



A warm welcome as we gather as the family of God today, especially if you are not normally with us on a Sunday. May we all feel the welcome of God and each other.

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

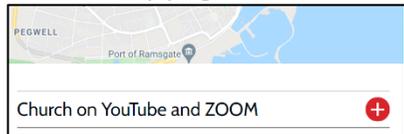
**We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.30 am.**

**Also Sunday worship is** livestreamed on  **YouTube**

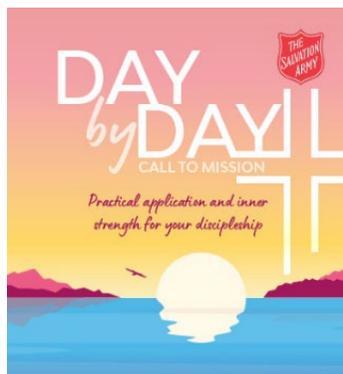
You can find a link on the Ramsgate Salvation Army page

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate)

click on the plus icon and it will take you to a link for today's service



Or go to the Ramsgate Salvation Army YouTube page and click on the "live" link on the channel content



We hope you have found the Day by Day book helpful over the last weeks. This morning we will ask "if we are ready?" – and this is especially pertinent as we plan to restart many activities in September.

## What's happening at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP at Salvation Army Hall</b>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>11.30 am</b>	ZOOM fellowship
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12.00 noon	<b>NO</b> Sunday School
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	4.30 pm	<b>NO ZOOM</b> Children's Church Kids Club (up to 11 years)
Monday to Friday	(6.30am-9am)	Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Preparation for FAMILY FUN TIME
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>		FAMILY FUN TIME
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	2pm – 4pm	“Summer in the Garden”
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	(10am - 12 noon)	War Cry Ministry Ramsgate
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	(10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship



## ADVANCE NOTICE



Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September Salvation Army Hall 10am to 1pm



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

John Horn                      27<sup>th</sup> August



### **Prayers please for**

For **Ruthie** and family following the sudden death of her Aunt who contracted Covid on Monday and died on Saturday.

**Debbie** during her convalescence following her operation. For **Philip** following his emergency admission to hospital. For **Isobel** who remains unwell and is in pain. Continued prayers for **Jean Mayton, Chris**, a friend of Gay, Sheila Parfitt's neighbour.

**Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment.

For **Archie**, Lisa and Scott. For **Paul** and **Sue Taylor**. For **Peter Ford**

For all those suffering from **Long Covid** – which include some in our church family. For **Sandra** following the loss of her Uncle and for **Peter Harden** as he prepare for his cataract operation.

For all of our young people and teachers as they prepare to return to school.

And for those who are taking holiday this summer. May they find rest and restoration.



## Afghanistan

*Let us pray*

*All-loving God, Your hands have fashioned every lovely corner of this treasured planet, and the beautiful land of Afghanistan is as precious as every other place Your children call 'home'. By its rivers and mountains, its fields and gardens, its busy towns and ancient villages, it is the heart's desire of its people and the place where their lives and loves are nurtured.*

*We grieve today with those who grieve over Afghanistan, the people who call it home indeed, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave, and the men and women from other countries who have made sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future.*

*We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel during the years of this country's involvement in Afghanistan, conscious of the questions that must today be troubling the minds of those in our community who were bereaved, those who were wounded on operations, and those who were forever changed by experiences suffered there.*

*We pray for peace, dignity, freedom and confidence for the men, women and children of Afghanistan; for courage, vision and generosity within the international community responding to such need; and for tranquillity of mind amongst our own Service community and its wider family.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, the peace-giver, we pray, AMEN.*



As the Taliban settles into power in Afghanistan and reinstates Sharia (Islamic law), the small population of Christians in the country fear the worst. In a recent interview with Reuters, high-ranking Taliban commander Waheedullah Hashimi confirmed that Afghanistan would not be a democracy under the Taliban, and that they will implement no law but Sharia.

He says, "There will be no democratic system at all because it does not have any base in our country... We will not discuss what type of political system should we apply in Afghanistan because it is clear. It is Sharia law and that is it."

"Christians in Afghanistan are facing insurmountable adversity. We must pray without ceasing." **BROTHER SAMUEL**

During their rule in the 1990s, the Taliban had been known to have an extreme interpretation of Sharia, including imposing oppressive rules for women and violent punishments on 'infidels', including believers who have left their Muslim faith to follow Christ.

