

2 MAY 2021

CHALK FARM CORPS SUNDAY NEWSLETTER



'...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.'
(1 John 5: 4-5, NIV).

The hustle and bustle of Camden is steadily returning as the country eases out of lockdown. The change of atmosphere is remarkable. Questions still abound – *will it return to as it was before?* People are preparing to move forward. Many people go to pastures knew having to find new employment following redundancy or to work through difficulties thrown up by the pandemic and lockdowns. At Chalk Farm Salvation Army we have many questions about what we will look like as we return. *What might we become? Where will our energies be focused in future days? How can we best respond to the needs thrown up by the pandemic?*

Turning to Ezra we read of God's people beginning to rebuild after a time of great trial. They had returned from exile in Babylon and with mixed emotions began to rebuild the ruins of what they left behind some years before. We read in Ezra 3: 1-6 that first came the rebuilding of the altar and this was followed by the rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra 3: 7-13). I thought this a little strange as surely the altar was to be inside the Temple? Then I got to thinking about the importance of our own lives being laid upon the altar for God before the building up of the Church can take place. In actual fact the altar from the first Temple was in use throughout the period of exile but Ezra wished a new altar to be built for the returning community. Once the altar was built and used it was time to rebuild the Temple.

What follows is remarkable as it encompasses a tension. It is an act of both praise and of mourning. We read in Ezra 3;

'When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord:

"He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever."

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.' (Ezra 3: 10-13, NIV).

In stage 2 of our Mission Journal we appreciate what has gone before and begin to lay new foundations for Chalk Farm Corps. Some will shout with joyful praise, others may weep for what once was and I suspect people, like myself, will do both and that's OK because; *God is good and His love toward us endures forever!* A beautiful song of Catherine Baird reads:

*Eternal God, our song we raise
In thankful, overflowing praise,
For men of faith whose power was thine,
Whose love no barrier could confine;
They humbly offered Christ their bread,
And lo, the multitudes were fed!*

*We thank thee for the fruitful years,
The sacred gains of toil and tears,
For mighty works through weakness wrought,
For souls who led in deed and thought;
They followed Jesus in the light
And their loud anthems thrilled the night*

*O may no longing of our own
Obscure the path by Jesus shown!
We would not thirst for earth's reward
And lose the blessing of our Lord:
His cup of pain and grief and strife
That yieldeth up the gift of life.*

*Our Father, we beseech thee now:
Receive again our first pure vow
To stand though fire and tempest rage,
Nor fear the terrors of our age,
To love thee with a constant mind
And lose ourselves to save mankind.*

*Our great redeemer liveth still,
His love sustains us in thy will;
Because he conquered, we shall win,
His cross before, his joy within;
Our cheerful banners are unfurled,
For Christ has overcome the world.*

Catherine Baird, SASB 359

May we each recognise that the altar of the Lord has always been with us but at times a rededication may be necessary in order for the Temple to be rebuilt. The foundations we lay in these days are of great significance. Read again the words of Catherine Baird and be assured that the Temple will be rebuilt when our lives are laid upon the altar of God. Never forget that no matter what we have or will face **Christ has overcome the world!**

Every blessing,
Captain Michael J Kinnear, Commanding Officer



Last year the nation got together and celebrated VE Day in incredible fashion.

Our terrace was decorated to encourage passers-by to mark the occasion. This year the Royal British Legion are encouraging people to 'put a Tommy in your Window', to continue to celebrate a remarkable generation in 2021.

Our thanks to JCT who shared a large donation of soft drinks and snacks for the homeless community originating from Goldsmiths College student shop.



Wi-Fi connectivity

Wi-Fi is now available throughout our halls and new data points have been fitted to ensure good connectivity for staff and guests. These works were funded through a grant provided by The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters.

Elections 6th May

This Thursday our halls are again to be used as a Polling Station. We look forward to welcoming the Camden electoral team and voters to our premises once again.



The Salvation Army across India is responding as daily recorded cases of COVID-19 reach unprecedented levels. The Salvation Army operates a number of hospitals and clinics across the subcontinent. While Indian government policy has, in the main, been to deliver COVID-19 treatment through its own healthcare facilities, Salvation Army hospitals in several areas are now admitting large numbers of patients with COVID symptoms, as demand in the national system exceeds capacity.

The international leader of The Salvation Army, General Brian Peddle, has written to Salvationists in India. He writes: 'Your country and its people have captured the attention of the world due to the present surge of COVID and its impact upon families, neighbours and communities. Our hearts are moved, and I write... assuring you of our prayers and practical support.'

The General's letter also bears witness to the strong service exemplified by The Salvation Army in India. He writes: 'I am proud of the work being done at our hospitals and am hearing stories from your leaders of courage and great faith.' Source: International Headquarters [The Salvation Army International - Salvation Army Serves as COVID Second Wave Worsens in India, 27th April 2021](#),

Mental Health Awareness Week

There are things we can all do to look after our mental wellbeing. The Every Mind Matters can get you started with a free NHS online plan, showing you simple steps to help manage anxiety, sleep better and boost your mood. In addition to the Every Mind Matters Mind Plan there is a wealth of content which includes practical tips and videos from experts on dealing with stress and anxiety, boosting your mood, sleeping better and what you can do to help others. The Every Mind Matters COVID hub includes tips and support on how to deal with change, cope with money worries and job uncertainty and how to look after your mental wellbeing while staying at home.

Visit: www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz for more details.

Song of the week

Let us with a gladsome mind
Praise the Lord, for he is kind:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us blaze his name abroad,
For of gods he is the God:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

He, with all-commanding might,
Filled the new-made world with light:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

He the golden-tressèd sun
Caused all day his course to run:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living he doth feed,
His full hand supplies their need:
For his mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

John Milton (1608-1674)

On the television

Sunday at 1.15pm, BBC One
Songs of Praise: Claire McCollum and
Sean Fletcher mark the Partition of
Ireland, 100 years ago.

On the radio

Sunday at 8.10am, BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship: A service led by the
members of the Church Leaders' Group,
Ireland.

Psalm 136: 1-9

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures for ever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures for ever.

to him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures for ever.

who by his understanding made the
heavens,
His love endures for ever.

who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures for ever.

who made the great lights –
His love endures for ever.

the sun to govern the day,
His love endures for ever.

the moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures for ever.

On the internet

Sunday at 11am

Join Regent Hall corps for an online
Sunday meeting on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/user/ediprodv

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