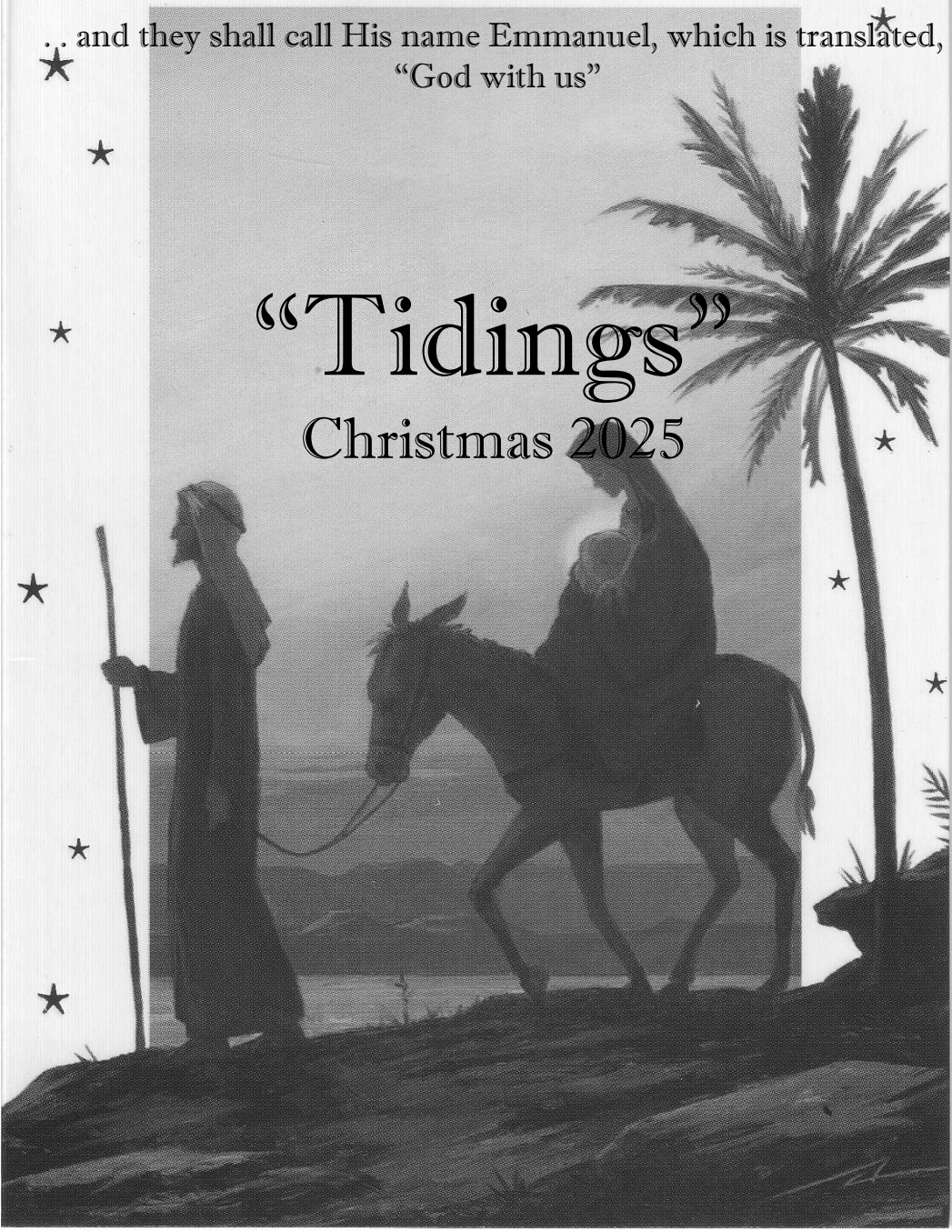


Emmanuel

... and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which is translated,
“God with us”

“Tidings”

Christmas 2025



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

FROM THE C.O.'S DESK

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I sit writing this as John and I have returned from a few days in Devon, seeing family. We enjoyed some beautiful autumnal weather, giving us an opportunity to head to the beach, a trip over Dartmoor and a lovely walk in and around Knightshayes, to name a few places we visited. I have been amazed at the colours of the trees this autumn and the number of berries, fruits and nuts on the trees and bushes. Time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

There was a 'nip' in the air, as there was a sense of a change in the seasons.

