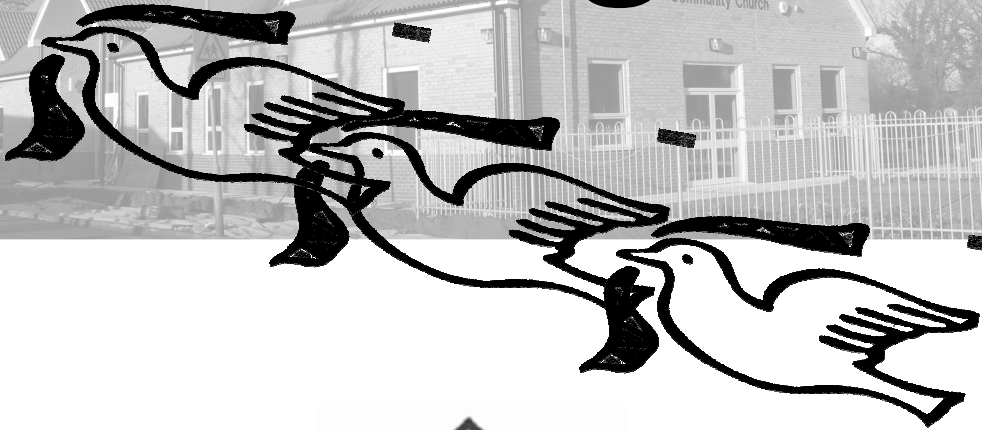


September October 2025

# Tidings



**Woking**

# SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

## FROM THE CO'S DESK

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### I am writing this sat in my office at the hall.

There is something special having an opportunity to be in the hall on my own, (well not truly on my own as the nursery staff are in). But to begin the start of the day with prayer in the main hall, the beauty of the coloured window throwing colours and patterns across the hall.

Praying for the programme that takes place in our building, our community and our people. Praying for our corps who have been to camp and Zambia, using 'Direct line' to pray for people by name (and I am slowly learning who is who), and noticing those who just pass by.

I have cherished these quiet moments to feel the presence of what has gone before and to pray for all that is to come...

I am starting to feel settled; I am discovering the wild-life in the garden including a fox that dashes through (Honey hasn't noticed it yet, thank goodness) we have squirrels, a robin, some magpies and a pigeon or two, although the neighbouring cat hasn't visited since being chased off by Honey. I am challenged by the words of scripture from Luke 9: 57-58

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

I am privileged to have a place to call home and a bed to sleep in, when the disciples were called they left everything and followed Jesus. It is true as a Salvation Army officer; I don't choose my appointment or my home, but I have a place to lay my head, a place to



call home and a community to serve. I am excited of all that lays ahead of us and to build upon the work that Woking Salvation Army has already done and will continue doing. There is much to learn not just from a corps perspective but the area of Woking and where God's wants me to fit into all of that. There is one of me, and a lot to be done.

I hope to start some visiting in the coming days, please note there is no set order as I do this, I will go as God guides. Feel free to pop into the hall, I am around most days you can always call to see if I am available, and you are most welcome to join me for quiet prayers in the mornings. Every blessing

*Debbie-anne*

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## Installation of Captain Debbie-anne Hogarth Sunday 27 July 2025

The Gap was closed! On Thursday 24 July Captain Debbie assumed the responsibility for Woking Corps and this was her formal installation led by the Assistant Divisional Commander, Major Tracey Palmer, from Divisional Headquarters.

As a complete surprise to Captain Debbie, members of her family, including her father, had travelled up from Tiverton to be present at the meeting. Captain Debbie's ordination and commissioning had taken place in 2020 – the Covid year. There were only seven people present at her welcome and installation at Hastings – all socially distanced and wearing masks. The family had decided this was going to make up for the disappointment of 2020!

From the 'get go' we were into scripture and reminded of the trust and confidence found in Psalm 23 and

then into the more modern arrangement of 'Praise, my soul, the king of Heaven.'

Major Tracey, who had known Captain Debbie for over 10 years invited us to take a card from the Mercy Seat and write a short prayer / message to Captain Debbie and these would later be put into an album for her to use in her prayers.

Prayers were offered for Debbie and her husband John who is very much a part of her ministry team as it were.

Only Major John, could introduce the music contributions for our worship in a full Devonian/West Country accent!! How blessed we are to benefit from his humour and craziness!!

