



# Ramsgate Salvation Army

Love God  
Love Others

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022

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.

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

## The Peace of Jesus

Please take some leaflets to invite family and friends  
to our meetings over Christmas.



Happy Christmas  
from all at Ramsgate  
Salvation Army

Please sign up to be  
included in the Ramsgate  
Christmas Card.

....and book for a dinner on Christmas day  
and invite anyone who would rather not  
be alone on that day.



## What's happening at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 4th December	10.00 am Prayers 10.30 am Peace of Mind The message will be from Bruce Stokes From 11.00 Sunday school <b>4.30pm Café Church</b>
Monday to Friday (6.30am-9am)	Breakfast Drop-in
Monday (9.30 am – 11.30 am)	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler group)
Monday (1pm)	NO ACES or Pastoral Care this week
Tuesday (9am to 11am)	Food Parcel Preparation
Tuesday	Prayers (09.30) <b>The Well</b> (10.30) Light Lunch (12 noon)
Tuesday (13.00 pm)	Bible Study at hall (1pm)
Tuesday (7.00 pm)	<b>No ZOOM</b> Tuesday evening there is a volunteer induction at the hall for those wanting to help at the Shelter over the winter.
Wednesday (from 10 am)	Friendship Club and Lunch Club
Funeral of Nazeema Moriero	12pm Ramsgate Cemetery. Cecilia Road
Wednesday (7pm)	Band at Homefleet
Thursday	Forward Trust at hall (9-5). The Mayor is using the main hall for a civic event during the day.
Friday (10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank War Cry Sales Literacy Classes Ukrainian English Language Class
Friday (6.00pm)	KIDS Club
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Band in Ramsgate Town centre Ukrainian Drop-In
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Worship 10.30 Peace of Prayer including our gift service <b>4pm Carols by Candlelight .</b>

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

“Peace on earth” is a phrase you see everywhere around Christmas time. For many of us, we have to wonder where that peace is. Whether we're trying to find peace in the chaos of our own lives or trying to wrap our heads around hope for political peace, “peace on earth” certainly seems elusive.

A quick glance around will remind us that we live in a far from perfect world.

In our own lives, we struggle to find peace with ourselves. We regret past mistakes, struggle with our present weaknesses, and worry about the future. We try to “find ourselves” in different ways and search for our purpose in life through relationships, work, leisure, and travel pursuits.

We seek and long for peace in our relationships with others. Some search for the perfect person to date. In our present relationships, sometimes we avoid conflict and run the other way in fear of doing something we'll regret. Other times we take for granted those closest to us and experience the not-so-nice daily realities living in close proximity with them. We become frustrated and angry over the mistakes of others.

We struggle with the uncertainty of tomorrow and the turmoil going on in the world around us. World news brings few positive reports, if any. We wonder if “peace on earth” is even a possibility.

## **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Optimists would say that things are better now than they were even several decades ago. But why do we still long for a better world? Even when we long for it, no matter how hard we try, reality seems to get in the way and ground us quickly. Sure we are progressing, but if we as human beings have so much potential to be good, why are we not consistently living up to it? Even with the best of intentions, our human effort to be good and make this world a better place seems to fall short.

So where can we turn for hope of peace? Have you ever considered looking to see what Jesus Christ says as a solution for peace?

He taught people to love each other as they love themselves (not a self-serving kind of love, but a self-respect kind of love). He taught people to love their enemies. Imagine if every single person, group, culture, and country in this world learned to love each other and their enemies; there truly would be world peace.

Not only did he teach people how to be at peace with each other, Jesus himself served to make peace between people and God — a peace that was broken because of our imperfection, and our rebellion to go our own way and live life apart from God (otherwise known as “sin”). This separates us from God who is holy, perfect, and loving. It also prevents us from having access to the love and power from God that would enable us to truly realize and experience peace.

God revealed himself to people through the person of Jesus. Jesus came to earth in a peaceful way as a baby in a humble circumstance of a manger and proceeded to live a humble life (imagine being God and putting yourself into the limitations of a human body!)

Jesus came to restore our broken relationship with God so that we could first experience wholeness and peace with ourselves, and then extend it to others around us.

Through a personal relationship with Jesus:

## **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

We find peace with God. He came to live life perfectly and died in our place to pay the consequence for our sin. His death made peace between our sinful nature and God’s holy nature. His coming back to life gives us hope of living in peace with God. We find wholeness and peace with ourselves. Our esteem is based on what God thinks of us — something that never changes — instead of on the fluctuating foundations of others’ opinions, fleeting accomplishments, or changing circumstances. Our identity is based on who God has made us to be, not on the things that we do.

We find wholeness and peace in our relationship with others because we begin to change and see people through God’s eyes. We remember that God first loved us, and we grow in wanting to extend love to others.

We can bring healing and wholeness to others around us, in the communities, the cities, and the world we live in. We begin to see hope for change in others and the world around us.

