

# MAY/JUNE

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## FROM THE C.O.'S DESK

David and I had a quiet couple of days spent at the hall (working I hasten to add) recently because some of the activities have eased for a couple of weeks due to it being school holidays, so no Toddler group. Although we did have a couple of our new volunteers in who were busy arranging the flowers for the tables in the coffee lounge.

Into the building that morning came a man who was barely able to speak English but who was asking for “The Church Leader” and as I was already busy with other things. The Church Leader was my husband for that moment in time. Anyway between the two of them, one unable to speak much English and one certainly unable to speak Arabic, the need was made known by one and understood by the other and the appropriate help was given and an arrangement made to be in contact on another occasion.

Then in came a young man, who had come to register his vote (a month early) but after inviting him to take a seat, have a chat and have a cup of coffee, another need was forthcoming and help given. The gentleman advised me that he suffered from alcoholism and we chatted, I informed him of the welcome he would receive if he would like to attend the AA meeting and he returned the following day to collect a more substantial food parcel. He was invited to call in on another occasion for our Coffee Morning and before he left, he shook my hand and thanked me and the volunteer who was here at the time for our help. He then returned the next day and I actually watched him struggle to carry his bags (his strength is not good) and David ran out, offered him a lift in the car and took him home. Once again the gentleman shook hands with David and thanked him for his help.



David and I chatted after this and felt glad that we were able to help him - and over the years, we along with all other Corps Officers will have given this kind of help time and time again. But in our situation here, we are not often the first “port of call” so we don’t always get to give the help first hand. And in our reflections as we chatted we came to the knowledge that anyone of us could find ourselves in this kind of situation. A kind of “there but by the grace of God go I”.

It is good to be there when people need us. It is good to be willing to help. It is nice to make links with those that we had no previous knowledge of and it is good that we are given the opportunity to do as Jesus would do and help those who are less fortunate. Remember the Scripture from Matthew 25 that reminds us of the importance of helping those in need? “For I was

hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me”.....”I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me”.

Hopefully all of us will remember that we do what we do, not because we are good and upright citizens who want the world to see how capable we are but because we love Jesus and are so very grateful for all that He has done for us and as we live out our lives may we all point the way to Him and “be Jesus” to those with whom we come into contact. Blessings to you all.

*Margaret*

**Congratulations  
on reaching a milestone birthday!!!**

Andy Stickland

**60**

2nd May



# Easter Celebrations



On Maundy Thursday 21 of us gathered around set tables to reflect on the Lord's supper. Quiet background music was used as people came together and took their places around the tables, which were set out in the shape of a cross. The music contin-

ued as people made their way to their places. After a welcome was given, we listened to Boscombe band play "Reflections on Nature" and watched pictures alongside.

The account of the Triumphal entry was read from Luke 19:28 - 40 before prayer was shared. The Song "King of Kings" was sung by all gathered.

We then considered what kind of King Jesus was. He had no home, no one bowed down to Him as they would usually do to a King, and He even had to borrow a venue in which to celebrate the Passover. We turned our attention to the screen as we watched an extract of The Last Supper and we mentioned that Jesus came to serve, not to be served.

The room appeared to become very quiet as Majors David & Margaret, asked that they be allowed to serve those gathered. Soup and a roll was enjoyed by all.

The account from Matthew 26 was shared of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane before we watched and listened to "From Heaven you came".

Major David then presented a monologue portraying himself as one of the crowd who could not understand what was happening. He used such a loud voice at one point, that little Lilia actually jumped.

We watched and listened to the song "O to see the Dawn".

Major David then linked Christmas to Easter and mentioned that the two events actually go hand in hand. The tiny baby draws us in but the man on the cross stirs our hearts to reach out and say, "He is Christ", "He is our King".

The video of the band piece "Gift of Love was used" and then we closed in prayer. A few people stayed to enjoy extra soup after events had finished.

The evening seemed to go very well and an atmosphere of quiet contemplation was apparent".

## Good Friday

For the first time since 2019, due to the pandemic, lockdown and Covid regulations Christians in Woking were able to meet in person for the traditional Act of Witness in the town square. Several from the corps were able to share with fellow Christians from other churches as the enactment of the events of Good Friday took place. Major John was guest drummer for the occasion!

Whilst the town centre event took place there was a local Act of Witness in one

of the communal gardens in the estate opposite the hall where Janet T lives. Janet shares fellowship with three other Christians who live there and they felt they should have their own Act of Witness for those who physically would not be able to get to the town event. Neighbours were informed and invited to attend, copies of St John's Gospel and Easter leaflets obtained and on the day 15 people gathered to worship together. As one neighbour said 'You're going to do Church!' The event was planned for 11.00am – 12noon but people were still sitting together until well after 1.00pm. What a fabulous witness to the local community of the significance of the day and right where they live!

## Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday commenced with a continental breakfast at beautifully laid out tables with an Easter muffin adorned with mini Easter eggs made by Lesley at each place. Major David & Margaret and Amanda had obviously worked hard. A happy occasion, with a good mix of ages as those assembled shared together.

After the breakfast and before the meeting members of the band played outside the hall to remind the local community of the significance of the

day. The songsters started the morning worship confidently with the lively 'The throne of Heaven is occupied'. No messing! This is Easter Day and He's alive!!!

There was a good attendance for our Easter Day worship with several first-time visitors attending with their children. This was all reflected in the joyous singing of 'Christ the Lord is risen today'. Throughout the morning the singing proved to be a great blessing. The leader for our worship was Major Margaret and at one stage she encouraged the children present to come forward and they made an Easter garden as the rest of the congregation sang another traditional Easter song.

Major Margaret directed our thoughts to the role Mary Magdalene played in the Resurrection appearance of Christ in the garden and reminded us that Mary was 'Last at the cross and first at the grave'. It was not the hallucinations of an hysterical woman but a live encounter with the risen Lord. Some say that Christ calling Mary by her name is the shortest sermon in the Gospels.

During the closing moments of the worship we sang All Heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord, on the second time of singing we were invited to stand if it was appropriate for us as a sign that we would take the Easter message out to the community which led to moving moments of commitment.

Our closing song, which is proving to be a great hymn of the church, was 'In Christ alone' and a totally fitting conclusion to a gloriously victorious morning celebrating the risen Christ.



# Walking With Communities – Woking Book Launch



A first for Woking Salvation Army (as far as I am aware) as we hosted the local launch of a book titled 'Walking With Com-

munities'.

On Sunday 3 April the hall was transformed with posters, pictures (and people) to promote the book that has taken over 30 years to write. The book written by Ian & Alison Campbell along with Alison's sister – Robin Rader and published by IHQ Books (Salvation Books) had its debut launch at The Salvation Army's International Headquarters on 24 February 2022 with the General of The Salvation Army in attendance.

Although the book had its debut launch at IHQ, it seemed only right to hold a local launch at the Corps where Ian and Alison call home - Woking. Invited to the launch were representatives from the Brookwood community (where Ian and Alison live), Lake View community, Woking Leisure Centre community (where Ian apparently goes to the gym) and of course Woking Salva-

tion Army.

The book reflects on Ian and Alison's work since 1990 and their engagement with local communities around the world and then more recently Ian's South West Coastal Path walk where he spent 28 days walking the 630 miles and listening to stories from fellow walkers along the Path. Each chapter in the book links one of the recent walking days with a local community from around the world - over the past 30 years.

The hall was set out to allow those present to easily engage with a panel of 3 (Sue Searle, Jay Shah & Jon Everett) who would provide their thoughts on Walking with Communities, as they have experienced their own involvement with Ian and Alison over more recent years – when they have walked with communities. Their own involvement might have been accompanying Ian and Alison on one of their trips around the world as they worked with and through local communities or more locally in Woking where they connect people together in community.

Sue reflected on her experience in Mizoram and Kerala, where she learnt that it was community that mattered; neighbours, friends, family – to have a caring community around you, helping you, guiding you and connecting different com-



munities together. Community is where you are!

Jay reflected on many similarities he and Ian had when they first met, their links to Africa and their charity work. How he got involved in his local community where he could share with others which then gives him pleasure and makes you happy and to encourage the community spirit.

Jon spoke of his very recent trip to Zambia with Ian (and Alison) where during the visit they took part in a rapid water rafting trip – how he trusted his small community on that boat where they worked together to

get down part of the Zambezi river – overcoming together in community being thrown out of the boats but together getting back in and continuing their journey.

There was of course time before the reflections for chat and food to be shared (as you'd expect at Woking) and it was lovely to be able to see many people from different communities who had not met before engaging with each other – in a common goal – to celebrate the Walking With Communities book and everything it brings.

The book can be purchased via Amazon or by contacting Woking Salvation Army where we can put you in contact with Ian.

You can also check out the local book launch via Woking's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WokingSAvideos/3606603636233450>

**Sunday 5 June 2022**

**Visit of the Territorial Leaders**

**Commissioners Anthony & Gill Cotterill**

**11.00am Morning Worship**

**1.00pm Lunch** Pre-booking required - £5.00 donation requested

**2.00pm Q & A**

**The Territorial Leaders**

(Questions to be submitted in advance)

**3.00pm Music outdoors** - Venue tbc

# Dedication of Elliott David Rothery



You know, you can sometimes wait a long while for a bus to come along and then three come at once. That's a bit like it's been for dedications at Woking when after a few years without any there was the dedication of five children within seven weeks!!! Elliott's was the middle of three dedication ceremonies. Lilia and Jamie's appeared in the last issue of Tidings.