On returning home I was reminded that Christmas is coming and there are lots of things to plan for! This year I am aware of how different Christmas will be each corps having its own program which is unique for each location.

For me Christmas begins with the song 'In the bleak mid-winter' an English Christmas poem by Christina Rossetti, published in 1872 as "A Christmas Carol" and later known by its opening line. The poem, often set to music as a hymn by composers like Gustav Holst and Harold Darke, describes the humble, cold, and snowy setting of Christ's birth. It contrasts the divine glory of Jesus with his earthly discomfort and concludes by asking what a person can offer Him, with the answer being "my heart".

I am often moved to tears in hearing this familiar Christmas Carol, particularly by the final verse:

What can I give Him,

Poor as I am?

If I were a Shepherd

I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man

I would do my part,

Yet what I can I give Him,

Give my heart.

I wonder as you look towards Christmas 2025 what will you give? Will you be busy in the Christmas traditions that have become so familiar in your life that you lose sight of the real meaning? Will you be so frantic with programme, work and family activities that you don't have time to stop and reflect on Christmas? Will you be so stressed in get-

ting the right gift, and the cost and preparations that you are overwhelmed with the whole occasion? All that Jesus asks of you is for your heart.

I wonder this Christmas will you pause in the busyness; will you rest and take time to reflect. Will you relax and enjoy the season?

Capt Debbie

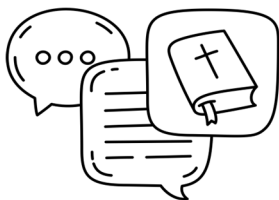


Advent Bible Study

Led by
Captain Debbie
& John Hogarth



EVERYONE WELCOME!



Every **Wednesday 12.15pm -1.15pm**
12th November to 17th December
(Following on from Brunch)
Main Hall

Community Programme Manager Update

Darren Green

A Year of Growth and Grace

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to share an update on some of the changes that have taken place — and those still unfolding — within our community work.

Brunch Club

Lunch Club has transitioned smoothly into Brunch Club. Alongside this, we've supported four young adults to develop their employability skills through volunteering with us. This brings a fresh focus to our weekday programme and is enriching the lives of young people in our community by helping them grow in confidence and capability.

Citizens Advice

We now welcome Woking Citizens Advice Bureau every Friday from 10am to 12pm. This operates on a drop-in basis, and I'd encourage anyone from our Corps to make use of this excellent resource. We're delighted to host such an established and valuable service.

Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing join us every other Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30pm. This service connects people to community

activities and support that address the wider factors influencing health and wellbeing. Following a successful trial, the scheme has been extended to the end of this year — with plans to continue into 2026.

Core Recovery Bible Study

Our Core Recovery Bible Study begins on **Thursday 23rd October**, meeting every other week from 7pm to 8:30pm. This follows the exploratory work we've done throughout the year — including the open meetings and the meeting led by Jon and Justin on Core Recovery back on Sunday 29th June.

Advent Bible Study & New Youth Support Group

Our Advent Bible Study starts on **Wednesday 12th November**, running weekly from 12:15 to 1:15pm. It's wonderful to reintroduce a weekday Bible Study to the programme here at the Corps.

Also launching on **12th November**, we have a new support group for school-aged children from 5pm to 7pm. This is led by Ashley, a member of our Sythwood community who connected with our Corps through SALT walks. Moved by

meeting a young person struggling with poor mental health, Ashley has been inspired to create a safe space for young people to share, encourage, and support one another.