Children from Kids' Church presented a welcome plant and several members of the Teen Church offered prayers. One prayer urging that 'Captain Deb-

bie be given strength to cope with us because we can be a handful'. Ethan listed the number of languages now spoken within our corps!

Major Tracey took Captain Debbie through the official installation ceremony. Written some years back the ceremony requires the new officer to renew their promises and commitment to the corps and community and for the congregation to promise their support of the officer.

Corps Secretary Andrew Cox welcomed John & Debbie on behalf of the Corps in a sincere and eloquent manner – with a hint of humour.

The scripture reading, 1 Peter 5:2 -7 was read by John (H) – the following week we were to hear more of John's own story of forgiveness and transformation.

Captain Debbie spoke of how that scripture would be the first and last scripture she would preach from in her appointments. We looked at the role and qualities of a shepherd. The need to be an 'influencer' - just where we are.

Only one song we could finish with - the upbeat 'I'll go in the strength of the Lord,' - wherever and whatever that may be!!



## Happy Birthday Debbie!!

Perfect timing to have your birthday on your first Sunday in a new appointment! Late information meant this was the only cake left on the shelf in Costco!!

At least it wasn't a dragon but first impression is that Debbie is certainly not a dinosaur!!!





# Cream Tea 25



This of course was the Cream Tea that wasn't going to happen!! 2024 was supposed to be the last that Dave and Gwen would host and organise – but then we had a new corps leader appointed and a cream tea would be a wonderful way of her meeting with members of the corps!!!

So, 5.30am and Gwen was up baking the scones before she left for the morning meeting. Dave's wonderful jams were all good to go, Gill (Gr) and Cherry had also baked. Chairs set out, table laid and people, some armed with folding chairs arrived – the sound of chatter increased as people met up and started to catch up with each other. Great that Captain Debbie's family, who

unbeknown to Captain Debbie had travelled up from Tiverton to surprise her at her installation meeting were able to join with us and share in the 'Welcome Tea'.

Just such a happy occasion and everything, as usual, up to Dave & Gwen's extremely high standards. People chatted, caught up with each other, made new friends and Elliott and Isaac, under the tuition of Major Ted, found out how to put ice cubes down their Daddy's T-shirt!!!

Just such a wonderfully relaxed time together - perfect weather – not too hot, rain free – perfect food and loads of love and kindness, and £210 raised for crops funds.

There's a very strong feeling around that there could well be a Cream Tea next year!!!



# 160 years not out!!!

## Family Focus – Worship Leaders Majors Ted & Freda



This weekend saw the celebration of 160 years of The Salvation Army. A video had been supplied giving information concerning the God-planned origins of the Army. There was only one song we could possibly sing on a morning such as this. So it was the Founder's song, words written by William Booth – 'O boundless salvation! Deep ocean of love' – all seven verses!!

Family Focus Sunday - and the theme was The Family – how we all belong to a Royal Family -sharing the family likeness and the family inheritance.

It was therefore wholly appropriate that the children's 'exit chorus' was 'Father Abraham – had many sons'. Some in the room had first sung this

in the late 1950s but it's still going strong. This of course was a modern updated cartoon version of the chorus – so a trip down Memory Lane with plenty of the participants getting a work out!

The selected scripture was Ephesians 3 :14 – 21 with our thoughts directed to verses 14 & 15.

'With this in mind, I kneel in prayer to the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes it's name.'

However, before the 'preach', we sang 'My Father is rich in houses and lands' – a really old song. Freda reminded of how whilst in the appt years ago dear Annie Morris, a soldier of the corps, was admitted to hospital, where it became apparent these were her last days. Annie had no family so a rota was put in place so that we formed cover which meant she was never alone until she slipped from this world into her heavenly home. Many of us singing this, her favourite song to her.

'I'm the child of a King; I'm a child of a King; With Jesus my Saviour, I'm the child of a King!'

What precious memories were brought to mind for some of us as we sang.

Ted's 'preach' was all about the family, which seemed appropriate on a Family Focus Sunday!!

Sharing the family treasure - our home in Heaven, somewhere we are bound for when we die, a place, a home reserved for us.

Sharing the family inheritance – we have a hope for the future,

Sharing the family likeness – being like Christ, displaying the 'fruits of the Spirit

Singing 'Happy we who trust in Jesus' in conclusion would remind us that our Father never slumbers and is ever watchful over us, for we are his children.

