

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

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FROM THE C.O'S DESK

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind...

2 Were it not for the continuing impact of the virus on our
 3 lives, New Year's Eve would usually find thousands of
 4 people singing such words. Some wanting to cling onto
 5 memories and experiences of the past year, others wanting to
 6 move on and forget the content of the last 365 days.
 8 Some will be looking forward with great excitement and
 9 optimism for what the new year will hold while others will be
 11 acutely aware of the challenges we continue to face.
 12 And then of course there are some, such as yours truly,
 13 who simply see the occasion as merely a chronological
 15 advancement in time, and treat it as any other day.
 16 Irrespective of hopes, fears, complacency or relief,
 17 time keeps moving on, regulated, measured, constant.
 19 Some of us will remember the chaos predicted as we
 20 stepped over the millennia just over 20 years ago, but
 22 no planes fell from the sky and computer systems
 continued to function, so is there some force driving
 time to continue? Is there any control in this cosmic
 rhythm?

Science would suggest a cosmic explosion brought all life into being, and eventually the sun will burn itself out but who measures the days, the hours and the minutes?

Some bible scholars suggest that David wrote, in what we have as Psalm 31:15, "My times are in your hands" Indeed our second doctrine affirms our belief that God is the creator, preserver and governor of all things.

If we accept that then we must believe that he who created time will one day draw it to its close, but inspite of the once familiar sight of the men wearing sandwich boards announcing that "the end is



nigh,” no one knows when that will be.

We celebrate and mark the passing of another year, however I feel the more important thing is not the label marking a particular point in time but what we do with the moments we have.

Paul challenged the believers not to be wasteful of the time we have, not to spend it worrying about how long we have left, but to embrace every day as if it were our last. Not procrastinating but positively using the time we have.

Each day is a gift that we can take hold of and use, or passively sit and watch the pendulum swinging backwards and forwards as time passes us by.

86,400 seconds, 1440 minutes, 24 hours in a day. What do you do with yours?

In these days, may we recognise that God gives us each day as a gift, and yet we choose, even more so in these uncertain days, how to use it. May we each endeavour to reappraise how we make use of our time in the days ahead.

We pray that the coming year will be a positive time for us all as we discover more and more of God’s plan for our lives, and may it also be a time of welcoming new people into our church family as we use our time to invite others to discover the one who holds our time in his hands.

Major David

Harvest Hangover!

To Everyone at Woking Corps,
I am writing to say a very heart felt thank you for the way you have generously supported our LifeHouses during this harvest time.

I can honestly say “all is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin” we were down to our very last and now I have been able to share the supplies out among both centres with some to spare for our Tenancy Sustainment Team.

Thank you is a very simple word, but it is heart felt when I say it.

We had a young man move in last week and to be able to give him everything he needed to wash with after having been on the streets for several weeks was just wonderful.

So, thank you from everyone here in Reading.

Kind Regards

Edwina Cussen Major

Chaplain Willow House and Shepton House Lifehouses

Letter received after the corps donated toiletries of all sorts for use at the Lifehouses in Reading at the Harvest thanksgiving service.

Woking & Sam Beare Hospice Charity Carol Concert Major Margaret House

"On Wednesday 8th December a group of the band attended a Christmas Carol Service at Christ Church in aid of Woking and Sam Beare Hospices. The concert was arranged by Seymore's Estate Agent.

The programme was ably compered by Major John Martin and interspersed with jokes! The band accompanied the singing and played Carols before the start of the event.

Hoe Bridge School presented a wonderful musical arrangement of The Snowman and Horsell C of E Junior School presented the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem". A reading from Adrian Mole's Diary was read by Gerald Carey (currently playing Thenardier in the West End's Les Miserables). The well known poem "Twas the night before Christmas" was presented by Helen Blower (Seymore's Associate Partner).

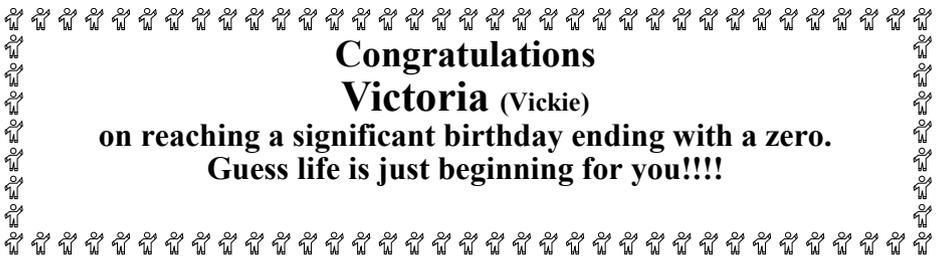
One of the most poignant contribu-

tions was made by Karin Harvey who thanked the Hospice for the care of her husband who was looked after until this August when he sadly passed away in their care.