Christmas & Beyond

As we enter a busy season, I'd encourage anyone able to get in touch to offer help with the **2025 Toy Appeal**, our **Christmas Fayre**, or with putting up (and later taking down!) the Christmas decorations in early January 2026. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

2025 has been a year of change — alongside our regular weekday activities such as Teddy Toddlers, Coffee & Chat, and Foodbank — and we feel truly blessed and excited to see our community programme grow and evolve, supporting people like Ashley to take initiative and serve others.

A personal **thank you** from me to everyone connected to Woking Corps who assist and help with the above and wider programmes.

God is at work!

General Lyndon Buckingham



By now, many will have heard that I had a medical incident whilst celebrating the 95th anniversary with Hong Kong salvationists. I was admitted to hospital where I received excellent intervention and treatment, in the form of heart angioplasty to clear a blocked artery. I have responded to this procedure well and

am expected to make a full recovery. I have been discharged from hospital and am now resting, awaiting a follow up consultation with the cardiologist next Monday.

Bronwyn and I express our heartfelt gratitude for the many prayers and messages of support we have received since Saturday. Our thanks to Territorial Leaders, Colonels Phil and Deslea Maxwell for their tremendous care and support.

We feel wrapped in the love of the global Salvation Army and give thanks to God for His providential care .

Family Focus - Sunday 7 September

Worship Leaders - Youth Learning Exchange Team



The moment we stepped into the hall we noticed the chairs had been rearranged in a semi-circle, and knew the youth had taken over!

Ian and Alison together with Naomi and the young people led our worship, Alison explained that all the songs had been chosen by the youth.

Our 'call to worship' was Romans 5:1-2 *'Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has bought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory'.*

Ian said we are here to worship God so we sang together 'What a faithful God have I, what a faithful God'.

This was followed with a meaningful time of prayer led by Alison with prayers by young people and others followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Naomi introduced the young children by explaining the two camps they had attended during the summer, and the impact on their young lives.

Isaac then shared some of his reflections on his week at **Encounter**, and Lilia and Samie talked about their time at **MAM**.

Agatha and her family shared their concern for the loss of a family member in Zimbabwe. We sang 'Big Family of God' Sue then offered prayer as the children left for Kid's Church.

We were again blessed by Penny's playing during the time of the offering. She had chosen the lovely tune from 'Out of Africa'. Ian then spoke of the deep faith and trust of people coming out of Africa with a big move to the UK.

Margaret Cook spoke of her thoughts as a Mum with sons on the trip to Zambia, also taking the opportunity to thank everyone for the help and encouragement she had in raising Matt and Sam and nurturing the boys spiritually, while Caroline Christie also expressed thanks for Woking SA community for their influence on Jemma and Rachel.

A slide show of the experiences of the trip to Zambia followed showing the local people's warm welcome to our group with a welcome dance, followed by pictures of the various activities including a visit

to the Chikankata Mission, the radio station built by Alison's father, a visit to one of the chief's homes, Victoria Falls. Photos of Hayley and Matt doing a bungee jump and if that wasn't enough excitement, the whole group white water rafting!

Ian then showed photos of our group sharing with a family in their grief and pain, listening and being there for them.

Some of the group then shared Bible verses that had meant something to them, **Matt. 28:20** - Vicky

John 14:26 - Sam, **The Holy Spirit counsels us person to person** – Rachel.

Matt gave his own personal testimony of his special encounter with God and his assurance of always being with him.

Ian gave his thoughts on each of the scriptures which had been read. Make disciples by going where people are and listening to them. Be encouraged, Matt 22:14 'Many are called, but few are chosen'.

Our closing song 'Spirit of faith come down' was followed by a united Benediction Rom. 15:13

So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

On and On and On!!!!

Worship Leader – Major John Martin

This is the morning that Major John went on & on & on!!! Anyone who was present will never forget the experience!