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## Welcome home Jan!!!

Jan Howlin moved back into officer-ship in 2015 and was appointed to Wokingham Corps where she has exercised a brilliant caring and compassionate ministry working with local churches and within the community for 10 years. She has helped so many back into purposeful living. For a while, as an additional appointment she worked a certain number of hours a week as a Divisional Regional Officer.

July saw Jan farewell from Wokingham and start her new full-time appointment as a Divisional Regional Officer in the Central, Southern & Channel Islands Division. Jan will still be living in the quarters at Wokingham which means that she is able

to make Woking the corps she will attend when she is free and not on the job. It also leaves her close to Maurice and Audrey, her Mum and Dad.

Welcome home Jan - lovely to have you back!!!



*Jan & Andy Stickland catching up at Jo & Andrew's BBQ*

## Worship Leaders - Janet Graham & Louise Stickland



Just two Sundays to go and we will be through The Gap! Our worship was led by Janet and Louise and reflected them completely – measured, unhurried and serene but with a bit of madness.

Before we started – Janet read verses from Psalm 12 and then we shared in the Call to Worship.

Janet explained the concept of the ‘Blood of the Lamb’ before we joined in singing the wonderful old song ‘Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing blood?’

The band and songster contributions were ones that had been specifically requested by Janet and Louise - ‘Finlandia’ and ‘God will make a way’. Then the madness began. The children’s song was the old favourite ‘We are marching in the light of God’ and the place was up and mov-

ing with ribbons being waved – so good that it was sung twice.

This was also the Corps Gift Day and we were invited to bring out offerings as we sang ‘Jesus, precious Saviour, thou hast saved my soul’.

It was also a newsy morning. The day before, a group had climbed Snowden. This was a fund raiser for away. The Emergency Vehicle had also been called out at 6.00pm the night before. The volunteers had swung in to action. Matt Cook, who had climbed Snowden earlier in the day, drove to the ‘Shout’ and was the last man standing with Major Ted which meant they got home in the early hours of Sunday morning. That’s either the recklessness and energy of youth or commitment and in Matt’s case let’s opt for the latter.

The story of Noah, read by Louise gave us food for thought.

Janet spoke of walking with a purpose, as in the Snowden walkers the day before, Ian C when he did his coastal walk some years back and the need to have comfortable footwear!!! There was the descriptive illustration that those who had been called to be a rabbi would walk with their teacher and would walk close to him so they could hear his teaching. Obviously at that time they walked everywhere!!

We were almost on the road with them and considered our walk with Jesus.

Reflecting back to our opening song. How do we stand strong? Through prayer and scripture, walking with God and trusting his promises.

Our measured worship conclud-

ed with the Stuart Townend arrangement of 'The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.'

Oh, and it was good to welcome Jan Howlin back! Her new appointment at DHQ means she will be able to worship with us when her schedule allows, Great morning!!

## Major Janine Lewis

### Last one Minding the Gap!

On the last Sunday of our time 'In the Gap' our worship was led by Major Janine Lewis, Naomi's mother. The last time she took our worship was Mother's Day back in March. It soon became clear that the theme was 'Storms' with many illustrations from the Bible to come. We sang the old song 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?' A good choice to commence what was to be a thought-provoking time, with scripture references from the Old and New Testament read by leader and congregation all mentioning storms and the sea.

We then sang 'My Jesus my Saviour' reminding us of God's greatness and power, followed by a responsive prayer. Following this it was suggested that we would like to spend time in prayer for our new

Corps Leader, Captain Debbie-anne Hogarth, and her husband John, who would be installed in the service the following week. Several people responded to this invitation.

A responsive reading from Acts: 27 recounted the harrowing boat journey made with Paul and many prisoners on board in a terrible storm. All had survived however with God's help. Many shipwrecks have been in the news over the years but gradually safety measures have been invented to make journeys more safe. Lighthouses, anchors and many other aids - reminding us that Jesus will help us navigate through dangerous times in our lives if we ask him.

Major Janine had written a song, which had been written specially for this meeting.

*Lord, keep me anchored to your side,  
Don't let me drift, or from you hide.  
When storms arise, Lord, hold me  
tight,  
Be my strong shelter, be my light.  
Lord, keep me anchored to the cross,  
Here to remember what it cost,  
To wash away the stain of sin,  
And celebrate new life within.  
Lord, keep me anchored to your  
ways,  
Living my life to give you praise,  
Resting in you and in your word,  
Fulfilling what from you I've  
heard.*

*Janine Lewis 14.7.25*

A fitting end to this lovely thought-provoking meeting. Thank you, Major Janine.