An amazing rendition of some of the well-known songs from Les Miserables were presented by "Door Step Productions" who received a standing ovation for their brilliant singing. The afternoon ended with the singing of "We wish you a merry Christmas".

The Church was filled to capacity and I am sure that this event will feature in the calendar of the band on a yearly basis, having now fulfilled this engagement in both 2019 and 2021.

A wonderful afternoon was had by all and the members of the band who were unable to fulfil this engagement due to work commitments missed out on a real treat. Well done all."



Congratulations
Victoria (Vickie)
on reaching a significant birthday ending with a zero.
Guess life is just beginning for you!!!!

Getting to know you - Cadets Joanna & Thomas Morgan

We have been made most welcome at Woking, and are looking forward to sharing with you over the next few months.

Every blessing, Thomas and Joanna

Can you tell us about your early life, where you grew up, your work life before WBC?

J *I grew up in Eastbourne before leaving to take up work as cabin crew for Swiss Air. I then settled in Swindon where I worked as a store manager for a number of retail department stores.*

T *I grew up in Kidderminster, near Birmingham. I studied at the University of Salford and the Royal Welsh College of Music before working as a secondary school teacher in Birmingham.*

How did you come to the Army?

J *I came into the hall whilst drunk, and was made so welcome that I never left.*

T *I was taken to the Army as a baby*

What made you decide to offer to become a Salvation Army officer?

J *I received my call to officer-ship whilst completing my soldier-ship classes.*

T *I received the call to officer-ship aged 13, and finally applied*



after attending a course at WBC in 2017.

How have you found life at WBC so far? The best thing and the worst / most frustrating thing?

J *Study does not come naturally to me, but I have received lots of support and encouragement. The best thing has been that I have grown in my own faith, but also in my confidence in sharing my faith. The most frustrating thing trying to study under lockdown restrictions.*

T *It has largely been enjoyable, although coping with lockdown was challenging. The best thing has been having the time and space to go deeper with Scripture and my faith. The most frustrating thing has been not having any*

placements during our first year, although, to be fair to WBC, this was beyond their control!

What do you hope to achieve through your time at Woking?

J *To learn more about being a Salvation Army officer, which I have already learned so much about even in the short time I have been with you.*

T To develop my skills in meeting leadership and preaching, as well as learning from the experience of others within the corps.

Your hopes for the future?

J *That in all I do I will continue to serve the One who saves, empowers, and strengthens us - the One who saved me.*

T To serve God to the best of my ability, wherever the Army places me.

Favourite food / meal?

J *Kleftiko (a Greek dish of lamb, potatoes, lemon, and feta cheese)*

T Roast dinner

Favourite past-time?

J *Exploring London*

T Playing and writing music

What do you do to relax?

J *I like to watch Sooty and Sweep on TV*

T I love reading, particularly books about Salvation Army music, and books about doctrine

Favourite piece of music and favourite worship song?

J *Favourite piece of music - She's Gone by Daryl Hall and John Oates*

J *Favourite Worship song - God of the City by Chris Tomlin*

T Favourite piece of music - The Holy War (for brass band), by Lt.-Col. Ray Steadman-Allen

T Favourite song - O boundless salvation (The Founder's Song)

Who would you like to spend a day with?

J *Mary Magdalene - I would love to know more about her, and whether what we believe about her is true*

T Commissioner George Scott Railton - an early day Salvationist, and a hero of the faith to me

Favourite verse of Scripture

J *Philippians 3:12 - 'Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.'*

T Romans 8:37 - 39 - 'No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the

future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Something we don't know that would surprise us

J *I met one of my childhood musical heroes, Suzi Quattro, when she was one of the passengers on a flight of which I was a crew mem-*

ber.

T I played on BBC Songs of Praise for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002

Worship will be led by Cadets Joanna & Thomas on; Sunday 9 & 23 January 13 February 6 & 27 March

Getting to Know - Howard C Earl

How long have you been worshipping with us at Woking?