A samba style arrangement of 'Blessed Assurance', sung by the songsters set the mood of our worship. The emphasis was set on the unfailing love of God – our call to worship was found in verses from Psalm 147. The singing of 'Great is thy faithfulness' was an affirmation of that theme.

John described, in his own way, how

the inspiration for the theme came to him when he was at the Full Monty Men's Breakfast and the unlimited food for the 'Big Breakfast experience'. This had led him on to think of God's unlimited grace, love and power that goes on and on and on!

We were introduced to new chorus for us to sing, This is not unusual; as we have several songs / music that John has written for worship.

The words of the three verses were simple. Verse 1 His love goes on V2 His grace goes on

V3 His power goes on..... The music which John introduced, which he had obviously not written, was The Teddy Bear's Picnic '– 'If you go down to the woods today.'!!!! Believe me, anyone who was there and sang this new chorus with great gusto was convinced of the truth of the words!

This was also the morning that we would bid farewell to the Oniye family who had been worshipping with us. John and Wunmi and their three daughters and son would shortly be moving to Canada. As the family stood before us Alison prayed God's blessing upon them and this new chapter in their life journey as a family.

Music as usual played an important part in our worship. Songs, such as, 'Faithful God', 'He giveth more grace', 'To be in your presence' and others, all echoed the theme. The band's playing of 'Lord to Thee', the songsters singing of 'Everywhere' at John's request and Penny, playing an arrangement of 'Great is thy faithfulness' provided such blessed moments and affirmation again, of a limitless ever- loving God.

In his message, John spoke of God's unlimited grace that has and is so freely given – grace that keeps us going, grace that keeps us strong – unlimited love – all freely given.

He challenged us – How did he know this? – How can we know this?

- 1 Trust – do you trust in God?
- 2 Truth – where is truth today?
- 3 Testimony – through the testimony of others – living out our faith by God's grace
- 4 Test – Try out the grace you're given – do something that takes courage!
- 5 Take – Take /accept his grace - believe and accept in your heart.
- 6 Tell – your story – the story tellers in our church!!!!

A time for reflection and then the little sung song 'Safe in the shadow of the Lord' brought our amazingly crazy morning full of truth, hope and promise to a conclusion. We who were truly blessed to be present left totally confident that God's grace, love and power goes on and on and onad infinitum!!!!

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

Helen Keller

The 9:38 Prayer Challenge

Worship Leader - Retired Pastor John Hogarth



Our worship, led by Retired Pastor John Hogarth, Capt. Debbie's husband, concentrated our thoughts on the 9:38 Prayer Challenge that had been initiated by Divisional Headquarters. Based on Matthew 9:38 we have been urged to pray daily at 9.38am or 9.38pm or both, for volunteers, for leaders to sustain our ministry. The new training session of cadets (student officers) The Proclaimers of Transformation, has started at the WBC (William Booth College) but we need more candidates, more officers.

'Only by grace can we enter' helped us to focus on the fact that none of us, whoever we are, is good enough - but through his grace.....!!

Throughout the morning, the subject of prayer was centre stage. We were reminded of the song 'Somebody prayed for me' and John spoke of those who had prayed for him and had led him to faith. There were snippets in our worship of where John had visited other countries and worshipped with fellow Christians which made us aware of how other Christians suffer for their faith. We need to hear more of John's travels!

Naomi presented gifts to Morelake, Dara, Morewa and Prince Isaac as this was their last Sunday with us, before their move to Canada with their parents, Wunmi and John during the following week. Naomi offered prayer for these dear young people and then led us in an action video reminding us to put on the whole armour of God.

Following a time of reflection and voluntary prayer we turned to Matthew 9:36 - 10:1. To focus on (Matthew) 9:38! John reminded us of verses by the prophet Micah which spoke of the need for shepherds. People were ready in the days of old, as they were in the days of Jesus and as they are today to receive the good news of the Gospel.

We should not be sitting around – we may not be called to go to the ends of the earth but we need to witness where we are. Yes, we believe in the power of prayer - but we need to go!!! Not to just sit on our butt but to get out there!!