Naomi & Gavin, engaged and about to be married, joined Woking in February 2019, marrying in the July of the same year. By March 2021 they were the proud parents of Elliott David with his dedication planned for November 21- except Covid decided otherwise when Naomi and other members of the family contracted Covid and at the last moment the dedication had to be post-

poned until March 22.

Having invited some 50 or so friends and family to join them for Elliott's big day, expecting many to be unavailable, they were delighted when most people said they would be there. In the end 39 non Woking people attended, travelling from all over to be present. The worship that morning was led by Majors Ted & Freda using songs chosen by Gavin & Naomi. Major Ted took Elliott's dedication ceremony who, at nearly a year old was quite an armful to hold but so well behaved, no wriggling and knowingly taking it all in. Janine and Fiona, Elliott's two grandmas acted as witnesses and a prayer written by Grannie Janine was sung at the end of the dedication. Naomi's cousin Beth played a beautiful piano arrangement of 'Yes, Jesus loves me' during the offering time. Major Margaret presented Elliott with an early Bible along with the Cradle Roll certificate. A totally happy morning with great grandparents amongst others in attendance. So two dedication ceremonies down and one more in the offing!!!!

Belated **CONGRATULATIONS** to Dave Cox on making it to

**80**

on Sunday 10 April – and the cake was brilliant!

## Dedication of Henry George Pearce and Louis Alexander Pearce



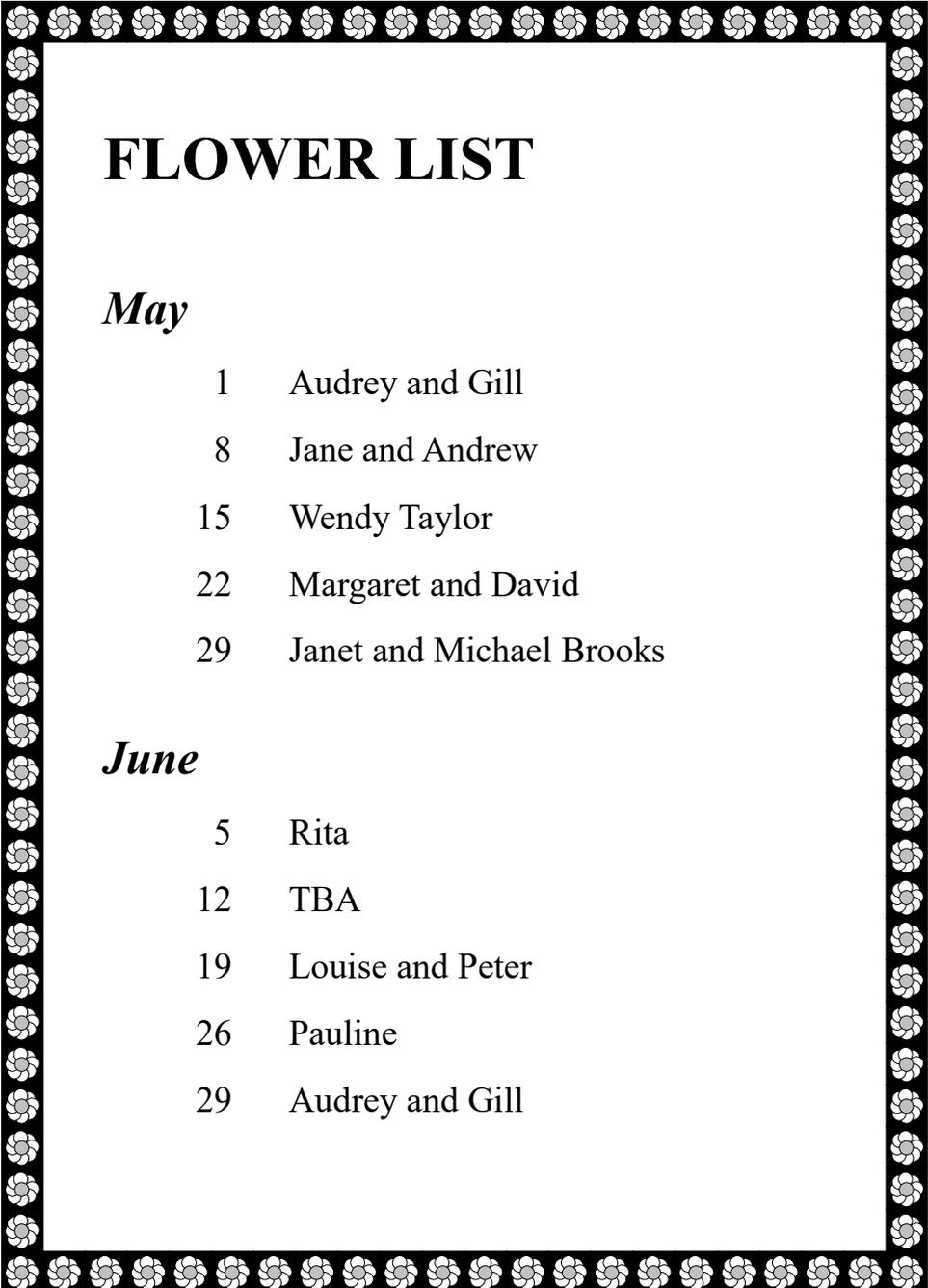
So long came dedication number three! Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday, which ever you prefer, saw the dedication of Henry and Louis.