*Gill Gregory*



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**The Gap is closed!!!!**

## **Family Focus - Sunday 3 August 2025**

**Worship leader – Captain Debbie-anne Hogarth**

**That's it! The Gap is definitely closed!!!** After 28 Sundays with different worship leaders and being without a Corps Leader our worship was led by Captain Debbie, our recently installed Corps Leader. This month's Family Focus would acknowledge our Children's and Youth ministry in the corps and the children who are attending Summer schools and the Youth Learning Exchange team that would be leaving for Zambia the following day.

Using songs that are special to Captain Debbie and her husband John in their

spiritual journey, plus scripture and times of reflection we moved through this introductory meeting.

A video clip of Michelle Agyemang, being interviewed after the final of the Women's Euro 25 - which in case you missed it, England won, showed a young women using an amazing opportunity to acknowledge God's grace. Four years before, at the age of 15 she had been a ball girl, now she was a football star who had scored some vital goals throughout the tournament and

been awarded 'Young Player of the Tournament'. She even has crosses on her football socks! She freely spoke of God's grace to an audience numbering into the millions! Do we make the most of opportunities when they present themselves to speak of Jesus?

Over the next weeks children from the Corps would be attending Encounter, the Divisional Summer school for teens and older, MAM, Ministry and Mayhem, the Summer school for younger children. We also had the YLE team heading off to Zambia.

We were invited to pick up a small cardboard 'suitcase' from the Mercy Seat which would contain the names of those going on these various adventures and use this as an aid to pray for them whilst they were away.

An action chorus highlighting the fruits of the Spirit via video caused great fun with plenty of people – both children and adults joining in.

It was the intention that John and Debbie would share their stories with us so we would know a little more

about them. John spoke honestly of his beginnings in the North East, his move to Surrey and then back to the North East where he was to find Christ and a calling to ministry through people who had cared for him. John eventually became a pastor in a church in Tiverton where he was to meet and marry Debbie. A story of forgiveness, grace and transformation.

1 Peter 2:5-7 are significant scripture verses for Captain Debbie. In fact, she said that the verses from Peter would be her first and last sermon in each appointment!! She spoke of our approach to worship both corporate and personal. Her story too was one of discovery, new pathways as God's will unfolded for her, a journey of change. After over 30 years with the same company Debbie felt led to officership. A huge transition to make but she spoke of the God moments in life, moments of grace.

Quiet moments of contemplation led into our last song 'The Lord's command to go into the world', wherever that may be, sung joyously and at a cracking rate!!!

Belated Birthday Greetings

**Kip**

Congratulations on celebrating  
the big **80!!!!**



# Summer School

# MAM (Ministry & Mayhem)

## Naomi Rothery

**Ariana, Gabrielle, Lilia, and Samie** took part in the MAM (Ministry and Mayhem) summer camp final celebration this evening, wrapping up their exciting week there! The theme for the week was Connect—connecting with themselves, with each other, and with God. We loved watching the highlight videos capturing each day’s adventures: the wild and whacky staff costumes, the activities, water fight, praise and worship, talent night and more. We also en-

joyed brilliant performances and videos from the four workshop groups—dance, puppets, multimedia, and art.

It was such a joy to see them take part this evening, and I especially loved seeing their enthusiasm as they shared the worship songs they’d loved over the week with us as a congregation. Praising God for their time at camp and praying that the impact of this week will continue and remain with them





# Summer Fayre

**Led and organised by Darren Green  
and a team of contributors and volunteers**

**Written by Morewa Oniye**

The day unfortunately started with showers but nevertheless it was a great day!

As people arrived, they were warmly welcomed by the volunteers on site and were pointed toward the nearest stall.

Children got the opportunity to play some fun and interesting games like 'hook the duck' which involved using a large stick to get a duck from a pool of water and also a game where they had to knock a tower of cans over to win a prize of sweets.

They got to pick from a selection of sweets and they were all so happy when they got their prizes.



There were a lot of stalls including stalls for toys, games and activities, jams, cakes, books and accessories, and the Emergency Response Van was out serving burgers, drinks, treats and snacks.

