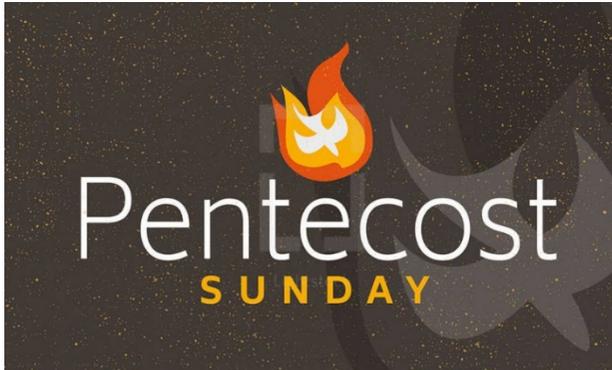




**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**



**We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.00 am.**

**This week we will join with our friends from across the division for a meeting prepared by the DHQ team.**

**Also Sunday worship on is on  YouTube**

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type.....

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate) and select **Church on YouTube**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>

**Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167**

**AND DVDs of the service** are available for those who would like them



## What's happening next week at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00 am Prayer at the Hall (Join by **ZOOM**)  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.15 am **WORSHIP at Salvation Army Hall**  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.30 am ZOOM fellowship  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>



Little Fishes Toddler  
Group 9.30am – 11am

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm APEST  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm ZOOM DIVISIONAL PRAYER GATHERING  
835 5418 1685 Code 659884

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm ZOOM FELLOWSHIP  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> (10am - 12 noon) Food Bank

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>



TRINITY SUNDAY  
There is a full day of activities  
on Fortress Radio.

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

And don't forget Songs of Praise Sunday at 13.15pm



**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

Keith Standley

Sunday 23-May

### Prayers please for

Family and friends of **Mabel Whittle** who died on Thursday and we remember her friend and neighbour Carol Pratt. We continue to pray for **David Miller** following the unexpected death of his wife **Karen**. Karen's funeral is on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June. For **Jean Mayton**, for **Chris**, a friend of Gay. For **Sam**, step mum to Hollie who started chemo on Wednesday. For **Tanya**, the niece of Janet. For **Kit**, bother of Jason following a cancer diagnosis. We continue to pray for **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment. For Tracy's dad **Ivan** and her family. For **Archie**, Lisa and Scott.

For all those suffering from **Long Covid** – which include some in our church family

### **Emlyn Thomas and his LONDON band**

Emlyn Thomas band played at the Royal Victoria Pavillion. He led a band at the London club to the mid 1920s. Some of the names, Fred North, trombone, Fred Cooke piano, Emlyn Thomas, violin, Billy Bell Banjo. Jay Wilbut, piano, George Clarkson, sax, Nat Star, sax.



"Emlyn Thomas and his London Band, Royal Victoria Pavilion, Ramsgate"

**Thoughts from Major John  
Send the Fire!**

As we remember and celebrate Pentecost this Sunday, I share verses from two songs from in our song book which inspire me, and I use in my prayer time. 326 captures the spirit of our Founder William Booth, the early Salvationists, and their desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit.....

Thou Christ of burning, cleansing flame,  
Send the fire!

Thy blood-bought gift today we claim,  
Send the fire!

Look down and see this waiting host,  
Send us the promised Holy Ghost,

**We want another Pentecost,  
Send the fire!**

God of Elijah, hear my cry:  
Send the fire!

To make us fit to live or die,  
Send the fire!

To burn up every trace of sin,  
To bring he light and glory in,

**The revolution now begin,  
Send the fire!**

Commissioner Albert Mingay was another Salvationist filled with the fire! He came to speak to the Cadets when I was in the college when he was eighty years old and I remember him saying, 'I don't want to march behind a pink flag to a muffled drum! He was still full of the fire and wanted a 'Spirit filled Army'. I often use his song 318 as a more personal prayer.....

Come, Holy Spirit, thou guest of the soul,  
Make thine abode in me;  
Bring in the calm thy sweet presence bestows,  
Let me thy temple be.

Come to my heart today,  
Come to my heart today,  
**Rekindle the glow and the glory bestow,**  
**Come to my heart today.**

### **Time to Smile**

On a walking holiday in the Yorkshire Dales a tourist heard the following tale about a would be local lay preacher: "He opened t'service and read a lot out o't'Bible, then after abit he gev out 'is text, 'I am the Good Shepherd', but he couldn't go any further. Then he gev out another hymn and began agean, 'I am the Good Shepherd'. Agean 'is tongue stuck and one of 'is mates fra t'congregation shouts out ' I say Bill, coom daan here, tha'll mek a better sheep norra shepherd!"

Recently a man in Paris nearly got away with stealing several valuable paintings from the Louvre. However, after planning the crime, and getting in and out past security, he was captured just blocks away when his van ran out of fuel. When asked how he could mastermind such a crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied: 'I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh.'