Worship that morning was led by Cadet Joanna with Major Margaret conducting the dedication. As an introduction to the ceremony David and Kate had chosen 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' to be sung. Major Margaret described the boys as dapper and they truly were dapper little gentlemen in their matching outfits. Henry should have been dedicated in 2020 but Covid put paid to that and as in the intervening period Louis had come along it was a double dedication – the second in just a couple of months.

Two of the god-parents were present to support David and Kate, the boys parents, whilst others had been struck down by Covid. Major Margaret dedicated the boys one at a time – it would have been quite an armful to do both at once and both boys behaved impeccably as they left the security of their parents' arms albeit for a short while. With a prayer by Major David, presentation of the dedication and cradle roll certificates and also a suitable book to help the boys on their spiritual journey the family were able to resume their seats amongst the many friends and family who were present to support them.

*A co-incidental link/overlap between the three dedications. 'In Christ alone' was sung at Lilia & Jamie's and at Elliott's with 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' sung at Elliott's and then Henry & Louis' – must be a generational thing!*





# FLOWER LIST

## *May*

- 1 Audrey and Gill
- 8 Jane and Andrew
- 15 Wendy Taylor
- 22 Margaret and David
- 29 Janet and Michael Brooks

## *June*

- 5 Rita
- 12 TBA
- 19 Louise and Peter
- 26 Pauline
- 29 Audrey and Gill

# Russia/Ukraine – Then and Now

[Lieut-Colonel Rob Garrad]



It was a late August Friday afternoon in 1994; I was Private Secretary to the Chief of the Staff, Commissioner

Earle Maxwell at that time. The Chief returned to his office following lunch, shortly after I had come in from my walk. He greeted me in his usual friendly manner as he passed through my office to his own. As usual, I made him a cup of tea and took it into his office, with the afternoon mail. As I turned to leave, the Chief said to me, as casually as you like, “Oh, by the way, the General would like to appoint you overseas.” The mischievous part of me thought, “Well, if you can be so casual, so can I.” So, with just a turn of the head to make eye contact with him, I replied, “OK,” and returned to my office.

The matter was not mentioned again for several days – until the following Wednesday. As we made our way towards the City at 0630hrs on that morning, the Chief said to me, “Don't you want to know where we are sending you?” With a smile, I

said, “When you can no longer resist the urge to tell me, I'll be all ears.” That did the trick! He realised that the conversation was not going further until he took the next step. He said, without hesitation, “Well, the General and I would like you to go to Russia as Financial Secretary, and we would like you to do two three-year terms; hopefully, from 1 February.”

So it was that, on the evening of 1 February 1995, I found myself in a 90-minute queue at immigration in the Sheremetyevo Airport, Moscow. The Salvation Army was very new in Russia, so my uniform in the queue, and the several uniforms in the group waiting to welcome me, caused tremendous interest and intrigue.

I still find it difficult to believe how quickly I felt right at home. So many things were very different from life in the UK, but I had decided to go with a completely open mind, rather than doing a lot of research about life in Russia, and then finding most of it was inaccurate or outdated. I think that helped to make my transition reasonably comfortable. I had no preconceived ideas about what life was going to be like.

There was a vibrant expression of salvationism in Moscow in those early days; perhaps something

akin to what it would have been like in London in the Army's early days here, in the 1860's/70's. We had seven corps in Moscow, a similar number in St. Petersburg, and more 'stand-alone' corps in cities around the country – Rostov-on-Don, Ekaterinburg, Volgograd and Voronezh, to name but four. Quite a number of young salvationists wore their SA uniforms to school, thus providing a topic of conversation with their friends.

A frustration for me was encountering many instances where Christian ethics clashed with cultural norms, and those norms tended to win the day far too often, in my opinion. For example, on my first day in the office, the accountant brought me several expenditure vouchers to approve, one of which indicated 'Gift for tax man.' I asked if it was the tax man's birthday. No, it wasn't. "We buy him chocolates every month so that he will ignore any mistakes in our monthly returns," the accountant explained. She was alarmed when I told her that the tax man had had his last box of chocolates, courtesy of *Armiya Spacenia*. The onus was upon her and her staff to ensure there were no mistakes; we would no longer be 'bribing' the tax man. Sadly, that was the first of many occasions when I came across similar behaviour.