After hearing the Band in the Peacock center playing Christmas Carols and chatting with Gwen Cox with an invitation to attend the Sunday Meeting December 2010 and I had just moved to Woking from London.

Did you grow up in the Salvation Army?

I was for a better term born into the Salvation Army and my heritage goes back to the founders of the Maidstone Corps Kent some 135yrs. Growing up attending 3 meetings on Sunday, Sunday school, YP band and all that came with being part of the Salvation Army wider Family.

Can you tell us about your early life?

Born 25th January 1949 at 2.25am I remember it well at home at my Grandparents home in Brewer Street Maidstone.

My Early years were in Maidstone till I was 10yrs when my parents decided to emigrate to Canada or New Zealand. We Left UK from Glasgow Dock Sept 14th 1959 on a boat called the Captain Cook for 6 weeks bound for Lyetton south islands of New Zealand and a town call Oamaru where my Dad had been asked to take over the band as



Band Master, I guess we were fortunate as the Salvation Army had sponsored a job for my Dad, house and a new life, but was still known as the 10 pound POM (Prisoner of Mother England).

I attended Waitaki Boys High School for 2 yrs. before we all moved to Christchurch City Corps where I settled into high school, youth Group leader and a 5 yrs. apprenticeship as a Radio TV Technician. I moved to Wellington in 1970 attending Wellington South Corp met a young lady and in 1971 moved across the pond to Adelaide South Australia married in 72. Attending Kilkenny Corps. I have to say that my parents sacrificed a lot for me in moving to NZ and then to OZ giving me a great upbringing and opportunities.

What work have you done since coming to the UK?

After arriving in UK in 2005 and living with my cousin in Maida Vale London I worked for her in her PR Business, then did some Voluntary work with Youth at Rick as a mentor and life coach, before joining Shaw Trust in a full time position helping Long term unemployed with disability back into work and running their Goals courses. A rewarding job but very frustrating with all the red tape and hoops that they have to jump through and lastly worked part time at ASL Woking building Electronic control boards.

What has it meant to you to be part of our fellowship at Woking?

For me it has to be being made very welcome into the Corps and made to feel as if I am part of the Woking family. Back in a SA band thank you Peter and all the band members, part of a Salvation Army Family and what that means, being in a fellowship of Christian people.

Can you share with us some scripture verses that are special to you?

JOHN: 3.16 for God so loved the world it reminds me constantly that our sins are forgiven even though we stray. PSALM: 23 The Lords My Shepherd

Have you accomplished something that we may not know about?

Having had a good life and been very fortunate in most things that I have turned my hand to, welcomed the chance to give back to those that find they have not been so fortunate. Running a 12 week life change Program in Adelaide, and used some of the principles in the schools where I worked in the UK. But in the last few years have been building Prosthetics for disabled people mainly hands with 3D printers.

Have you a favourite song or band composition? Why is it special to you?

I Love most types of music but Brass Bands would be the top of the hit parade.

So Band music composed by Eric Ball and played by the ISB under Bernard Adams would have to be RESURGAM “I shall Rise Again” and for me it portrays us in our life struggles.

Songs and Hymn Tune, “When I survey the Wondrous Cross” and the other which we sung not so long ago in the meeting, “When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed, count your many blessings name them one by one”.

I guess classical would be a close

2nd and as Technician on the road I was sent to a house in a very expensive part of Adelaide to repair a CTV and playing on the Stereo was Gustav Mahler resurrection symphony no 2, I had not heard it before as I paused to leave after the repair the Customer asked if I would like it and gave me the double vinyl album which I still have today.

I have to say this has been a very broad brush stroke of my life look for the Online PDF edition 2025. “opportunity to build the tomorrow you want”

Christmas Parcel Extravaganza 21

Major Margaret House



We are very grateful to the generosity once again which enabled us to help lots of families. Wednesday evening saw a great team sorting out into age groups (while some of us double booked and attended “Christmas with The Salvation Army” at the Royal Albert Hall.

On Thursday morning more folk picked the toys and gifts and others attached them to food parcels and added cards.

We are grateful to Amanda for her organisation of yet another successful Parcel Day and we are grateful to those of you who donated and helped in other ways also.

Before the mass tidy up fish and chips were enjoyed by the team with a great spirit of “togetherness” and fun pervading.