This was a fundraiser that was organised to help with the contribution going towards the youth's trip to summer camp.

A lot of families came with their children and they all had smiles on their faces even with the poor weather.

The Surrey Fire Department also came and helped children to get into the fire trucks allowing them to have a fun experience.



The children and their parents were shown the kit and equipment that the firefighters used during fire incidents and they made a few demonstrations of putting on some of the kit as well!

They were so intrigued and eager to learn about the trucks as they asked endless questions about the equipment and their uses.

Overall it was a pleasant experience for everyone in attendance and they all had a great time.

Many thanks to Darren and his team for putting this together for the youth and also the community.



**YLE interviewed  
on  
Radio  
Chikankata**



# Comedy Hall

**D.O.H.**

**(Department of Humour)**

A husband sent his wife a text message:-

Honey, I have had a car accident. Paula brought me to hospital where I have had tests and

X-rays. The blow to my head was quite severe but not serious. I have 3 broken ribs, a compound fracture of the left leg and they may have to amputate the right foot.

The wife's response:- Who is Paula?

Mary told her friend she was going on a diet. "That's great," Sue exclaimed, "I'll join you, we can be dieting buddies and help each other out. When I feel the urge to get fish and chips I'll call you first." "Wonderful!" Mary replied, "then we can go together".

The best way to get meds into a dog is to talk to him about a variety of boring subjects then, when he yawns, drop a pill down his throat.

A large stack of toilet paper fell on me in the supermarket. I'm okay though, just some soft tissue damage.

Sign in an optician's window:-

If you don't see what you want, you have come to the right place.

**Keep happy**     *Major Laugh*

# Lakeview Fun Day

20 July

Alison C, Alison S, Jess, Morewa, Nkhosa and I have had a lovely time at the Lakeview Fun Day today—chatting with families, helping out at the bouncy castle, and enjoying the day together!

Sadly, the photos were taken after

both Alison's had to leave, but we're grateful for their presence earlier. Morewa, Nkhosa, and I even gave karate a go!

It was a real joy to be out in the community today—great connections, great fun, and lots of smiles!



Warmest congratulations to  
**Lizzy Hanlon**  
Graduating from the  
University of Leeds with a  
BSc(Hons) in Economics  
(International)"



# FLOWER LIST

## *September*

7	Margaret Cook
14	TBA
21	Jan Reed
28	Denise Allison

## *October*

5	Jane and Andy Stickland
12	Jo and Andrew Cox
19	Christine Hadfield
26	TBA

# News from Hearts & Crafts Group

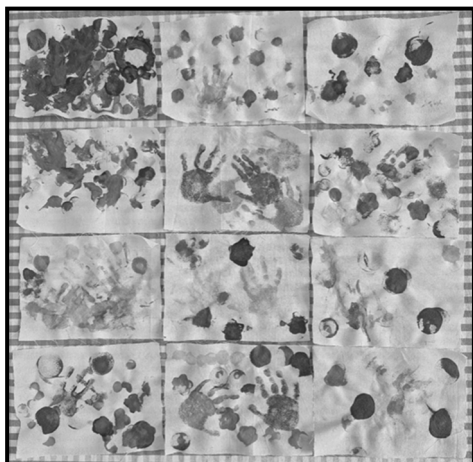
Chris Hadfield

An update on two projects the H & C Group have been involved in. Teddy Toddlers was also involved in the second one.

Meath School – Ottershaw

School charity – knitted garments for the children in Ukraine

Penny, one of our members, grandmother to Thomas, who attends the school, sent a message asking if the ladies would knit something for them. Ladies from the Craft Group and some from the Corps, together with wool donated by non-knitters sent over 30 items – cardigans, jumpers, hats and scarves to the school to be delivered to Ukraine. A big thank you & well done everyone



*Flags made by Teddy Toddlers*

– with a thank you card being received from Thomas.

The Salvation Army

Together 2025 – Mission 160

Hearts & Craft Group & Teddy Toddlers

On the 12 June we had a message from Captain Debbie-anne via Naomi, together with a pile of calico flags. The request was that we do something with them. We had 10 and Teddy Toddlers were going to use the rest. They were going to be on show at Together 2025. So, what to do?! We went away and wondered and then discussed and came



up with some wonderful ideas. We each did our own thing. 10 beautiful flags were created, appliqué, patchwork, crochet, knitting, cross stitch and paper craft. They were finished and posted to Captain Debbie–anne.