Need to pray that people will respond to the call of Jesus - we can join him or be left behind! God can call anyone at any time and in Matthew 10:1 we read of Christ giving

authority to the disciples and the same Spirit is available today. The need was to send people to the people and Jesus sent those closest to him – his disciples. Initially it was to the lost people of Israel but the remit is broadened in the Great Commission found in the last chapter of Matthew's gospel to all nations – to us! For which we are truly grateful

The 9:38 Prayer Challenge can be found at the back of this issue

Children's, Youth & Families Mission

Naomi Rothery - Children & Families Mission Lead

Burgers and Outdoor Games

Rachael Ogenyi

After worship on Sunday 31st August, children, youth and families stayed on at the hall for an afternoon of food, fun and plenty of laughter. The burgers were already prepared, so no one had to wrestle with a grill, just a quick serve and we were all happily tucking in.

Once everyone was well fed, it was time for the games outside. First up was the tower block game. We built it up together and then each person had to pull a block out one by one. The rule was simple if you're the one who makes it fall, you lose. Well... Isaac was the one who built the tower in the first place, so maybe that explains why it came down faster than we expected!

Then came the tin-stacking game, with a small but deceptively heavy cushion used to knock them over. I can't lie, I was the best at this one. Some might say I was showing off, but if you've got the talent, why hide it?!!!

Autumn Adventure – What a Wonderful Morning!

Naomi Rothery

We had such a fantastic time together on Sunday at our Autumn Adventure family event! From creative crafts and fun activities to hearing the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, it was a joy to celebrate this harvest season with so many families.

The fish finger rolls went down a treat, and we're so grateful for all our amazing helpers who made the



morning run so smoothly. It was lovely to catch up, meet new faces, and have some really good conversations together.



If you enjoyed Autumn Adventure (or if you missed it this time!), we'd love to see you at our next family event — Brunch at Bethlehem — on Sunday 30th November 2025. Expect the same relaxed atmosphere, plenty of crafts and activities, and a chance to celebrate the Christmas story together.

Harvest 2025

led by Captain Debbie

Following on from Autumn Adventure the week before, the theme for our Harvest Celebration was the 'Feeding of the 5,000'. Throughout our worship we sang some of the

traditional harvest songs alongside some more modern songs.

As we sang 'You can't stop rain from falling down' donations of tinned goods were placed on the display table on the platform. During the prayer time Captain Debbie placed other items to aid our prayers. A bag of pasta that would be able to feed so many, a tin of mushy peas, squashed and crushed- times when we feel beaten and down, Party Ring biscuits with the hole in the middle, to remind us of those who were experiencing loss or holes in society





where people felt forgotten, the homeless. A tin of fruit salad with the different colours and flavours reminding us to a pray for unity and peace.

Music as usual was to bring its own blessing with the songsters singing 'Be still my soul' before the meeting and at Penny's request a new song, 'He will hold me fast' in the meeting. The band's harvest contribution was 'Now thank we all our God' with part of the wonderful 'Light of the world' at the conclusion.

Our time for the children featured The Harvest Samba with plenty on their feet – bopping away as we followed the video with plenty of maracas and small timbrels to hand, it was a joyous celebration. and the gold medal would need to go to

Amy Davis!

Finishing with a marching song – 'Jesus fed 5,000 men' as the children made their exit for Kids' Church, The children marched round and round with Isaac, the youngest, re-

fusing to be left out and doggedly following the others to carry on the celebration.

This was the last Sunday Peter and Penny Glover would be with us before moving to Dublin. After a beautiful arrangement of 'It is well with my soul' played by Penny during the offering, Major John gave words of appreciation for all they had contributed to the corps over the 10 years they had been with us. (John's words are printed separately)

After giving our monetary gifts in the Altar Service, Captain Debbie took us back to the 'Feeding of the 5,000'. A reminder that in scripture it is recorded as 5,000 men and women and children so possibly the figure was 22,500!! None were restricted in what they could eat, and all were satisfied, even though there was food left over. A truly amazing miracle with everyone playing their part.