Thank you all once again for a brilliant team effort. As I write these notes, the parcels are being collected by the various Social Workers and Agencies and they too are grateful

December Outdoor Festival

Neighbourhood visits Alison Campbell

It was that in-between time, not yet Christmas, but December, Advent already, the Christmas Fair postponed to, we hope, a Spring Fair. How could we greet and celebrate our neighbours, especially those who may not come to church?

An outdoor event – what could be better? In the space at the driveway end of the building, Major David and Ian set up a gazebo on the grass in case of rain (thanks Andrew and Jo for the use of yours!), BBQ grill by the rails, and tables on the paved area where Janet T. arranged items for a little sale.

Food was organised, with hot dogs grilled by Jon E. and pancakes made by Tina, Stuart serving soup (made by Gill G.), and Jennie serving all the condiments.

A diverse little crowd formed, and people didn't rush away, but

stopped for chats. Major Margaret, Amanda and Alison were circulating to speak with people, Pete & Louise and Sue H. turned up to support.

There were so many lovely conversations with mums who come to Teddy Toddlers or live nearby, some coming with partners, with children we don't always see. Ian found a fellow Aussie. A few women who work next door came out to say hello. They enjoyed warm spiced apple juice and meeting a few people, and a sense of welcome as our neighbours.

Anna L. came with her lovely daughter Lily and friend Max who Andy Stickland may remember meeting a few years ago at a Christmas Fair, when Max came along with a kazoo he'd been given, and they worked out how to play it! Max remembers this experience too.

Jess and Luke, with Lilia and Jamie, spent some time, and chatted with everyone. **BY THE WAY**, Luke is growing chili peppers if anyone likes them **REALLY HOT**, he says. Let him know, he is ready to share.





Eight-year-old Zara came along (with Alison) – she has been coming into the Salvation Army hall since she was a

toddler (Major John will remember her with her brother Charlie). Zara was right at home. She was given a job to help children pull a free soft toy out of a toy box. Meanwhile she managed to taste everything and worked her way around the whole team – then on the way home she recited the names of everyone she met.

Yes, she will remember!

Most people were standing just outside the fire exit, which was open into the hall, to give a route in, and Christmas music was playing.

A few children wandered in, seeing the hall set up for worship, with no toys out, but they were so clearly at home, moving around in that space. A mum went in and sat down. Later Jess and Luke sat for a while with their children.

The day began with rain, but in faith we went ahead, and the rain held back during those hours outside.

What a gift this time was to all who came, including all of us who hosted, for building trust and friendship.

And thankfulness!

A day to remember - Peter's investiture



Congratulations to Peter Glover who received his decoration as a Member of the British Empire (MBE) on Wednesday 8 December 2021 at Windsor Castle from HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne

A pop up Nativity

Gill Gregory

It was the 4th Sunday of Advent, there was definitely a feeling of expectation in the congregation as we had been told to expect a different to the usual carol service!

The songsters set the scene with the song “On a night like this “. Hopefully the words came over clearly beneath the masks!

Major David had prepared the service to involve all ages, the songsters sang a second song which was called “Saviour Lord Jesus” a beautiful melody and a powerful message, the ending line being “Let Him surround you with love” Later we were to realise how relevant those words were.

There was then an opportunity to join in some familiar carols interspersed with Bible readings from different versions of the Bible brought to us by four members of the congregation.

Major David then brought to us a poem, giving us permission to smile or laugh beneath our masks, it was about a boy who didn’t want to be any of the characters in the school Nativity play, however he did want to be a star!