Coming into a relationship with Jesus by faith and following him does not mean a life free of conflict. But he offers a promise of hope of something better to come, and a power to bring some of that better world here and now. He offers a strength to persevere until that time a new world comes.

“Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled,” is a line in a Christmas carol that gives a picture of Jesus as God’s gift of peace to us. “Shalom” is a Hebrew word that signifies “peace” or “more than well.” Jesus was the perfect example of

“shalom” lived out. He demonstrated the kind of peace we all long for. Being the Son of God, Jesus was at complete peace and unity with God (“I and the Father are one,” is a statement he made about himself). He always treated people with respect, wisdom and love. He brought peace to those around him, and he ultimately wants to bring peace between you and God.

As the ancient meaning of “shalom” as a greeting signifies, “May you live in anticipation of the day when God makes things whole again.”

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Take a look at your life. How would you describe it? Contented? Rushed? Exciting? Stressful? Moving forward? Holding back? For many of us it’s all of the above at times. There are things we dream of doing one day, and there are things we wish we could forget. In the Bible, it says that Jesus came to make all things new. What would your life look like if you could start over with a clean slate?

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Saviour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen.

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Once I thought I walked with Jesus,  
Yet such changeful feelings had,  
Sometimes trusting, sometimes doubting,  
Sometimes joyful, sometimes sad.

O the peace my Saviour gives,  
Peace I never knew before!  
And my way has brighter grown  
Since I learned to trust him more.

2 But he called me closer to him,  
Bade my doubts and fears all cease,  
And, when I had fully yielded,  
Filled my soul with perfect peace.

3 Now I'm trusting every moment,  
Nothing less can be enough;  
And my Saviour bears me gently  
O'er the places once so rough.

Francis Augustus Blackmer (1855-1930)  
Song Number 887

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Peace of God

Jesus' birth signalled the beginning of our rescue, and His death brought the gift of salvation and peace with God. Jesus also brings the peace of God into our lives.

We face problems every day that try to rob us of His peace. Jesus comforted his disciples by explaining His peace differs from what the world gives:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27 NIV.

Did you catch Jesus saying He gives us His peace? It's a gift; not something we work for or earn. We choose whether to accept the gift of His peace.

The peace of God that Jesus gives is not temporary, but lasting. We can overcome our daily problems with "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding" that "will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7.

The Christmas season can be an exhausting and stressful time if we let it. We receive a great lesson in how to experience peace at Christmas from the story of Jesus' birth.

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Mary and Joseph had just been through a season of unimaginable stress. An unplanned pregnancy with whispers from friends and neighbours couldn't have been a welcome experience. Then, as the due date was creeping closer, the Romans forced Mary and Joseph into a long trip to pay taxes and register for the census.

Mary's words never exhibit a spirit of fear. She was "troubled" at the first words of the Angel Gabriel, but from then on, we see her willing, humble, trusting spirit and a joyful song of praise to God. She fully experienced the peace of God in her situation.



Flowers for this week – thanks to Jacqueline  
A NEW LIST FOR 2023 is now available

**Birthdays**

Myiah Dowding Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
Natasha Atkins Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Sheila Parfitt Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Vena Styles Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
Jackie Sims Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

We pray for Isobel who is in QEQM after falling ill this week. We pray too for Peter Ford also in QEQM after an illness, and for Kay who continues to have poor health. Mavis Blyth wh has been poorly this week and Sheila who is recovering from a bad cold and throat infection.

We pray for Dan Barker who is in a critical condition in QEQM having contracted pneumonia and other complications while rough sleeping.

Pauline’s daughter Rebecca who is undergoing urgent medical tests.

We have been praying for Pauline’s son’s mother-in-law, Margaret. She died recently. We uphold all in grief.

We continue to pray for Hollie’s nan, Fay, who is struggling with severe breathing difficulties.

We pray for the family and friends of Nazeema her funeral is on Wednesday at 12 noon at Ramsgate cemetery.

Pray for Thomas Wilkenham as he moves way to start a new job.

We also continue to remember family and friends of Rose Hyam and Beryl Jones who both died recently. Rose’s funeral will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Ask Carl for details. A service for Beryl will be held in her home town in Wales.

We continue to uphold Jan Penfold in prayer who is still waiting for surgery and suffering a lot at this time. Continue to pray for Barry Davies now receiving support in a Cliftonville care home , for Ivor, (Tracy’s dad and

Isaiah's grandad) for Angela's sister, Teresa, who continues her radiotherapy treatment.

We pray for Paul, a friend of Douglas as he starts experimental new treatment. And his friend Chris and he mourns the loss of his sister.

For the new hall development plans, children's and youth ministry. Our new youth worker – advert soon to go live - location for homeless shelter pods and the Green Pastures project.....and REVIVAL.



### A Prayer for Ukraine

- That the church in the Ukraine, Russia and across the wider region will be a voice for peace; and that they will have the resources they need to help people who are vulnerable.



- That the church and other organisations around the world will have the courage and conviction to speak out against aggression and injustice.

- That God's power will be revealed through the church in this situation – bringing a message of love and hope in the midst of the darkness



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