Humanitarian aid was very much the 'in thing' in those early years. A massive warehouse in Moscow stored vast supplies of flour, sugar,

oil, butter, milk powder, etc., which was allocated to corps every week, so that at the end of the Sunday morning meeting, every member of the congregation received a humanitarian aid parcel. There is no doubt at all that this was a much-valued ministry that not only gave salvationists the opportunity to demonstrate compassion and love to the people who came, but it was a very practical way of keeping many people above the breadline. However, two or three years after my arrival, somebody somewhere determined that the humanitarian aid programme had run its course, and a date was set for the final shipments to be received. I think I was seen as something of a heretic when I commented to a colleague that it would be interesting to see how the discontinuation of the humanitarian aid distribution would affect our congregations. He challenged me with, "I hope you are not suggesting that anyone comes to the meeting just for the parcel they get to take home with them!" I confirmed that that was precisely what I was suggesting. When the end came, I was conducting the Sunday meeting at our largest Moscow corps, with the regular attendance of around 120 people. There was an audible drawing in of breath when the announcement was made of the fact that "after today, there will be no more humanitarian aid parcels." A week later, I called the CO at that corps and asked how

the Sunday meeting had gone. It had been a good meeting, but with only 40 people there! Other corps in the city had the same disappointing experience.

In those days, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Romania were all part of what was known as the Russia/\*CIS Command (\*Commonwealth of Independent States). In more recent years, on the basis that Russian leadership in Russia might help to rebuild and strengthen The Salvation Army, Russia alone was reconstituted as the Russia Command, and the other four countries remained together and became the Eastern Europe Territory.

Current circumstances must be a heavy burden for salvationists in Russia and Ukraine to bear, as they witness the atrocities and acknowledge the painful truth that the two countries to which they, as comrades and friends, belong are now waging war with each other. We still have 15 corps in Russia, and 8, plus one new corps plant, in Ukraine. The salvationists in both countries are friends, comrades; some may be relatives. They are all victims of what is happening at the present time, and they need our prayers and practical support. It will be difficult for Russian salvationists to go any further than giving assurances of ongoing friendship and prayer support, but the salvationists of Ukraine are able to do something very practical, though limited by

resources. Some of you may have read the following report in the 19 March issue of *Salvationist*:-  
*'In Ukraine the Army has provided nappies, hygiene products and formula for the mothers in Kyiv who are often giving birth prematurely because of the stress. Salvationists have also provided emotional support for the women and their families as they seek refuge from the conflict. In Dnipro, hot meals are being cooked and distributed at the train station. The Red Cross is providing cut fabrics for weaving camouflage nets, and every day the Army hands out more than 100 of those to displaced people at the station. In Lviv, the Army stocked up displaced people's supplies and shared contact details on social media for them to get in touch and receive essential items.'*

In addition to what is being done in Ukraine, a team from Moldova (part of the Eastern Europe Territory) was able to send urgently needed medical items across the border, where a team from Ukraine received it and transported it to a children's intensive care centre in Odessa.'

It is encouraging, but not surprising, to know that The Salvation Army is alive and well in eastern Europe, is maturing and, in the best traditions of our movement, is, at a time of crisis, rolling its sleeves up and serving 'with heart to God and hand to man.'

**Note** Lt. Colonel Rob Garrad served in various appointments on DHQ, THQ & IHQ. He served as Private Secretary to two Chiefs of the Staff and the Territorial Commander of the day plus Executive Secretary to the General and various financial roles. He retired from active service in 2018 but remains busy in retirement - see

the article re the Audio Salvationist in this issue.

(This link below will provide up to date information) <https://salvationarmy.org/ihq/news/inb020322-salvation-army-responds-russia-ukraine-crisis>



# Salvation Army Leadership Comes Together

**GENERAL Brian Peddle, the spiritual leader of The Salvation Army, is calling on the international Salvation Army family to pray for a diplomatic resolution to the conflict unfolding between Russia and Ukraine.**

He said, ‘Our service to the Kingdom of God transcends national identity and crosses international borders without prejudice or discrimination. We have officers serving communities in Russia and Ukraine today, and I ask you to pray for them and for those in mourning as this crisis unfolds. We pray for a diplomatic resolution to this conflict and for peace to return swiftly to avoid further loss of life.’

General Peddle acknowledged the strain placed on all Salvation Army officers in each country and thanked them for their service. He said, ‘We are dismayed by the loss of life and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ as they continue to serve their communities.’