On 25th June they were out on display at Together 2025. They will be collected together with others and turned into prayer shawls and / or blankets.

## ‘Mind the Gap’

*Our grateful thanks to the following friends for leading us in inspirational worship, providing sound teaching and blessings in abundance. Thank you for standing ‘In the gap’ with us!*

*Thanks also to Corps Secretary Andrew Cox for pulling together such an amazing group of worship leaders – we are truly blessed.*

Majors Ted & Freda Benneyworth

Ian & Alison Campbell

Janet Graham & Louise Stickland

Lt. Colonel Judith and Major Paul Hilditch

Commissioners Edward and Shelley Hill

Major Emma Knights

Major Janine Lewis

Major John Martin

Commissioner Susan McMillan

Major Wendy Mouland

Major Chris Mulryne

Commissioners Garth & Patti Niemand

Major Sue Pegram & Major Gary Robb

Major Brian Saunders

Major Fred Thompson

Lt. Colonels Chris & Neil Webb

## **And they're off!!!**

### **Youth Learning Exchange to Zambia**



The YLE team at the airport - good to go!!!  
So many messages, emails, photos were received keeping us in touch with how things were going.

**Over the next weeks, when they're recovered a bit there will hopefully be a YLE newsletter which will give us more details of their time away and give us a chance to share the adventure with them.**

### **Youth Learning Exchange - Snowden**



**Intrepid walkers at the top of Snowden – another fund raiser for the trip to Zambia**

**Cold water swimming — Beetle Drive — Car Wash  
And a whole lot more!!!**

**Thank you to everyone who has supported the YLE team**



## Encounter 25

# Summer School for Youth

### (30<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> August)

### Naomi Rothery

Six of our Youth, Isaac, Sharon, Rachael, Morewa, Dara and Nkhosa spent the week at Moorlands College in Christchurch for one of The Salvation Army's summer schools for Youth. They had a blessed time encountering God in different ways, including through Sport, and really enjoyed the fun and social side of camp too!

Captain Debbie and Naomi attended the Final Celebration on 5th August. Everyone gathered for a BBQ to

start, which was a lovely way to begin. The group of young people that had spent the week on the 'Worship' option led the worship for the congregation brilliantly. The other options were Art, Sport and Vocal, and each of the groups had time in the celebration to share what they had done over the week. It was wonderful to see our young people taking part and we look forward to hearing more about their experiences during the worship meeting on Sunday 7th September.



# Direct Line

Can anyone tell me how prayer actually works? Do we need to reach a specific number for our prayers to be answered? What happens if we miss a day? What about those who have loads of friends to pray for them and those who have a few? So many questions that surface every now and again. It really is a total wonder..... a journey of on-going faith.

Captain Debbie was so honest in her recent 'preach' about the Art of Praying. She spoke of how she struggles, falls asleep - we've all been there on that one.. Her apparent failure doesn't stop her trying though! She spoke of how prayer styles vary – written, more formal and some more relaxed. It was about developing our own style and freeing ourselves from the guilt we sometimes get caught up in if we don't conform to what some people see as 'acceptable' prayer. She spoke of what seemed like the lifting of a great burden when she accepted that praying differently was OK.

An exciting world of on-going exploration and discovery for all of us.

As a Corps family we seek to support each other through prayer. A reminder of those who are presently hospitalised or in care.

**Amanda** and Hayley, **Ken** and Sue, **Eric** and Jean,

**Florence McBride** **Pearl Arneaud** **Rita Frankham** **Lesley Curtis**

and many more who are coping with illness and the side effects of aging in their own homes.

Finally, God is doing amazing things in our Corps and Community. We need to acknowledge our leadership team who kept things on an even keel whilst we were 'In the Gap.' We need to thank Him for the children and teens we see and hear on a Sunday, so exciting to hear young voices around the place, to see new friends who have joined us in worship and for our weekday activities where people are able to come and relax together. And there's more to come!!!

Blessings Freda

*Warmest congratulations to*

***Rachel Christie***

*Graduating from the  
University of Liverpool*

*Rachel's news was in the May/June issue  
but just got to have a graduation  
picture!*

*Rachel was also awarded the Dean's prize  
for Excellence  
in the face of adversity.*



## Roger, Vickie & a kitchen!!!

When the Quarters' kitchen needed a complete make over - enter Woking's own DIY genius!!!! — **Roger!**

Roger and Vickie, along with some other volunteers worked a transformation!!! Stardom on TV awaits you Roger!!