Brother Samuel (name changed), Open Doors Field Director for Asia, continues to ask for prayers: “These are uncertain times for Christians in Afghanistan. It’s absolutely dangerous. We don’t know what the next months will bring, what kind of implementation of Sharia we will see, but we continue to ask you to intercede for our brothers and sisters. They are facing insurmountable adversity. We must pray without ceasing.”

In an exclusive interview with CBN, local believer Hamid (whose name has been changed for security reasons) shares fears that the Taliban will eliminate the Christian population. He says: “We know a Christian believer who we’ve been working within the north, he’s a leader and we’ve lost contact with him because his city has fallen to the Taliban. There are three other cities that we have lost contact with our Christian believers.”

“Some of the believers are known in their communities, people know that they converted from Islam to Christianity, and they are considered apostates and the penalty for that is death,” Hamid continues. “The Taliban are famous for carrying out that punishment.”

"Some of the believers are known in their communities... they are considered apostates and the penalty for that is death." **HAMID, SECRET BELIEVER**

Since the Taliban took full control on Monday, chaos and an eerie sense of calm has come over Afghanistan. Images of locals stampeding to board aircraft have flooded social media, while in the streets and marketplaces, rifle-brandishing members of the Taliban roam to keep the peace.

## **A prayer for Afghanistan based on Psalm 57:1-5**

*Have mercy on them, my God, have mercy on them, for in You they take refuge. They will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster has passed. We cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates us. He sends from heaven and saves, rebuking those who hotly pursue. God sends forth His love and His faithfulness. Your children in Afghanistan are*

*in the midst of lions, forced to dwell among ravenous beasts. Men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth. Amen.*

"It's a heartbreaking day for the citizens of Afghanistan, and an even more dangerous time to be a Christian," says Brother Samuel, Open Doors Field Director for Asia (whose name has been changed for security reasons). "It's an uncertain situation for the whole country, not just for secret believers. Our hearts are broken. We knew this could happen. We are not surprised but this does not make the pain any less."

"It's a heartbreaking day for the citizens of Afghanistan, and an even more dangerous time to be a Christian" **BROTHER SAMUEL**

Afghan citizens are in a frenzy – lining up in banks in a desperate attempt to withdraw their savings and flocking the Kabul airport to flee the country. Many locals who have spent the last couple of years helping the UK forces are now applying for visas to leave.

Brother Samuel adds, "Secret believers in Afghanistan are especially vulnerable. Prior to Taliban rule, they already had a very difficult time living out their faith, as they had to keep it secret from their families for fear of being shunned, or worse, killed. Now that the Taliban is in power, their vulnerability increases tenfold. It would be almost impossible to be a follower of Jesus in this country. We are monitoring the situation, but this is the time for us to ask God to have mercy not only on His people, but on this country as a whole."

Prayers for Afghanistan today

- **Please pray for the small group of believers in the country.** They are walking on eggshells and are uncertain who to trust. Pray that they find strength, wisdom, and supernatural peace in God's promises.

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. (Isaiah 41:10-12)*

- **Pray for the displaced.** A new wave of refugees is expected to come from Afghanistan to many parts of the Middle East and the rest of the world. Pray for God's protection and provision over them in their journeys. May we do our part here in Thanet and across the country
- **Pray for the women.** Many women fear that the Taliban rule would mean they would be stripped of opportunities for education. Women involved in education during the past years could also be at risk – pray for their protection.

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. (Psalm 34:7-9)*

- **Pray for the sick.** Though underreported in international media, Covid-19 cases are spiking in the country and hospitals are limited in what they can offer. There is no certainty as to how the healthcare system will be able to sustain itself with the new Taliban government. Pray that the healthcare system will not collapse.
- **Pray that the country will not be a haven for extremists.** The Taliban government of 20 years ago are known enablers of extremist Islamic organisations. With their newfound control over Afghanistan, the country could be host to a new generation of terror groups.

*No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. (Isaiah 54:17)*

- **Pray for the Leaders.** Lord, we lift up our leaders, both here and abroad, who are tasked with making difficult and quick decisions. Give them the clarity to approach each decision with wisdom and care. We know that being a leader in this situation would be no easy task – give us understanding and patience for their decisions, even when we may not agree with them.

