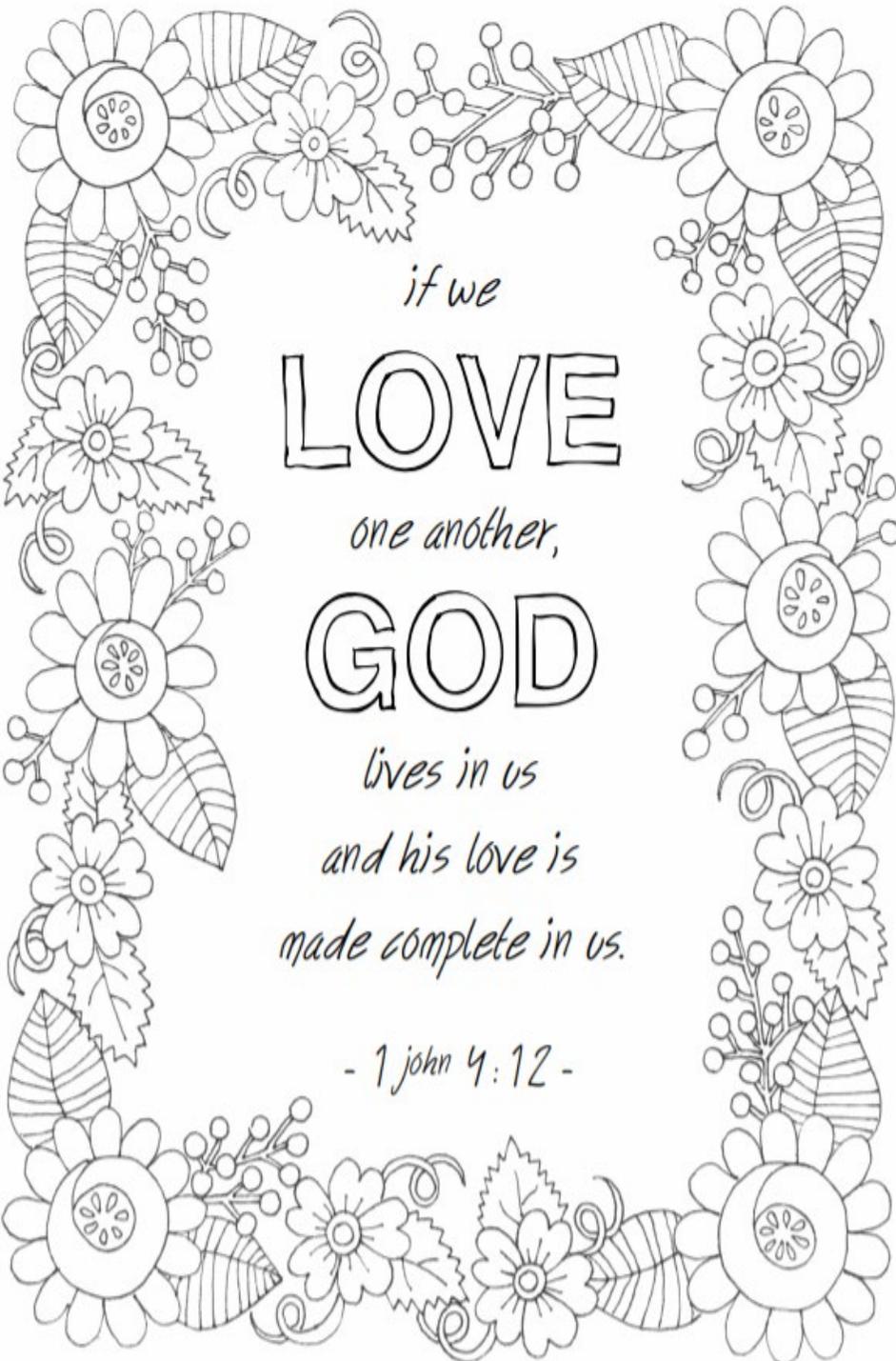
Love

Palm Sunday

Reconciliator

Repentance^e

Wilderness



if we

LOVE

one another,

GOD

lives in us

and his love is

made complete in us.

- 1 john 4:12 -