### **Book Titles**

'Horror Stories' by R.U. Scared  
'The Long Walk to School, by Mr Bus  
'Exercise at Home' by Ben Dan Stretch  
'Infectious diseases' by Willie Catchit  
'Camping in Iceland' by I.C.Blast  
'Egyptian Mummies' by M. Barmer

### **Quiz**

- 1.How many holes are most major golf tournaments played over?
- 2.Mont Blanc stands in France and which other country?
- 3.Which cave is the most famous on the Scottish Isle of Staffa?

4. Which is the largest structure ever made by living creatures?
5. Which road is crossed by horses during the Grand National?

### Sounds of the 60's

1. What was 'My Old Man' according to Lonnie Donegan in 1960?
2. Who went to No 1 with 'I heard it through the grapevine' in 1969?
3. Which Beatles 60's song was about a certain type of writer?
4. Which Elvis hit was about a letter without a reply?
5. Which US west coast city was the subject of several hippy songs of the mid 1960's?

**Anagram.** What is the only English anagram of **WRONG**?

**Answers**

1. 72 2. Italy 3. Fingal's Cave 4. The Great Barrier Reef 5. The Melling Road  
**Sounds of the 60's**  
 1. A dustman 2. Marvin Gaye 3. Paperback writer 4. Return to sender 5. San Francisco  
**Anagram.** The only English anagram of WRONG is GROWN.



## Was Pentecost the birthday of the Church?

Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church, but is that correct?

Pentecost Sunday is one of the movable feasts in the Church calendar. This is because it depends on the date of Easter. In the Church calendar it falls seven Sundays or 50 days after Easter Sunday.

Pentecost is traditionally known as Whitsun. This comes from the term White Sunday, because historically people wore white gowns on Pentecost. In some countries they still do.

The day after Whitsun was Whit Monday. Bank Holidays were introduced into the United Kingdom by the Bank Holiday Act 1871, and Whit Monday was one of the first British Bank Holidays. On this day, in many places around Britain, it was the custom that Sunday Schools went on parades carrying banners through the towns and villages and finished with a big party. It was a time when all the churches of different traditions would come together for a big party, because Pentecost was considered the birthday party for the Church. In 1971, the British government reviewed the 1871 Bank Holiday Act on its 100th anniversary. It was then decided to fix Whit Monday Bank Holiday as the last Monday in May. Whit Monday became Late May or Spring Bank Holiday, which falls on Whit Monday some years, but not every year.

Pentecost is actually the Greek term for the Jewish holiday Shavuot. In the Jewish calendar Passover was followed by Shavuot, which was called the Feast of Weeks, and it was the Harvest Festival for the first fruits of the wheat harvest in the Holy Land. The Feast of Weeks was seven weeks. The Hebrew words for seven and week are related, so it was a week of weeks or 49 days. The Sabbath following a week of weeks is the 50th day, as explained in Leviticus 23.15–16. The New Testament was written in Greek and the Greek for 50th is Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē), hence Pentecost.

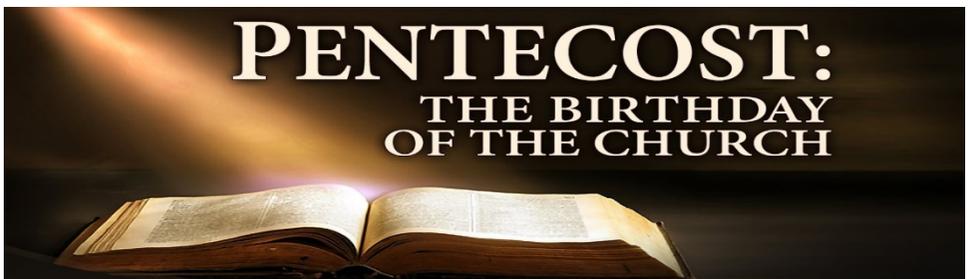
At Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. Peter stood up and preached, telling the story of Jesus to the crowds. That Harvest Festival was the first fruits of the great harvest of souls. According to Acts 2.41, 'about three thousand were added to their number that day'. These people were Jews of the diaspora, and some Gentile converts to Judaism. They returned to their homelands and synagogues with the Gospel message. According to the list in Acts 2.9–11 the people returned to their places of origin in what is today Greece and Italy in Europe; the Holy Land, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Arabia in the Middle East; as well as Egypt and Libya in Africa. Sometimes Jews also come from further afield as well. A bit later we also read in Acts 8.27 of the Ethiopian eunuch who came to Jerusalem to worship. In fact these are the geographical areas where the Early Church was strongest.

In 1904 when the Welsh Revival occurred and similar things happened like at the first Pentecost it was known as the Pentecostal movement, which today is a worldwide form of Christianity.