Sometimes we feel we have little to offer but our little never remains little when offered to him! One young boy, when he got up that morning, had no idea how his offering of his small lunch would make such a difference. The comparison was drawn between Jo & Andrew's conversation with Peter and Penny 10 years back which had resulted in them coming to the corps and the difference that had made to them and also

to our corps fellowship and way beyond.

John Rutter's beautiful arrangement of 'For the beauty of the earth' gave us time to reflect before we concluded with the robust and happy singing of 'Bringing in the Sheaves' - followed by much chatter and coffee/tea and cake! A church family at ease with each other, enjoying the celebration!

Autumn Adventure from a distance!!!!

An absent observer!

The publicity had been organised and the invitations had gone out. The band took up its usual position just outside the front door and played and played....and played! Not sure the players expected to play for nearly 45 minutes and our friends from the surrounding community began to arrive!

The kitchen squad were busy sorting the food out – much appreciated fish

finger rolls this time. The kitchen team is the one that is very often overlooked as they work in the background but anyone will tell you, the food be it bacon butties, fish finger rolls or hot cross buns, depending on the season, are vital to the success of the morning. This year, the team had been augmented by the 'new kid on the block' John Hogarth, who just loves cooking!!

The theme for this year's Autumn Adventure was based on the 'Feeding of the 5000' The miracle of the loaves and the fishes. Some of the usual volunteers were unavailable this year for a variety of reasons but the hall was set out with the different activity tables and there was plenty to keep young visitors occupied.





As usual there was a quiet space and a Bible study session was available, organised for those who wanted time and space to be still and reflect.

This year picnic blankets were laid down for the story time at the end, wholly appropriate when you think of the crowd who were fed by Jesus and a young lad offering his picnic lunch

and the miracle that ensued,. Captain Debbie was the story teller on this occasion.

Grateful thanks to Naomi and her fantastic team of volunteers who set the hall up on the Friday and then entertained our guests on the Sunday morning. A huge thank you to all who once again welcomed our friends from the surrounding area and worked to make the event such a good experience,



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thursday 27 November 2025

3.30pm – 6.30pm

Santa's Grotto

Christmas Crafts Hook-a-Bauble

Jams & Marmalade Santa's Sweeties

Cakes & Bakes

Prayer & Memory Station

Hot food & refreshments

Big Thank you to Penny and Peter

Expression of thanks given by Major John Martin at Penny & Peter's last Sunday at the corps prior to moving to Dublin



A Christian does not believe in luck, chance or coincidence.

A Christian does believe, however, in the presence of God at every moment, in every place, in every situation. The word we use is 'omniscience', God being all-knowing, in the past, the present, and the future.

When Andrew and Jo went on holiday 10 years ago, far from these shores they probably didn't imagine an encounter that has had an affect on their lives – and ours! When Penny and Peter went to the same destination, at the same time, and met Andrew and Jo, they couldn't imagine that meeting each other would have impact that that encounter has had on their lives – and ours!and to think, they only live 3.7 miles from each other!

On that holiday, Andrew and Jo

spoke about their involvement with The Salvation Army, and an invitation to join with us at a Sunday meeting. For Peter, the memory of TSA in his early life was a very strong one, attending TSA at Birkenhead – and the strong influence of the corps officers at that time, Paul and Julie Johnson; and also the impact of the Divisional Youth Secretary's – Captains (now Colonels) Melvin and Suzanne Fincham who we welcome this morning!

Although Peter had been a part of TSA, the conversation with Andrew and Jo rekindled those memories and, thankfully, Penny and Peter came to a Sunday morning meeting. As the C.O. at the time, I visited P&P and noticed a grand piano in one of the rooms. I politely asked, 'Who plays this?' 'I do', said Penny. 'Are you any good?' said I.....the reply was what most Corps Officers would be delighted to hear....."Well, I'm up to grade 8"

...and so, P&P made this corps their spiritual home, contributing to the mission of the corps.