*IHQ Communications*



# World Day of Prayer 2022

## I know the plans I have for you

Frustrated of Farnborough is putting it mildly when I was too under the weather to attend the 2022 World Day of Prayer service at St Mary's Church, Horsell.

The service this year, with the theme 'I know the plans I have for you', had been written by the England, Wales and Northern Ireland National Committee – Scotland has its own committee.

Thank goodness however for live-streaming which meant I was able to be part of the service. My first real experience of live-streaming as I've usually done catch up on occasions and I am so grateful that Barry from St Mary's uses his knowledge and giftedness in this way.

Having been at the rehearsal the week before I could visualise what was going on as I heard the hubbub as people arrived. Then the screen went live – brilliant. Gill Squibb, WDP secretary and plunged into the leadership at the last moment, although always putting herself down, was quite simply, as one person put it, fabulous, as she took quiet control of the proceedings.

The vicar of SMH, Revd Dmitry Lutsenko and his wife Olya are Ukrainian and we had asked the previous week if he would lead some moments of reflection at the

beginning of the service. We shared in a prayer song for Ukraine sung in Ukrainian, followed by the Anglican prayer for Ukraine and Psalm 23 read in Ukrainian by Dmitry and English by Gill. Special moments indeed.

With participants representing various Woking churches we eased into the service itself which moved through seamlessly with good paced singing accompanied by Mike Couper (piano) and Alison Sage (woodwind)

The theme for the service made us realise that sometimes when things seem the most bleak God breaks through with his plan and it turns out to be for our good.

As the service came to an end we were reminded that tea and coffee would be available. This was the first time we had shared in face-to-face worship since 2020. 2021 was a pre-recorded service via YouTube where 960 visits were made to the YouTube site. Once the final 'Amen' had been said the hubbub resumed, I could imagine everyone having an enormous catch up after an absence of 2 years – alas, for me it was a lonely cup of coffee!

Brilliant morning – so proud of Woking WDP Committee and the various participants. *Freda*

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

A little boy told his dad that he wanted a baby brother. Dad smiled and suggested he pray for one. The boy prayed earnestly night after night but after a couple of weeks with no baby brother he gave up. A few months later Dad said that Mum was in hospital and had a surprise. When they visited, there was Mum holding two babies!

“What do you think about having twin brothers?” Dad asked. The little boy, in awe, said, “I’m glad I stopped praying when I did!”

Judge: silence in court! The next person who laughs will be thrown out of court.

Accused: hahahahaha

Judge: I wasn’t talking to you!

Two friends were driving through Louisiana when they came to a sign that told them they were approaching Natchitoches. They argued all the way there about how to pronounce the name of the town. Stopping for lunch they asked the cashier to settle the argument by telling them very slowly where they were.

The cashier leaned over the counter and said, “Buuurrrrr-Geeerrrr-Kiiiiinnnnnnngggg.”

The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher entered his church and found several letters waiting for him. He opened one which contained the single word, Fool! On Sunday he said to the congregation, “I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the first instance I have ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write the letter!”

**Keep smiling**

*Major Laugh*

# Vintage Tea

Amanda McLoughlin & Janet Thurston



When we decided to hold a Vintage Tea we each had a

set of numbered tickets to sell.

Amanda suggested we should cater for 70 people. They began to sell, slowly, but by the time we got to March 4th we had more than sold out.

What did we hope to achieve? We wanted to raise money, as the event would replace the usual Spring Fayre, but much more than that our aim was to have an event where our guests would feel welcome and have the opportunity to meet and chat to the Salvation Army church family.

To do any event on this scale we needed to have teams of people to help us. The first lovely team came early to lay and decorate the tables. Lesley together with sister, made the beautiful flower arrangements. Another small team volunteered to keep the teapots filled for bottomless tea and replenish the cake stands and sandwich platters.

We were very glad to have an excellent team in the kitchen preparing the food and drinks, ready for service. The last team of volunteers was the group who willingly did

the clearing up and packing away at the end of a very busy afternoon.

Everyone who helped in any way, contributed to the success of the afternoon.

Added to the Vintage tea, two other groups, one from the Craft club who sold gifts they had made and another lovely volunteer sold Tombola gifts. These stalls were of great interest to our guests and helped considerably to raise the financial total for the day.

If someone who joined us that afternoon had the opportunity to talk to someone new, or someone enjoyed sharing company rather than being at home alone, we will have achieved our objective.

We give all praise and thanks to God who blessed us.

*Amanda and Janet*



# Audio Salvationist

Lt Colonel Rob Garrad

For the benefit of Salvationist readers who are visually challenged, part of the content of each issue of *Salvationist* is recorded and put on the *Salvationist* website. I am half of the reading team; Lieut-Colonel Margaret Wickings is the other half (NB not **my** other half!). I read for two weeks, then Margaret reads for two weeks.