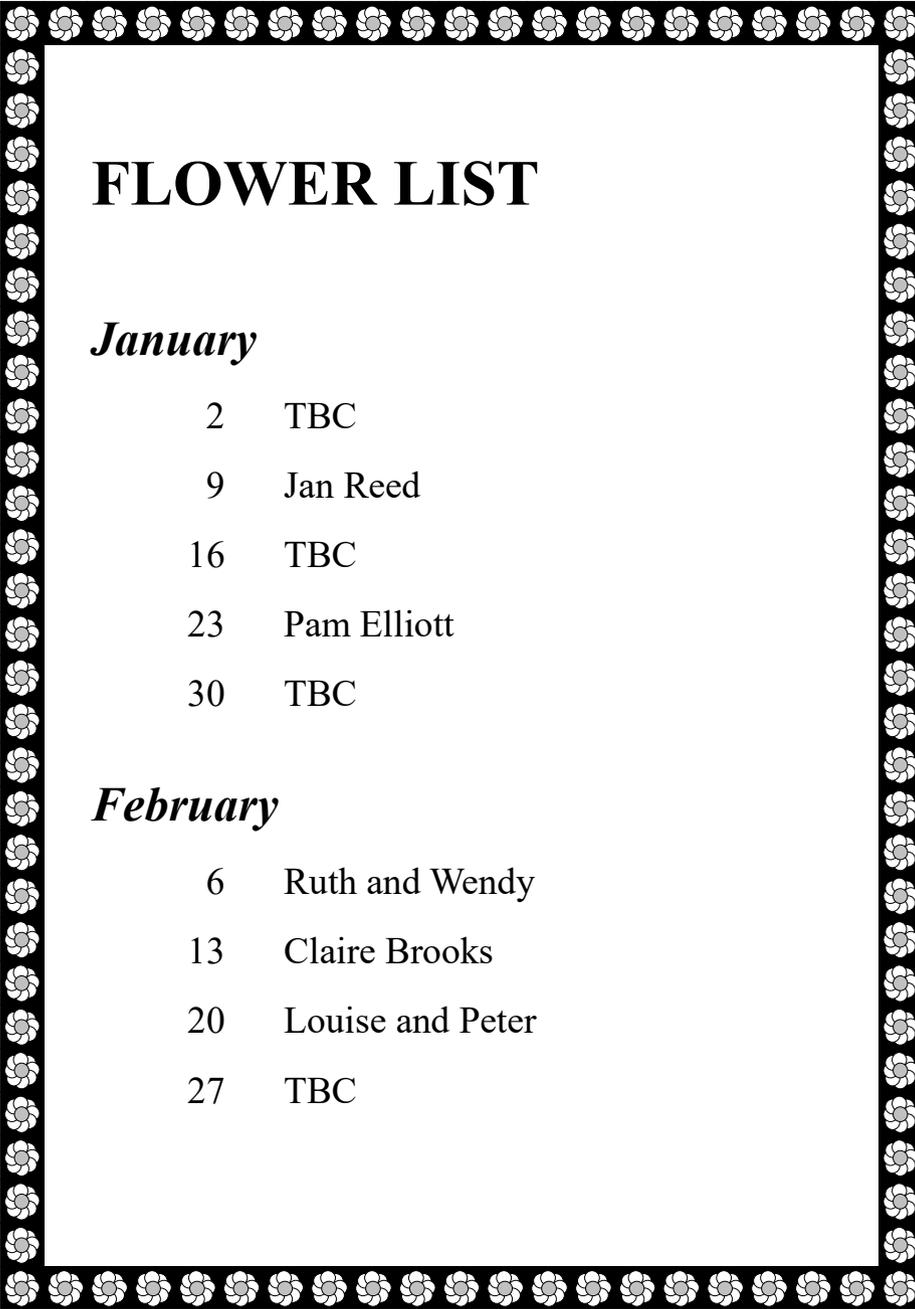
We soon realised that somehow we all were to be involved in this nativity play!

There was some minimal scene shifting taking place by Major David, a crib arrived and several chairs in position and little Lilia was ready to take her place and become an angel, promising to look after him! An appeal came for shepherds, one came willingly, then two wise men appeared, there were angels all around in the congregation and the stable was complete with Lilia’s mum, dad and baby brother Jamie plus Naomi with baby Elliott! It was then time to sing “Away in a manger”

The message was clear that we all have a part to play, shepherds spreading the good news, angels, we all know what angels do! Wise men willing to go the extra mile following the star, Mary willing to be obedient to God, Joseph willing to take a back seat and be in a supporting role.

This was a simple uncomplicated service with no dressing up, no lines to learn but a thought-provoking message for us all!