A conversation; an invitation; a commitment; the giving of talents and service. That Penny and Peter have contributed to the life of this corps is beyond question. On behalf of Jo and myself, thank you for contributing so

well to the ministry of the songsters and to the band; on behalf of the corps and corps officers, thank you Penny for providing accompaniment to congregational singing through your piano-playing – and saxophone with the non-brass worship group; and for your beautiful and thoughtful interludes as we give in our financial offerings. We wish you well for your

move to Dublin.

You will remind us that people will respond when invitations are given.

Thank you, Andrew and Jo, for inviting 2 strangers to your (our) church community! May we all look out for an opportunity (maybe closer to home!) in which to extend an invitation.

Farewell to the Oniye Family

as they make a new home in Canada



Wunmi and John Oniye came to a meeting sometime in 2024 and sat near the back. Afterwards she asked how to make an offering. That was interesting on a first visit! They had come from a Pentecostal church, and the worship style is quite different from ours, but they found a good welcome at the Salvation Army, and they chose to stay. As Wunmi said, ‘the love is here’ and that confirmed the presence of God for them.

When Xander Coleman arranged a fellowship meal to share more about the Salvation Army and its membership, I was seated across from John.

He is naturally quiet, but we had a nice conversation, and he shared that he was a solicitor in Nigeria, and that he had always listened to BBC World Service radio.

After this I had a chance to visit them at home. Up until that time, little Prince Isaac had not appeared to notice attempts to greet him. But the very next Sunday he said, ‘I know you. You’ve been to our house’. This was a word of advice from a small child that really stuck with us in the children and youth team, as we continue to build relationship with other new families, and make sure to visit at home.

John is a thoughtful believer, and a clear influence on his children.

Wunmi is a woman of prayer and encouragement, who also encourages her daughters to be capable and help-

ful. Their daughters have names that reflect blessings of God: Morolake (known as Rolake) means the treasure of God; Mojola (known as Dara) is God's favour; Morewa means the beauty of God.

The three sisters really stuck together at first, but we have come to know them each little by little. They joined a few songster rehearsals, and each had favourite songs, once Jo managed to get a word out of them! Morewa had a placement at the hall for her school work experience as well, and if you look at the fridge you will see her handwriting there on a little magnet. The youth will certainly miss their humorous participation.

Prince Isaac has loved attending church and has been an enthusiastic participant in all the activities. We will miss them all.

When Wunmi and John broke the news of their pending move, the first question was, "where are you going?" Canada is a big country, so

when they mentioned Edmonton in the province of Alberta, Louise immediately reacted, "oh! I have a cousin there!" Almost too good to be true, because they wanted to keep a connection with The Salvation Army and Sandie is their bridge. We have felt sad, but let's give thanks for the time we have had together, and continue to pray for the family as they settle in. As Psalm 121:8 says, God watches over our coming, and our going, always.

Here is their farewell message:

"To our beloved church family,

As we say goodbye, our hearts are filled with gratitude...we have been encouraged, supported, and prayed for in ways that have deeply touched our lives. This church has been more than just a place of worship – it has been a true family. Though our journey is taking us to a new country, we will forever treasure the friendships, the worship, and the fellowship we shared. May the Lord continue to strengthen and bless this congregation abundantly."