The Apostles were unlikely leaders. As the Bible tells it, most knew more about mending nets than winning converts when Jesus said he would make them "fishers of men". Yet 2,000 years later, all over the world, the Apostles are still drawing people in.'

A birthday is an anniversary of your birth. Your first birthday is held a year after your birth day. So Pentecost was not the birthday, but the birth day of the Church. If you want to know what happened next, read the book of Acts.

Adapted from <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>



**The Salvation Army  
South East Divisional On-line worship  
Sunday 23 May 2021**

Good morning and welcome to the South East Divisional online worship. Today we arrive at the last in our series of four meetings. It's been a joy to prepare these meetings with the goal of keeping us connected and informed across this amazing Division.

Today is Pentecost Sunday - often referred to as the birthday of the church. It's a day of celebration for us as we remember God's gift of the Holy Spirit to us His people. The first part of meeting this morning will focus on this.

The disciples had been experiencing a roller coaster of emotions. Their world was torn apart as they journeyed through the traumatic events leading up to the dark day of Good Friday. But then, over the following 50 days the disciples were uplifted by the sight of the resurrected Jesus, the close times they had as he shared with them and taught them. And then Jesus told them that he wasn't staying with them but he was to return to heaven. Jesus had taught them this before his death but when reality dawned, I guess they might have been confused, uncertain, maybe even despondent. But hope came again! Jesus told them that they should wait in Jerusalem because the Holy Spirit was coming. It was never in God's plan that his people should feel abandoned or alone. Earlier in John gospel chapter 14 v16 he had taught them saying, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth." The word Advocate comes from the Greek word Paraclete meaning comforter, encourager or counsellor.

Pentecost Sunday is Good News for all who feel like they have been passing through deep waters, experiencing a roller coaster of emotions, for all who have felt abandoned, alone, confused.

There is hope - for the Holy Spirit has come. He's available for us - as our comforter and friend. However you feel today - joyful and optimist or if today is a struggle - you are not alone - the Holy Spirit is with you.

We start our meeting this day in a quieter way than maybe is usual, with a song that might not be familiar to all, but it's a great prayer for us in these days and on this Pentecost Sunday. It says, 'Holy Spirit, rain down', rain down on our lives, fall afresh on us because 'we need your touch again'. So, just as you are, wherever you are, may the Holy Spirit our Advocate, our comforter, encourager our counsellor, touch your life in the way that you need in these next moments.

### **Song**

### **Holy Spirit rain down**

Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down  
Oh, Comforter and Friend  
How we need Your touch again  
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down

Let Your power fall  
Let Your voice be heard  
Come and change our hearts  
As we stand on Your word

### **Prayer**

For the Spirit of Peace  
that calms our mind  
and stills our lives,  
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Love  
that touches our hearts

and reaches out,  
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Truth  
that teaches us new things  
and expands our knowledge,  
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Joy  
that lifts our soul  
and increases us faith,  
we give you thanks. Amen

**Scripture presentation**

**Pentecost**

**Song O God of burning cleansing flame**

O God of burning cleansing flame  
Send the fire  
Your blood-bought gift today we claim  
Send the fire today  
Look down and see this waiting host  
And send the promised Holy Ghost  
We need another Pentecost  
Send the fire today  
Send the fire today

We continue to be inspired by the way you have all continued to serve God and His people through less than straight forward times. We know that you have enjoyed hearing about what each other have been doing around the Division and so again this morning we have two snap shots to share.

Firstly, we meet Lieutenant Debbie-Ann Hogarth who came to Hastings Citadel last July following her commissioning in July. We are so pleased to have Debbie along with John her husband

in the Division and they will introduce themselves and tell us something about this first year in Hastings. Then we travel to the village of East Peckham to hear about two children who captured our interest when we heard that they had been helping the corps out in this past year, with collecting and taking in food for the foodbank and raising funds for the corps through selling toys.

**Our First Year  
Mr John Hogarth**

**Lieutenant Debbie-Ann Hogarth and**

I'm Debbie and originally from the South West, where I spent my working life in a textile manufacturing company in the financial department. A company that has been part of the space race to Mars providing the parachute fabric, the fabric for the air bags in your car and netting under a wedding dress to name but a few items. I worked for a very diverse company working my way up through the company to assistant accountant.

I attended The Salvation Army as a youngster, leaving as a teenager because the local church had better boys. I strayed away from my faith in my twenties dipping in and out of church over the years. Returning to The Salvation Army in my mid-late 40's where God called me into full-time ministry. Although I was called into officership, John has supported me 110%.

I'm John and originally from the North East, after many jobs including, sales, delivery, and hospital theatre. I became a Christian in November 1987 which in turn opened many doors including working in Romania, going to bible college and working with other Christian organisations, ending up in the South West as a pastor where I met Debbie. Although it has

always been Debbie's calling into officership it has been our journey. And we fast forward to Feb 2020 when we received Debbie's appointment, we saw that it was Hasting Citadel in the South East Division, it felt so right. Me from the South West and John from the North East it's like God had covered all areas.