FLOWER LIST

January

- 2 TBC
- 9 Jan Reed
- 16 TBC
- 23 Pam Elliott
- 30 TBC

February

- 6 Ruth and Wendy
- 13 Claire Brooks
- 20 Louise and Peter
- 27 TBC

Christmas W @ W

Christmas Worship at Woking

As usual December was a busy month worship-wise even with Covid restrictions in place and mask wearing eventually mandatory again. Our gift service was led by Cadets Joanna & Thomas Morgan and as usual the table was bulging with gifts which overflowed on to the surrounding floor. During that same week the gifts were used in parcels for the community. (Reported separately)

What with a Christmas jumper morning with Nolan Dark as guest soloist and an impromptu Nativity which had Joseph, two Marys and two real live 9 month old baby Jesus. Well done to perfectly behaved Jamie and Elliott, plus a perfect little angel dressed in a blue Frozen outfit in a Carols & Readings morning worship which was certainly interesting! (Both reported separately)

So we came to Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve and were reminded that 'A baby changes everything'. Major David had the support of nine-month old Jamie when he chirruped at the exactly the right moment at the end of a YouTube clip entitled 'A baby makes a difference'. Throughout the evening, held in subdued candlelight, Jamie could be heard making gentle sounds as though endorsing what he was hearing.

It also led one to reflect on the way a child's cry penetrated the night air in a stable in a faraway land some 2000 years ago.

We were reminded that things aren't always perfect at Christmas no matter how we try to get it right. That some of the candles would go out but that Christ was the Light of the world, that things changed forever because of the birth of the Christ-Child. We were reminded of transformation that occurs from inside out and the prayer that people would see His light shining through us. It was in prayer that we heard the *beautiful* phrase 'Heaven rejoiced because the eternal plan was underway.

The evening concluded with the singing of a poem written by Stephen Poxon to the tune of White Christmas. Pure nostalgia with the tune but with different thought-provoking words.

Finally the great day had arrived and a group of socially distanced, mask wearing worshippers gathered to celebrate Christmas Day and sing with great conviction 'Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning'. We watched a beautiful song written and sung by

Graham Kendrick – Thorn in the straw. Such a poignant moment and well worth Googling the song for yourself.

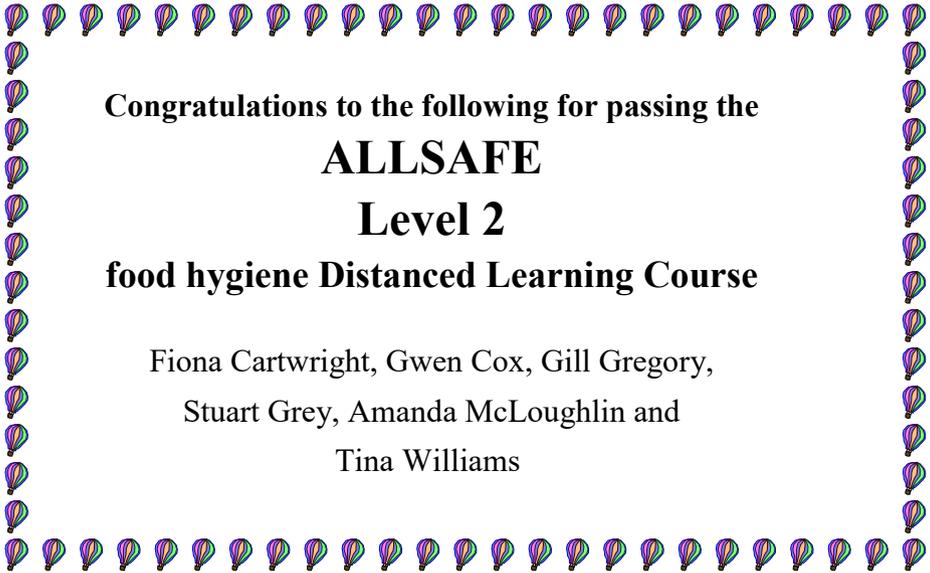
Lilia showed Major Margaret the wand she had received from Father Christmas, a wand that could turn her Daddy into a frog. Major Margaret asked if she could borrow it to try on Major David!

Our reflection for the morning centred on the anointing of David as the future king of Israel by the prophet Samuel. Although dismissed by his father, God saw the potential in the young David. Samuel's journey to Bethlehem

although dangerous was a journey filled with hope as too can be our journey to the stable.

We concluded by using verse four of O Little town of Bethlehem as our prayer

O holy child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.