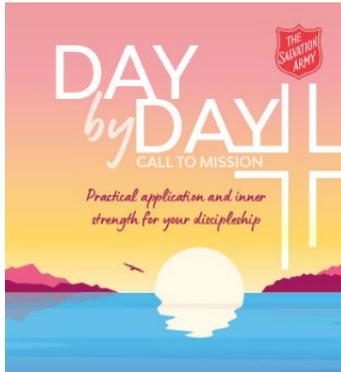
*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)*

- **Pray for the Taliban.** Lord, even when it doesn't make sense to our earthly selves, you call us to pray for those who persecute (Matthew 5:44). We lift up the Taliban to you today. We pray that your Holy Spirit would work in them and soften their hearts.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:43-44)*

*We know that ultimately, God is sovereign over all things. No matter what wars are being waged, won, or lost here on earth, God will have the victory in the end. It's so hard for us to see this reality while we live through fearful and uncertain events. But by turning our eyes to God and lifting up our fears and desires to him, we can truly know that he is in control.*

*Lift up these prayers today for God's protection over the people of Afghanistan, the troops, and the leaders. Also pray that God would transform the hearts of the Taliban, that they might see his love and glory, and choose peace. There is nothing more powerful or important that we can do right now as believers than to pray. Use these prayers as a starting point to lift up Afghanistan and all those affected by the takeover.*



The General's nine calls.

Be Ready

A call to prayer.

A call to holiness

A call to be battle ready

Be Engaged

A call to serve

A call to worship

A call to confidence in the gospel

Take responsibility

A call to raise and nurture every generation

A call to costly compassion

A call to inclusion.

## Are we ready?

A call is only real when it's acted upon, when we've received it, and we respond.

Friends, we need to be ready.

This includes the call to prayer.

God is calling his people to surrender and prayer.

We must engage in spiritual warfare fought and won on our knees.

It's a call to Holiness, we must reflect Christ's likeness in all aspects of Life,

recognising that holiness restores our and our relationship with God, as well as others and the world.

Every Salvationist should be a living example of biblical authenticity.

It's a call to be battle ready. Now.

We must understand the urgency of now.

Our world needs Christ today, not when we've finished working our plans.

Despite all that needs to be done within our movement, we continue to fight the battle while we grow, strengthen our resolve, and prepare for greater battles.

Join me in this fight to be the Salvation Army that God has called us to be.

Help me position the army, so that it is right at the heart of God's will ensuring his continued blessing and his hand of protection as we strive to meet the challenges of this 21st century.

And as we participate in the cause of Christ in almost two-thirds of the world's countries, we will give all of the honour and glory to our God.

Amen.

## Are we ready?

Will you commit to pray as we consider what God is calling us to do

Do we continue, re-start and new-start our mission activities.....?

Alpha

Discipleship classes

Bible study and Prayer – in person (1pm) and on-line (7pm)

Friday Drop-In, coffee, chat and sign-posting

LITS (contemporary worship)

Band, Songsters, and Junior music

A new Sunday morning Prayer meeting (9.30am)

On-Line worship (live streaming via YouTube)

Little Fishes

Food Bank

Sunday morning worship

Membership Classes

The Well

ACE Overcomers

Friendship Club and Luncheon Club

Homeless Breakfast

Youth Church and Fellowship

Sunday School

Kids Club

Our work with Thanet Shelter Support (Formally Thanet Winter Shelter)

Christmas Lunches

War Cry Ministry

Film and Supper evenings

Trips, visits and retreats

Sunday evening worship

Our community support work – advice, mediation, clothing, toiletries and bedding bank – and help with simple furnishing

....and prayers for new attenders and believers

....and prayers for our place within the church in Thanet

....and prayers for our local leaders.....and our divisional and territorial leaders

....and prayers for those who can help with our mission – releasing the gifts we have – and sending new workers

## Are you ready?

God's Word has so much to say about *taking action*.

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you **do** them." John 13:17

"But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a **doer who acts**, he will be blessed in his **doing**." James 1:23-25

"But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my **works**." James 2:18

"I can **do** all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

"And every **work** that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he **did** with all his heart, and prospered." 2 Chronicles 31:21

"I **hasten** and do not delay **keeping** your commandments." Psalm 119:60

"Whatever you **do**, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

"But be **doers** of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and **does** them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does** the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

“The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, ‘You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Turn and **take** your journey, and **go** to the hill country of the Amorites...See, I have set the land before you. **Go** in and **take** possession...” Deteronomy 1:6-8

“Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and **do** it.” Ezra 10:4

“Whatever you **do** in word or deed, **do** all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:17

“Therefore, preparing your minds for **action**, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” I Peter 1:13

“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to **do** it, for him it is sin.” James 4:17

A call is only real when it's acted upon, when we've received it, and we respond.

ACT NOW



I will  
pray



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