So, my first appointment has been different from what I expected, I thought like most freshly appointed Lieutenants, it would be straight into corps life and programme. But not for us, we arrived fresh from college during a pandemic...

We received the warmest welcome from our Corps folk on arrival and have embraced the things we could do excepting there were many things we couldn't do. Doorstep visiting and delivering the papers being the normal. Opening the foodbank and baby bank as part of our regular programme. Opening for worship as and when we could. Delivering food parcels for those who couldn't come to us, just a few of things we have been able to do.

Our time has been filled building relationships, getting to know our corps people, developing relationships with our neighbourhood and other agencies within the local community. We had had time to sort and refresh parts of the building, which we might not have done if programme hadn't stopped.

Baby bank has had a re-sort, items of clothing and donations have been washed dried and iron, the items that have been ironed have been prayed over. On-line worship has had a new meaning when it has been full of baby clothes. I am not sure what the neighbours thought.

We have been blessed by the area we live in, to prayer walk and getting to know our locality is a privilege. Only this week we had the opportunity to walk the sea front and check up on some of the local homeless, they know us by name. It been hard learning the culture of the Corps, as we didn't know what happened before the pandemic. But what an opportunity not to have to jump straight into a full programme. As we come out of lock down, we plan to go gently with our people. Some things will be the same, other parts of programme will not re-open, somethings will remain closed for a longer period, and new programme will begin.

Some of our highlights have been: The encouragement from our Corps people, their willingness to embrace change as we seek God's will and to see our people enjoying worshipping together.

I had an evening out shadowing 'Warming the Homeless' and discussing how we can support this project in practical ways, and we look forward to starting Sunday supper club soon.

We have a craft group and men's fellowship both looking to start in the autumn.

I love to be creative, and share my creativity, whether that's through painting, sewing or bible journaling, or just visiting an art gallery. I am looking forward to sitting on the beach with my paints.

We have been so blessed by our appointment. The beautiful beach we have on our doorstep, that we try and make the most of. To be able to see the sea most days is such a blessing. I hope we can bring to Hastings, something of the blessings it brings to us.

## Major David Boyle with Jess and Harry

**David:** Good morning, welcome to East Peckham Salvation Army Corps.

When everybody locked down and started locking themselves indoors we had to do the opposite as many of you did as well and we decided we would do what we could in the community, which is exactly what we should do.

What I didn't expect was some help from our community as well, especially in the form that it came. It came in the form of 2 young people in particular, who I would like to introduce you now.

So, this is Jess, "good morning Jess"

**Jess:** Good morning.

**David:** And Jess and her Mum I've got to say as well to be fair, although she is much too camera shy. But Jess was very helpful with us because, where do you live Jess?

**Jess:** East Peckham next to the Salvation Army,

**David:** Next to the Salvation Army, that is absolutely crucial.

Why don't you tell everybody what you did for us.

**Jess:** We helped you put the food inside the box, that the kind people donated.

**David:** Absolutely right, so Jess and her mum was out here in the winter, when it was cold and wet, and they would put all the food donated inside the hall so that we could sort it.

So how do you think that helped people during the lockdown Jess,

**Jess:** So, they can have food like all of us.

**David:** That's absolutely right. Was it a good feeling to be able to help somebody like that?

**Jess:** Yeah, I feel good to help.

**David:** Well done that's absolutely fantastic.

What we'd like to do is, we'd like you to understand just how very grateful we are for all your help and your Mum's help as well, because you did indeed help many, many people, in fact it still happens as well, it isn't over yet. So, just understand perhaps how many people are going to be grateful, so Jess thank you ever so much for everything that you did.

**Jess:** That's okay.

**David:** I'd also like to introduce you to my young friend Harry, this is Harry, Harry is the second young person who helped us out. How old are you Harry, 26?

**Harry:** 12

**David:** 12, wonderful, and so, how did you manage to help the Salvation Army out during lockdown?

**Harry:** Well, I cleared out my bedroom and went through all my CD's and books, and then put them out on display to sell for charity.

**David:** Indeed, he did, and you was out there all day in the beautiful sunshine and so I made a really good amount of money, and not only did he do that, but he also let us take the rest away as well to keep selling. Now of course, the biggest thing about this as far as his Mum's concerned is Harry tidied his bedroom, well done Harry.

Okay, so do you think you made a difference in people's lives by doing that.

**Harry:** I definitely do because most people now have another reason, another thing to do in lockdown, even though I don't think it was in lockdown, it still might have changed the lockdown a little bit.