## Stand Up, Stand Out, Proclaim: My week as a Ministry Assistant at Horsham Salvation Army Ethan Mushati

My time at Horsham was truly a blessing in disguise as I stood up – and stood out – in my faith. See, a few months ago, I had no idea I'd end up being a Ministry Assistant at Horsham. Placement plans – one after another. I went from, Specsavers, to British Heart Foundation to Horsham SA. And I

thought, 'Lord what is happening now?' But now I know – He was orchestrating something greater. He led me there. To Horsham Salvation Army. Not by chance, not by accident, but by divine design.



Throughout this week, I saw firsthand the inner workings of The Salvation Army. The most incredible part was that I wasn't just an observer, as I was given a chance to take part in the action. The Leadership team did great work in orienting me in the operations of the Salvation Army. I was truly grateful as it has made look at the UKI Territory through a new and refined lens. And in a way, it sort of makes the connection with the Army more intimate and less superficial as my understanding is now slightly broader.

Moving on from admin, I got to engage with various programs running at the Corps. From conversing with seniors in a bible study to high fiving toddlers in a toddlers' group. This showed me that the Army is not just for a certain group of people, but for everyone. Though some members of the Corps mistook me for a Cadet visiting from William Booth College, which was very amusing to me as I had to explain who I was every time I met the same people.

One program which really stood out to me was the one they run on a Thursday evening, called Hope in Communities. Those in

need come to the hall and they have a community meal (full on dinner) before they engage with counsellors who are volunteers from the Corps and other Christian groups within Horsham. After they have had a meeting with the counsellor they are then given a list of the things available in the food bank, and they then choose from the items they need. I was truly inspired, and my heart was touched as I saw families and individuals alike being given hope and having meaningful conversations during the community meal. I saw themes of hope, courage, and resilience during that event. And part of their community support services is to provide individuals experiencing homelessness access to showers at the Horsham Salvation Army and clothing as well through their drop-in service.

The week also saw me preparing to lead worship on the Sunday that I would end my WEX. This was a mountain I had been waiting to climb for so long. In all that excitement and zeal, I faced one big obstacle – which was my ability to choose a song and stick to it. I'd like to think that it ended up with 4 versions of the same meeting plan. I never knew that it was going to be that difficult because this was the first time I had led a meeting which I had planned all on my own. However, at the end, I managed to land on the perfect songs.

My theme on Sunday was the same as the title above, Stand Up, Stand Out, Proclaim. The theme was based around the stories of; The man at the pool of Bethesda, John the Baptist and Paul and Silas singing in prison at the middle of the night. During the meeting we had a

prayer time, where I encouraged congregants to write down something that was keeping them from fully standing up, that thing which weighed them down or was like a magnet, which stopped them from Standing Up, just like the man at the pool. As the song, I Surrender All, played in the background, I invited all who had written on their pieces of paper to come and leave them at the mercy seat. As this was taking place I could almost visualize Jesus telling the people to Stand Up, pick up their mats and work, but instead of going with that mat we surrendered it to Christ so that we can freely walk. There was also a time of testimonies where I encouraged people to Stand Out in their faith. And to my surprise more people stood up to testify how they are being led by God in this year as we sang the song By His Hand.

The Bible reading came from \*John 5:1-9\*

## □ PART 1: STAND UP

Text: John 5:1-9 + Matthew 14:28-30

The man at the pool of Bethesda had been sat there for 38 years of his life. Thirty-eight. Can you imagine that? Just waiting. Hoping. Surviving. And here's the kicker—he had become defined by his condition. That was his identity: the paralyzed man. Not his name. Not his story. Just the label stuck to his pain. And yet—he didn't lose hope. Day after day, when the waters were stirred, he still saw himself trying to get in. That's faith. That's resilience. That's a man who re-

fused to let the label be the ending. And then one day—grace located him. Jesus walks up and sees him. And I love this part: Jesus doesn't ignore him. Doesn't step around him. Jesus sees him. And not just the outer shell, but the pain, the longing, the decades of disappointment. And Jesus doesn't ask him to try harder or pray better. He simply says, "Get up." That's the invitation to you today. Get up. Not in your own strength, but in His. Because faith isn't about pushing harder, it's about trusting deeper. And hear this: the mat he sat on? That old, worn-out mat? Let's make that personal. For us, that mat might be guilt, or fear, or doubt, or shame. Things that pin us down. And today, God is saying—take it up and walk. Let that mat become your testimony, not your identity. Now... let's not forget Peter. He too was called out to step where he had no business stepping—on water. And the moment he had his eyes locked on Jesus; he did the impossible. He walked. But as soon as he looked at the wind, the waves, the fear began to sink. That's the lesson right there: What you fix your eyes on will determine whether you rise or fall. So, I'm saying to you—fix your eyes on the One who walks on storms. And don't stay down anymore.