I receive the pages for the next issue on a Tuesday morning, and am required to prepare a 30-minute recording of selected material from the issue concerned, and return it to the editorial department at THQ by the following Monday morning. It is not a difficult assignment; it simply involves reading. Having said that, because I am limited to 30 minutes, getting the right mix of material to fill the time as accurately as possible can provide a bit of a challenge. Half an hour does not accommodate anywhere close to the full content of an issue, but I do like to fill the half hour as closely as possible. I am not allowed to go more than a few seconds over the time limit, but I naturally do not want to fall too far short of it.

I therefore read the entire issue aloud, noting the time of each report or article. Then I make a selection that will add up to as close to 30 minutes as possible, allowing for the fact that I will use a few seconds to introduce each item. I have been performing this service for almost 18 months and have managed, only a handful of times, to send in a recording that lasts 30 minutes exactly. Usually I go anything up to 10 seconds over. I can recall only one occasion when I finished up almost one minute short. They say 'practice makes perfect'; I am not sure I will ever achieve perfection, but whereas my first issue took about seven attempts to complete the recording, I usually get it done in one take these days or, very occasionally, two.

To listen in, go to <http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/publications/salvationist>,

then scroll down until you come to the image with a white arrow in a red circle, in the top left-hand corner; click on the arrow and sit back.

# Direct Line

## General John Larsson Promoted to Glory – 18 March 2022

We heard with sadness of the sudden promotion to Glory of General John Larsson. General Brian Peddle outlined General Larsson's attributes: 'I saw him as a humble servant of God, but who was aptly described as a spiritual giant. While many Salvationists around the world will instantly associate him with his partnership with General Gowans and their musicals, General Larsson was also a theologian and an author. He was a man of prayer, an encourager, a wise counsellor, trusted confidant, and friend'.

We give thanks to God for the amazing influence the General had in so many different ways and remember his wife, Commissioner Freda Larsson and their two sons Karl & Kevin and their families during these sad days.

\*\*\*\*\*

Many are the prayers that have been offered over the past weeks for the war in Ukraine and the dreadful events we see unfolding before us. We watch the news almost unable to believe what we see. Have two World Wars and other wars throughout the world taught us nothing? Have we learned nothing from those experiences?

Of course our world is so much smaller than on previous occasions. We have 24:7, wall to wall coverage of the situation. We see President Zelensky in his khaki T shirt speak forthrightly about what his country needs and on one occasion his reply understandably was .....

**Weapons! Weapons! Weapons!**

As we see an ever worsening situation all we can offer, apart from a financial donation is .....

**Prayers! Prayers! Prayers!**

In your prayers please also remember Salvationists in both Russia and the Ukraine as they live through these perilous times.

Blessings Freda



**Her Majesty's speech on the occasion of her 21<sup>st</sup>  
birthday, 21 April 1947,  
when she was then Princess Elizabeth.**

*I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.*

*But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be un-faillingly given.*

*God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.*

**1953**

Six months before her Coronation, the Queen asked the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth to

*Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve him and you, all the days of my life.*

God, it is clear, has answered those prayers.

And we owe him and her enormous gratitude.

*(From The Servant Queen and the King she serves.)*

# Quotes from Her Majesty!

(From The Servant Queen and the King she serves.)

*On 24 November 1992 The Queen gave a speech at Guildhall to mark the 40th anniversary of her Accession. In it The Queen referred to recent events as part of an 'annus horribilis'.*

1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an 'Annus Horribilis'. I suspect that I am not alone in thinking it so. Indeed, I suspect that there are very few people or institutions unaffected by these last months of worldwide turmoil and uncertainty.

## **In 2002**

I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God ...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.

## **In 2011**

Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher or a general (important though they are) – but a Saviour, with the power to forgive. Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.

# Different

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20. 19 Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.*

As a Christian, why should I be different from others? The fundamentals of living are the same for everyone. That's quite true, but the Bible reminds us, we are different because we are bought with a price 1 Cor 6:19-20. This verse cannot be applied to everyone, it is only to those who are born again believers. We are all created by God, but we do not all follow God. In the Old Testament the Hebrews were God's chosen people, the rest of us were outside the pail, scripture shows a few names of those who turned to God from pagan worship. Read Phil 2:1-18. Here Paul reminds us of the sacrifice Christ has made for our salvation. Paul identifies the length Jesus went to, for you and me!