**David:** Absolutely right Harry. Well we'd like to say thank you very much indeed for what you did especially tidying your bedroom and we'd like you to know you did certainly make a difference in a lot of people's lives because the money you raised goes to help lots of people especially here in our community in East Peckham. So well done Harry,

keep up the good work, thank you very much indeed, God bless you.

**David:** So, there you go, East Peckham community helping itself and that's what we believe in, in East Peckham being part of the community and having community be part of us as well. So, God bless you all, it's been lovely to speak with you this morning.

**Linda:** As we look back over this past year, we give thanks to you all for all you have done in your corps and communities. Thank you

For a moment now we want to share news from around the Division in respect of those who bring leadership to our Corps as Territorial Envoys and Officers.

**Mark:** In recent days one of our leaders Territorial Envoy Ed Dean was Promoted to Glory. Ed, with his wife Captain Sue Dean have brought leadership to the Corps at Dartford where they had served so well for the past 4 years. We thank God for Ed, for the man of God that he was, for his leadership and influence and his friendship. He will be missed by the Corps at Dartford and from the fellowship of officers in the Division. Our prayers are with Sue and the family in these days. This morning we salute and celebrate the life of Territorial Envoy Ed Dean.

**Linda:** The following officers will be moving within our Division. Captain Kate Gregory will be moving to Brighton Congress Hall with her son Louis. Major Mandy Sands will be moving to Hove Corps.

Major Chris Sands will be Divisional Projects Officer and University Chaplain.

**Mark:** The following officers will be leaving our Division to take up new appointments in July.

Majors Doug and Michelle Hayter will be leaving Hove to move to Mold Outreach Centre in the Wales Division.

Captains Berri and Callum McKenna will be leaving Hythe to take up their appointments at William Booth College.

Major Marian Parker will be leaving Worthing Corps to take up her new appointment at Edinburgh Gorgie Corps in the East Scotland Division.

Majors Peter and Christa Beeldman will be leaving Eastbourne Citadel to take up their new appointment at Bristol Citadel in the Severn and Somerset Division.

Major Sandra Frost will be leaving her appointment as Chaplain to Villa Adastra Care Home and will take up her new appointment as Chaplain to Davidson House in Edinburgh in the East Scotland Division.

**Linda:** We say goodbye to our friends and colleagues, but we will be welcoming the following officers into our Division.

Captains Alison and Gavin Friday with their children Imogen and Libby will be moving to Canterbury Corps. Major Pam Knuckey with her husband Bram will be moving to Worthing Corps and following Commissioning Lieutenants David Karicka and Maria Karickova will be moving to Gravesend and Lieutenant Susan Shoreland-Compton with her husband David will be moving to Hythe Corps.

**Mark:** In July Major Elizabeth Lloyd will enter retirement.

Elizabeth has served as an officer for 26 years in a number of corps. Horsham, Tunbridge Wells, Penge and most recently at Brighton Congress Hall. Today we give thanks for your ministry Elizabeth throughout these years and we pray that as you enter

a new chapter of life that God will indeed bless you on your way. Major Mike Lloyd will be joining us on DHQ until his retirement in January.

**Linda:** We invite you to remember our corps and all the officers and their families involved in the move this year but just now Captains Graeme and Zoe Smith with Sian and Abi will pray for our officers leaving the fellowship of this division and their children.

**Prayers                      Captains Graeme and Zoe Smith**

**Zoe**                      Hi, we're the Smith family from Tunbridge Wells and we wanted to share this prayer time with you today.

We all know that this is the best Division to live in but there comes a time in many officers' lives when they need to say good-bye to the South East Division.

**Graeme**                So, this morning we'd like to invite you to join us in praying for those officers and their families in the division who this summer will be leaving to take up new appointments elsewhere.

They are:

Majors Christa and Peter Beeldman with Matt who is going to university and Tom who is training within an apprenticeship programme.

Major Sandra Frost

Majors Doug and Michelle Hayter with Gemma who has recently moved from Hove already and Victoria who is going to university.

Captains Berri & Callum McKenna with their children Henry and Isaac who will be starting a new nursery and school.

Major Marian Parker

There are also others within our Divisional family who are moving to new appointments within the South East, retiring from active service or joining us from either other Divisions or William Booth College over the summer.

**Zoe** Just now, let us lift them and the different appointments effected by these changes to God in prayer.

Lord God, we come to you on this day of Pentecost, when you poured out the gift of your Holy Spirit and we thank you for the extraordinary love, commitment and creativity these officers have given to the appointments where you have placed them.

**Sian** Thank you for the way they have served you and others, giving out some much to the ministries where they have been. We pray that they will go on to find new treasures each day.

**Graeme** Holy Spirit, we know that you not only go ahead of them all but that you are with them now and in the coming weeks as they prepare to leave. Hold them and guide them we ask.

**Abi** For the children and young adults effected by these changes we pray that they will soon settle into their new homes, their schools, and places of study and work.