## □ PART 2: STAND OUT

Text: Life of John the Baptist

Let's talk about John. John the Baptist didn't just stand up—he stood out. And I mean... way out. This guy lived in the wilderness. Wore camel hair. Ate locusts.

If he showed up at your dinner party, someone would call the council. But he didn't care about being accepted, he cared about being obedient. People thought he was mad. Crazy, even. But that didn't stop him from doing what the Father told him to do. He didn't let the opinions of others shape his purpose. He knew who he was, and who sent him. That's boldness.

Here's what gets me—John baptized tax collectors. Do you know how hated they were? People saw them as traitors. Sell-outs. But John didn't care about that either. He opened his heart to anyone who believed. Because standing out isn't about building walls—it's about being a light to people lost in darkness. And that's where you and I come in. You see, when you become a believer, you're handed a cross. And that cross can't be dragged in secret. It's visible. It has weight. It sets you apart. The moment we step out of these four walls, we represent something bigger than us. We become beacons—of hope, of truth, of the Kingdom. So don't be afraid to stand out. You weren't called to blend in. Ask God for courage—and walk boldly.

### □ PART 3: PROCLAIM

Text: Acts 16:25–26 + Book of Job

Now this right here—it's the part that hits deep. Because I've got to be honest with you. There are days where I find it really hard to proclaim anything about God. Days where life just keeps swinging, and nothing makes sense, and any

praise that dares to come out of my mouth gets shut down by the chaos around me. But then I look at Paul and Silas—bruised, bleeding, shackled in a dark cell. They had every reason to complain. Every reason to give up. But what did they do? At midnight, when it was darkest, they praised. And not quietly either. They proclaimed God's glory in chains. And that kind of worship? It didn't just lift them—it broke the chains off everyone around them. Sometimes it's praise in the pain that unlocks breakthrough. And look—Job? Lost everything. His wealth. His children. His health. And yet, with nothing left... he still praised. Not because it was easy. Not because he understood. But because he knew who his Redeemer was. So, I'm encouraging you: proclaim God's goodness—even through tears. Even when it makes no sense. Even when it feels like you've got nothing left in the tank. Because that kind of proclamation? It doesn't just change circumstances—it changes you.

### □ ALTAR MOMENT / RESPONSE

So... what's your move? Do you need to stand up—for the first time in a long time? Do you need to stop hiding and stand out for real? Or maybe... maybe you've been silent for too long, and it's time to lift your voice and proclaim His name again. Wherever you are, whoever you are—God is calling you now. So don't sit this one out. This is your moment. Step in.



## A Prayer

Dear Father God, our voice we raise  
In prayers of thankfulness and praise  
For all the gifts that you have given,  
For joys that light our way to Heaven.

Beauties of nature everywhere  
Speak of your love and wondrous care.  
The harvest too is gathered in  
Provision for our earthly needs.

We thank you too for Christian friends  
And families, whose love reminds  
Us of your 'greater' love – supreme,  
Unending - like a flowing stream.

We pray for women everywhere  
Whose lives are shattered – torn apart  
By war and famine, hate and greed.  
May your love shine and meet their need.

Be with us as we gather here  
In fellowship and joyous praise  
And may we each be richly blessed  
And find within our hearts – your rest.  
Amen.

*Connie Still*  
*Written 3 September 1990 for a*  
*Divisional Home League Rally at Dorking*



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.

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**Please note**

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

**Sunday October 19th 2025**

# **Our Vision & Mission**

## **Our Vision:**

Fullness of life  
for all with Jesus

## **Our Mission:**

Love God  
Love our neighbours  
Love one another

## **We achieve these by**

- \* Reaching out to people with  
Jesus' love
- \* Supporting believers to grow  
deeper in their faith in God
- \* Serving our community in  
transformative ways