There appears to be a misunderstanding of the phrase "children of God". Yes God made us, therefore, we belong to Him. He breathed life into us enabling us to live. God also gives us free will, enabling us to live according to His commandments, or follow the Devil. We often imagine there is another way, perhaps being kind to others, or not being particularly bad. In Matt 12:30 Jesus rules out any

such idea. There are only two types of people in this world, "Anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters." How do we know the children of God. The Bible tells us who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are. 1 John 3:10 Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. Also in the words of Paul Rom 8:14 "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God." Is it any wonder that Jesus recommended the first and second commandments.

We're not left to struggle to keep the laws of God. Leviticus 18:4-5, I am the LORD your God.<sup>5</sup> Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. Notice the last six words of the verse. We don't need to regard these as a threat, but as a promise from our Father, that He will enable us to obey Him by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Even though these words are from the OT, the same idea is repeated in the NT, look at 1 John 5:1-5.

Now is a horrific time, so many people, particularly when we think of the people in Ukraine.

Some folk suggest we don't watch the events on TV, but so often we would miss some of the miracles of answered prayer. My dear friends, we do weep when we see the event taking place, but believing prayers are being answered! as testified to by those suffering at the hand of wicked people. Don't listen to the lies of Satan, continue to believe and to pray, and our wonderful God will

answer the prayers of His children. Don't simply read my words, but check out these. Matt 21:22, Mk 9:29, 11:24, Rom 12:12, Phil 4:6, 1 Pe 3:12 are but a few useful references.

God have mercy on our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and wherever such persecution exists, in the world. In Jesus name. *Eric*

 <p>"This, my dear, is the greatest challenge of being alive:  To witness the injustice of this world, and not allow it to consume our light."</p>	<p>May those underground find a hiding place in Christ. May those who have left loved ones feel hope in the Spirit's embrace. May the mourning find comfort in God's promises. May the aggressor be thwarted. May swords be beaten into ploughshares. Lord, have mercy.</p> <p>Reverend Malcolm Duncan</p>
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	<h2>Chef Extraordinaire</h2> <p>First time in 29 years!!!</p> <p>Major David steps into the breach when there's a staff shortage at Lunch Club and cooks lunch!</p>
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# Community Services Manager's update

A wonderful Easter celebration! After watching the sun rise on the Heath, Gwen, Tina, Hayley, and I made our way to the hall to prepare breakfast. Fortunately, Majors Margaret and David helped set up the tables, cut up the fruit salad and watermelon the day before. Lesley made gorgeous cupcakes. We started with a song and Rita said grace as it was her birthday. We all enjoyed fellowship. Later in the day, I did a long walk to find fields of bluebells and it felt like they were celebrating with me our Risen Lord Jesus!

The excitement is running high in the nursery as they hatched 5 little ducklings. The children were mesmerised by the process of them slowly pecking their way out of the shell.

Emma kindly shared the experience with our Teddy Toddlers on Monday and all the grown-ups went gooey too - they are soooo adorable.

Not being able to have community events for so long, the Vintage tea was a complete success. A fancy occasion for people to enjoy tea and delicious cakes and scones! (so grateful for all of you who brought baking donations) The craft group displayed and sold some of their handy works and Rosemary sold

out every item on the Tombola table. Not only was it a joyous community event but we also manage to raise £757 for the corps. Thank you so much for your support and contributions.

The volunteers of the Foodbank enjoyed a bring and share afternoon tea on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. It was so good to have a social gathering with some singing and guitar playing. The Foodbank is increasingly busier, and the volunteers work very hard to help the most vulnerable in our community. We are looking forward to having a re-fit in the pantry this week to create more workable space for the Foodbank. This operation is being done by The Men's shed operating from West Hall Care Home in West Byfleet. The man's shed is an Australian concept, welcomed all over the world, to combat loneliness through social connections, friendships and sharing technical skills and knowledge. Please feel free to recommend it to anyone who might benefit or get involved yourselves. More about this in the next addition...

Until then blessing and love

*Amanda*

## Psalm 140

O God, deliver our nation and our world  
from those people in positions of authority  
who resort to violence  
to carry out their objectives.

They sweet-talk us into believing  
they are acting in our interests  
and brainwash us into blind,  
flag-waving allegiance  
until we march by their side  
into battles that destroy  
our unity and joy as members of  
the human family.

Deliver all of us, O Lord,  
from the notion that anything of value or worth  
can be obtained by hostile or violent actions.

Our God is on the side of those who are afflicted.  
He will deal justly with people who are violent,  
and show His mercy to the victims  
of their obscene actions.

Help us, O Lord,  
even at the risk of our lives and well-being,  
to overcome hate with love  
and to be peacemakers in a world  
that is so racked and distorted  
by the atrocities of violence.

From Psalms/ Now by Lesli Brandt

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:*

Major Freda Benneyworth

e- mail [benworthyf@btinternet.com](mailto:benworthyf@btinternet.com)

or e-mail: peterfstickland@gmail.com

**Please note**

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

**Sunday June 20th 2021**