**Zoe** Lord, we thank you for them and we pray your blessing upon them all.

In Jesus' name, Amen

As we finish this time of prayer, together we wanted to you will a promise from scripture, words from Zephaniah which say:

The Lord your God is with you; the mighty One will save you. He will rejoice over you. You will rest in his love; he will sing and be joyful about you.  
Amen.

**Linda:** In recent weeks we were able to meet with a number of our officers on line to recognise significant years of service which some of our officers had completed. Major Richard Oliver has completed 25 years and is going to share his testimony from this past year with us before Major Elizabeth Lloyd brings to us today's Bible Reading. Major Sheila Eade will then bring to us an explanation of our fourth mission priority - The Mission Journal, before we sit back and enjoy this month's photography challenge.

**Testimony from this past year**  
**Richard Oliver**

**Major**

Good Morning. I've been asked to share my lockdown story with you.

My story is probably no different to many other people. I've lost my mother and my mother-in-law during lockdown. We haven't been able to see my Father-in-law for eighteen months.

We've been separated from people we love and people we know, and that separation has been placed upon us, and we

haven't really been able to do anything about it. It's brought sadness and it's brought heartache.

But there have also been joys during lockdown.

Some of you will know that Sarah and I became Foster Parents in October 2019. We received two boys into our home, boys we didn't know, boys that had got background problems, situations, and some of those situations we still do not know today.

But Lockdown has given us the opportunity to be confined with them at home, we have got to know them, and probably if it wasn't for lockdown we wouldn't have got to know them so well.

And we have the contrast of being separated from loved ones, but also the opportunity of getting to know people better, because we have perhaps spent more time with them. And we have become closer to them in our relationships.

So, with the sadness comes the joys. With the separation, the not knowing and the worry, and the anxiety, comes the hope for the future, for the preparation for the future.

Scripture came to mind, whilst I was thinking about this personal situation of mine. James Chapter 4, Verse 8 says, "Come near to God and He will come near to you".

Just as we have found, as we have become closer to the boys that we are Fostering, so they have become drawn closer to us. We are almost like a normal family. And when we're out, perhaps no one would even notice, or even perceive, that the boys were fostered. We treat them as our own.

Just as we come close to God, He also come close to us.

And so, as our relationships have been mixed in these eighteen months. As our relationships have been separated, or torn apart in these past eighteen months, so our relationships have become stronger. And we have been able to build on those relationships, and we come closer to people that perhaps we would never have known their story or got to know them so quickly.

My story for Lockdown is, that even in the personal life, even in the tragedy and the heartache, there are joys. But the greatest joy is knowing that as I come closer to God in my relationship with Him, He comes closer to me.

Knowing God's closeness during these eighteen months has needed to be one of the foundations of my faith and my life. It's pulled me through on many occasions. It's been almost the energy that's kept me going, because as we draw closer to God, so He sustains us more.

We have been able to continue to serve the community where we are here in Margate every day.... with a picnic bag, a simple sandwich, or even a food box.

We've got to know people within the community that we perhaps wouldn't have got to know, because we've been able to serve them in the midst of the pandemic.

So as we are making new relationships, finding new friends, building new bridges. I would urge that we take hold of that verse from James, that we come closer to God, and by doing so, we will experience God coming much closer to us in our daily living.

**Bible Reading**  
**Elizabeth Lloyd**

**Matthew 9: 35 - 38**

**Major**

**The Mission Journal**  
**Sheila Eade**

**Major**

Good morning! I wonder how many of you keep a journal? There are, of course, many types of journals - from diaries to blogs to photographs - and many reasons for keeping a journal. But I love bullet journals. If you haven't heard of bullet journaling have a google. Bullet journals are incredibly versatile and great for developing good habits, capturing goals, aims, achievements, tracking progress and many other things. It can easily be dipped in and out of and doesn't have to be used and updated every day but when you've got something to report or to celebrate or review or a new idea or plan.

In many ways that idea is very similar to the mission journal. The mission journal is not just a document to complete, it's a journey - set out as a 6 step cyclical journey for your corps. The journal asks key questions that are designed to provoke discussion to help you look at what you are currently doing, and through reflection and evaluation, make future plans. The journal can guide those initial conversations and is a great way of capturing and recording those. It then becomes a working document that records the journey through prayer, evaluation, planning, preparation, reviewing and celebrating - and that cycle then continues with adaptations and modifications as necessary.

Used to its full potential the mission journal captures what you learn along the way - that can be by simply trying what works and what doesn't work, it can be what you learn through the natural church development process, through evaluating who are the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers in your corps, or any other tool you choose to use as a framework for planning and prioritizing your goals.

The journal can look, at first glance, as an onerous set of documents, but don't be put off by that, ask for help because it really is an incredibly valuable way of journaling your mission journey, keeping God at the centre of your planning and allowing for those Kairos moments, those God inspired moments and ideas.