Congratulations to the following for passing the
ALLSAFE
Level 2
food hygiene Distanced Learning Course

Fiona Cartwright, Gwen Cox, Gill Gregory,
Stuart Grey, Amanda McLoughlin and
Tina Williams

Direct Line

Although many will justifiably condemn social media – we are well aware of people who have received terrible abuse and even death threats, and yet someone like Commissioner Harry Read with his tremendous God-based ministry blesses thousands abundantly through his prayers. These were the opening words of the November & December issue however it was with great sadness that we learned of the Commissioner’s promotion to Glory on 14 December 2021

As tribute I have chosen my most favourite of Harry’s poems to share with you

There is a silence wherein God is found,
A quietness which is a source of grace,
A love-filled solitude that has no bound –
Accessible from any hour and place.

It is that centre wherein God is known
And love, sublimest love holds sway.
We enter as we move towards his throne,
We share its myst’ry as we bow to pray.

God folds us to himself with tenderness,
He longs that of himself we should be part,
Our hopes he fills with yearning’s gentle stress
That we might share the feeling of his heart.

Within that most creative solitude
Our deepest, inward being is renewed.

Colossians 3: 10

“...put on the new self, which is being renewed
in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

With every blessing, Harry
12.03.17

Blessings Freda

Major Incident at Wisley!



December 23 – it's got to be Lake-view Carolling, one of the most enjoyable carolling events as we move round the community opposite the hall playing and singing carols. Assembling at the hall as usual but following a different route this year. After quite a trek for some, we played at Colliers Close where several people who have recently started to attend worship live. Then it was through the different walkways to pick up some of the traditional stops. And it was all about team work as a 'Double B', the largest brass instrument, is a hefty weight to carry so it was a little like 'pass the bass' and those unsteady on their feet certainly needed watching over. Plenty of people were delighted to hear the band and whose evening or Christmas had been made by the sound of the band. That of course is the phrase so often heard when out carolling whether by a player or collector. 'It's really Christmas now I've heard the Army band!'

The band has had a busy programme throughout December playing at Horsell Christmas Fayre, Farnborough Inner Wheel Club's Christmas meal, the Charity Concert for the Woking Sam Beare Hospice, Sainsbury's at Brookwood and several occasions at Wisley RHS Gardens. As usual the general public have been so generous towards the work and ministry.

A 'Major incident' was declared at Wisley whilst carolling one afternoon when it was discovered that Majors Martin, House, House (all cornet players) and Benneyworth (tenor horn) were sat in a row in the band – major event, major disaster were just a couple of the play on words that occurred!!

Gratitude indeed goes to players, singers, collectors and supporters for this year's carolling effort.



Christmas Jumper Service

Jenny Whitten

The invitation for the congregation to sport their Christmas jumpers was well received with good overall participation. However, Major John wore a note and decorative objects on his everyday jumper to say that funds were not sufficient this year. He thinks, perhaps some crowdfunding during November 2022 could be in order to provide Christmas wear for retired officers. A few abstained from the morning frivolity. One in particular with a name that is the same as the lineage of our Lord and Saviour.

We had a guest singer with us this morning, Nolan Dark. Major Margaret had heard him sing at Christ Church and when a thought to invite him to participate in our morning worship came along, she had no way of contacting him, except the knowledge that he worked for Seymours estate agents. Duly, a call was made to an unsuspecting agent saying, "I know this sounds daft, but I don't want to buy, sell or rent a house. I would like to speak to the man that sings." Obviously her request came to fruition.

Nolan's first song was "Tonight" from the musical West Side Story. Despite mentioning that he was a

little under the weather, his rendition was spectacular. If one were to have closed their eyes, the full ambience of a musical theatre would have been conjured.

Smooth like a Galaxy chocolate bar. He was persuaded to sing another song, this time a Christmas Carol, "Silent Night". Again wonderfully delivered. It made me think that our own Peter Glover and Nolan could give the likes of Alfie Boe, Russell Watson, Michael Buble to name a few, a half decent challenge for best sung Carol.

Sadly, new restrictions were in place, so no coffee and fellowship was able to take place after the service and conversations were requested to be done outside. Nolan and his family were not complete strangers to our Corps. When his first son, Archie was born, six years ago, he had a life changing illness and was put on our 'Direct Line' for continued prayers for growth and survival. He was brought to the hall one Sunday after morning worship in gratitude for our continuing prayers. Archie is now six and much like any other child of the same age. He is now joined by a new brother, Oscar to keep him company.

It is amazing how God's work can link so many of us together through prayer. It is wonderful how people in their time of need will approach the Salvation Army to give them hope

through prayer and how amazing things can happen through this simple, but effective communication with God, Our Heavenly Father.