Feel free to contact me direct or use the mail drop [southeastmissionjournal@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:southeastmissionjournal@salvationarmy.org.uk)

For those who have already begun to complete some of the journal, these are in the process of being uploaded onto your corps Microsoft teams so they can be accessed by your team and updated in real time which makes the process simpler for all involved.

I leave you with a verse of scripture from Deuteronomy 6 where God is speaking about the commandments, but the idea is to do whatever it takes to note down, to journal, to remember, and to pass on -

“Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Write them down and tie them on your hands as a reminder. Also tie them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses. Also write them on your gates.”

Maybe not quite literally tie your mission goals to your forehead, but certainly capture them, write them down and journal the journey.

## **The Message**

Good morning Church family. It's great to be on your screen again this morning. Thank you for being with us. Thank you for the way that you enrich our lives. Linda and I are better people and better leaders for knowing you and serving alongside you.

Anyone not said, 'I just want to get back to normal?' Do you remember those days? No face masks, no social distancing, having to put up with family when they came to visit? I just want to get back to normal.

The route to normal, may not be that appealing. Normal was not necessarily healthy, it wasn't always God honouring or life giving.

We have all learnt so much in this last year. Our lives have been reset and we have a fresh understanding of what matters, of what is important. Moving forward we number our days so that we make the most of them.

God is always doing a new thing and his plans for our lives and for that of our Corps are not just to get us back to normal, his plans are to get us back to better. We have learnt so much, that we can't come back the same, we come back stronger.

In this series of Divisional worship gatherings, we are looking at four verses of scripture, that if acted upon will change your life, and that of your Corps and community.

Here for the last time are those Bible verses again:

*<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were*

*harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'*

These meetings have been planned under the heading of 'Sow What?'

In week 1, I introduced you to a new word, it is not a rude word, but it is a made up one - APEST. We have a God who sends us into the world, and we go as Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd and Teacher. If you move the letters around you get the word 'PASTE'. APEST is the paste, the glue that holds our ministry and service together.

A - Apostle (Let's do this)

P - Prophet (Don't forget this)

E - Evangelist (Can I tell you this?)

S - Shepherd (Are you OK with this?)

T - Teacher (This is what this means)

In our second meeting, we asked the question: 'What is your harvest field?'

In 1996 the Government of Honduras built a bridge across a river to connect a main road with a new bypass. In a country known for hurricanes it was constructed to withstand everything nature could throw at it. And it did. It survived a massive hurricane. This bridge was the only thing that survived.

*Slide with photo of bridge:*

However, one thing that did happen was that the river changed course. It no longer flowed beneath the bridge. The lesson speaks for itself. The bridge became a bridge to nowhere.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for us to think again, to pray again, to ask the Lord of the harvest again, 'What is my harvest field?' For us to reach the people that no one else is reaching, we must do the things that no one else is doing.

We shared and spoke about many Fresh Expression opportunities. Faversham, Sheerness, Church on the run. New ways of reaching out into your communities. If we want to reach the people that no one else is reaching, we must do the things that no one else is doing. The harvest is a sign of new life.

Last month we asked the questions, What do you want your Corps to be known for? What is it known for? What do you think about your Corps? NCD- Natural Church Development helps us to work through these questions and develops ways of providing practical answers. It paints a self-portrait of our Corps and you were invited to explore this further with Major Iain Stewart.

APEST - Fresh Expressions - NCD - Natural Church Development. Three significant areas of missional opportunity and investment that we are offering to you and your Corps.

This morning, I want us to use verse 35 as a springboard for our thinking, reflection and action:

*<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness.*

I love the idea that the Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke (twice) and John recorded what they saw Jesus doing. Do you see that here in the verse? I imagine Matthew, excited at the end of every day, thinking, what did Jesus do today? O Yes, he went through all the towns and villages, teaching, proclaiming, healing and centuries later we are celebrating these things.

Why are we surprised? Every time we open the Bible, we should expect to encounter Jesus. The Bible is a record of how the story of God connects with our story.

Over a year ago I wrote to every leader and said, ‘when the story of Covid is just a story we tell, may our stories of Covid be stories worth telling’. And they are, and they will be worth re-telling. Stories of how quickly you responded. Online services became the norm! Amazing new connections in the community became an everyday occurrence. A renewed confidence in the gospel of Jesus and a newfound freedom to connect with our neighbours. People sitting in their onesies, drinking coffee whilst watching the morning service is probably where the illustration breaks down. Our stories are worth telling and they need to be recorded.

I am grateful to Major Sheila Eade for helping us to keep the opportunities of a Mission Journal for our Corps, on the agenda. It can be a catalyst to inspire you to action.

So, take notes of your mission conversations. Record the vision. Write down what God has shown you. Get together and start a mission journal. Write it down so you don’t forget the seeds of truth that God has planted in you.