Churches Together in Woking

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18 – 25 January 2022

Theme 'We saw His Star in the East'
Prepared by churches of the Middle East

Due to the current situation with Covid/
Omicron
it will more than likely be an on-line service.
**Full details will be announced in due
course.**

**Save the date for the
World Day of Prayer
Friday 4 March 2022**

I know the plans I have for you
Prepared by Christian Women from
England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Details still to be confirmed



Comedy Hall
D.O.H.
(Department of Humour)

A boy and girl were singing their favourite carol, "Silent night". The boy concluded the rendition with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans". His sister quickly corrected him: "It's not beans, it's peas."

An old lady used to give generous gifts to her several grandchildren at Christmas, but none ever sent thank you letters. One year things changed. Grandma sent £100 cheque to each grandchild and the very next day each child came over to thank her in person. Her friend thought it was wonderful that they had all become so polite. "Oh," said the old lady, "It was easy. This year I didn't sign the cheques."

A Sunday School teacher of five year olds was concerned that they may be a little confused about Jesus because of the Christmas time emphasis on His birth. He asked his class "Where is Jesus today?"

Steven raised his hand and said, "He's in Heaven".

Mary said "He's in our hearts".

Joe said, "I know, I know. He's in our bathroom."

Following a stunned pause, the teacher asked for an explanation.

Joe said, " Well, every morning my father gets up, bangs on the bathroom door and yells, "Good Lord, are you still in there?"!

A nativity play was going well until the angel appeared to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby. "But how can this be?" said the little girl playing Mary, "since I am a Viking"!

A child wrote: when Mary heard that she was to be the mother of Jesus she sang the Magna Carta.

A Happy new year to you all

Keep smiling

Major Laugh

Psalms 119:165

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Living in the pandemic has caused a lot of grief and heart-ache, leaving people in a state of abject fear over the future of themselves and loved ones.. As we move into the new year many are looking for peace. They seek peace in many strange places, yoga, meditation, mindfulness, life coaches, drugs, etc. The suggestion to seek Almighty God, the fount of all wisdom, brings the response, sorry that's not for me. Dear brother or sister, give God a try and you will find you will have everything to gain, (not like the TV advert, you might have everything to gain). God alone, can meet your every need.

Looking at the Bible verse at the top of the page, the first words are "Great peace". The English word 'great' is a total understatement of the original Hebrew, which means "almost beyond measure". The verse can be paraphrased as "They who love Your law have peace beyond measure". As with everything in life there is a condition. To love the law of God, to love the ten commandments may sound dreary.

Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment and He replied. (Matthew 22:37 – 40) 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38. This is the great and foremost commandment. 39. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.' 40. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

This causes all of us a huge problem. We want to use our own initiative and make our own decisions, we have free will. We appear to have achieved a great deal without God, was it really without God? Who provides the oxygen you breathe? What did you have to do with your progress in life? Your health may have required medical assistance, where did the brain power of the medics come from. I can show that only God can meet all our needs. Our very existence is enough reason to love God with heart, mind and soul.

**The following poem is the one used on
Christmas Eve and sung to the tune of
I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
A beautiful leftover from
Christmas!**

There, lying in a strawed manger
(A cattle shed so stark and bare),
Is the baby Jesus, the infant Saviour,
No crown, no royal robes to wear.
There, sleeping now, the world's ransom,
God made incarnate, all divine;
There is love's great myst'ry – a boy!
Little man, a king of David's line.

There, Mary rests and sees, pond'ring,
The child whose birth was long foretold;
All the news of angels, the words of prophets,
There, cradled, vulnerable and cold.
There, new-born King of all ages,
Creator at his mother's breast;
There, most humble monarch – our Lord!
In whom all humanity is blessed.

There, gazed upon, while heav'n watches,
Heav'n's greatest treasure giv'n to earth;
All the Father's likeness, and meekest glory,
Encompassed in that lowly birth.
There, held within his wood-manger,
Rough splinters hint at days to be,
There is my Redeemer – the Son!
There in Bethlehem, and there for me.

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We will be pleased to receive contributions for the next issue of “Tidings” from either members of our Corps Fellowship at Woking or from any who receive a copy through the post.

Please send all contributions to:

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Please note

**The cut off date for the next issue of
“Tidings” is**

Sunday February 13th 2022