This then will become a spiritual anchor that you will keep coming back to.

I find shopping very difficult. On those rare occasions I have been entrusted to go to the supermarket to buy three items I have found that on the way Satan has messed with my mind to such an extent that I have forgotten all the essential items but returned home with 'essential' goodies of my own. It is easy to forget.

Whether life for you is currently a mountain top or valley, write it down so that you will remember what God can do.

So, not only will Sheila be happy to help facilitate Mission conversations, she will do your shopping for you also. There is a prize for the first 10 people to send their shopping lists to Sheila!

Jesus went and served and that is the renewed call to all of us today as we begin new chapters in the life of our Corps.

We cannot receive new miracles with old mindsets. Now is the time to make room for the new in your mind.

The old Chinese proverb says 'The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now'.

It's time to plant a tree. Don't wait. Can't wait. Plant it now and as you act, you will learn from your action. Don't drift. Plan. Do something. Be the person who is swimming upstream, rather than drifting down it.

The Mission Journal will help you to ask the right questions, to reflect, to act. Now go and do something. Wouldn't you rather

be the person or the Church who is doing something than just waiting for something to happen?

This is not a call to be reckless. Common-sense isn't a superpower.

Once you have chosen you plan, path, action you must stop something so that it is not a distraction or roadblock to the new thing. You must be able to focus and invest in it. More than likely that you will need to leave something behind. It may be painful, but it will be liberating. Don't be too busy for something new.

So, are you feeling a nudge to do something, to start something, to join something? You have no idea what hangs in the balance of your yes or no.

I would love you to email me and tell me what your tree is you are going to plant? A new focus, a fresh expression, a deeper understanding of how God has created you to serve, a relevant programme. It would be amazing to hear from you. Then, in six months' time we should do a Sunday online service with the theme, 'How big has your tree grown?' I can't describe how excited and passionate I am about this.

We have tried to centre these four Divisional worship meetings around Jesus. It's all about him, it always has been and always will be. And as long as we make it about him, we will not be defeated.

In the presence of God, in the name of Jesus, I pray the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon you all so that you may serve as Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers or Shepherds. That

he would lead you into fresh expressions of ministry in your communities. That he would stir within every Corps in the South East growth that is healthy and sustainable because we play to our strengths and that we would write it all down to remember the works of God that will motivate us towards even greater things.

I know this past year has been hard, even deeply painful for many of you. It has been filled with fear, loss and confusion. It would be understandable if our response is to pull back, wait and see. But in these days God invites us to a future-focused faith, an 'even if' faith, that decides to trust God even when we don't understand.

There are only two contexts in the gospels when Jesus was amazed. In his hometown he was amazed at their lack of faith. At times he was amazed at the faith of people. And Jesus was amazed at our faith. We can do this, together.

Lord, help me to walk in faith not doubt. Give me courage over fear. Help me be bold and not timid when it comes to who you have called me to be.

And to God alone be the honour and the glory.

**Song            Lord if your presence does not go with us**

LORD, if Your presence does not go with us,

Please do not send us up from here.

How will anyone know we are Your people

Unless You go before us?

Lord, if Your favour does not rest on us

We dare not move beyond this place.

How will anyone know we go in Your name  
Unless Your blessing is over us?

## **Song**

## **Praise is rising**

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to you  
We turn to you  
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for you  
We long for you  
When we see you we find strength to face the day  
In your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away  
Hosanna, hosanna  
You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises  
Hosanna, hosanna  
Come have your way among us  
We welcome you here Lord Jesus  
Hear the sound of hearts returning to you  
We turn to you  
In your kingdom broken lives are made new  
You make all things new

## **Benediction**

Go out into God's world filled with the spark of the Holy Spirit.

Let love guide your actions.

Listen for the Spirit of Truth.

Spread the peace of Christ

and remind everyone you meet that each one is a beloved child  
of God. Amen.

## The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost Acts 2

A A K M E S O P O T A M I A T S O C E T N E P C  
 N S Y I V T A S C A P P A D O C I A J L K H S V  
 E D W T M T N J V H R E R I F F O S E U G N O T  
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 Q L F K T S O V F J L G P M I M O Y Q P G Y Y E  
 G C S D I S N A S L E D N A K J J X D E M P A H  
 Y E U N M W E A V T D E D V R S U T N O P H D R  
 N C J H A Q I Z T P P G K P N T U R C S H R P D  
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 Galileans  
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 Pentecost  
 Rome  
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 Cretans  
 Egypt  
 every nation  
 heaven  
 Jerusalem  
 Libya  
 Pamphylia  
 Phrygia  
 sound  
 tongues of fire

Asia  
 crowd  
 Elamites  
 filled  
 Holy Spirit  
 Judea  
 Medes  
 Parthians  
 Pontus  
 speak  
 violent wind