We wish all our readers a very

Happy Christmas

and

A Peaceful New Year

Thank you for your support and contributions throughout this year, and we look forward to hearing from you in 2026



Christmas Events 2025

November

Sat 22nd Friary Brass Band 19.30 – 21.00

Sun 30th Brunch at Bethlehem

First in Advent 11:00-12:15

December

Sun 7th Gift Day for Parcel Extravaganza

Second in Advent 11:00-12:15

Sun 7th RHS Wisley 15:30-17:00TBC

Wed 10th Parcel Prep

11:00-15:00 - to follow on from Brunch

Thurs 11th Parcel Wrapping Extravaganza

09:00-13:00

Sun 14th Sunday Morning Worship

Third in Advent 11:00-12:15

Sun 14th RHS Wisley 15:30-17:00 TBC

Thurs 18th Community Carols – Lakeview

19:30-20:30

Sun 21st Family Carol Service

Fourth in Advent 11:00-12:15

Wed 24th Candlelight Service 17 :30-18:30

Thurs 25th Christmas Day Service

10:30-11:30

Sun 28th Betwixmas 11:00-12:00

Sunday Morning Worship

-

Comedy Hall

D.O.H.

(Department of Humour)

Three Ministers were discussing the best Position for prayer while a telephone engineer worked nearby. The first declared kneeling was best while the second preferred standing with arms stretched to heaven. The third disagreed with both saying that the most efficient position was lying prostrate face down on the floor.

The engineer, unable to restrain himself any longer, interrupted saying that the best praying he ever did was hanging upside down from a telegraph pole.

Dieting under stress:-

This diet is designed to help you cope with stress that builds up during the day.

Breakfast

Half a grapefruit, 1 slice wholemeal toast, 3oz skimmed milk

Lunch

4oz lean chicken breast, 1 cup Steamed spinach, 1 cup herbal tea, 1 chocolate chip cookie

Mid afternoon snack

Rest of cookies in packet, 2 pints chocolate chip ice cream, 1 jar hot fudge sauce with nuts and fresh cream

Dinner

2 loaves garlic bread with cheese, 1 large sausage pizza, 4 cans cola, 3 Mars bars

Late evening snack

Entire Black Forest Gateau

Two men entered the retirement home cafeteria cheering and slapping each other on the back. Asked what they were celebrating they announced that they had completed a puzzle in only 4 months whereas the box top had said 2 - 4 years!

Keep happy *Major Laugh*

Hearts & Crafts

Everyone welcome to call in and join the Hearts & Crafts craft club.

The club meets the second and last Wednesday of the month.

1.4pm – 3.15pm

Bring your own craft activity and enjoy a chat and sharing ideas.

No club during December

Leaders – Chris & Jan



Saturday 22 November 2025

Visit of Friary Band

7.30pm

Admission - £10.00

Tickets available from Jenny Whitten

Proceeds to The Big Connection

FLOWER LIST

November

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Peter and Louise Stickland |
| 9 | Gill Gregory |
| 16 | Ted and Freda Benneyworth |
| 23 | Martin and Chris Hayter |
| 30 | Janet and Michael Brooks |

December

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 7 | Vickie Hardwick |
| 14 | Christmas Display |
| 21 | Christmas Display |
| 28 | Christmas Display |

MacMillan Coffee Morning 25

Following on the tradition of several years the coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, took place as usual, with plenty of supporters and a willing band of volunteer helpers.

The following message was later received by Darren, the Community Programme Manager from Lesley

Just home!

Pleasantly exhausted after an amazing morning raising money for MacMillan.

Thank you to the BEST team for all the work put into the event. A huge success. The atmosphere was amazing. My husband Mark was bowled over by what he saw.

We raised **£545.00** - outstanding!

Rosemary's market stall, tea/coffee, cakes and Mary's jamsthe perfect combination. Last year's total was £365.00, an outstanding increase.

We think at least 60 guests came this year.

Well done everyone and a big **THANK YOU**

Looking forward to next year already!

Lesley



Taking a rest before the next 'cuppa'



*Rosemary & Lesley
Busy, busy, busy!*

Only by grace!!!!

My story in words – by John Hogarth



After sharing a little of my story a few Sundays ago, I've been asked if I would put it in words on paper. If I were to write it all down, it would fill 'Tidings' and may shock some of your readers! But I am happy to share some more of my story.

Before reading any further I would encourage you to read 'Only by Grace can we enter' number 471 in the Salvation Army songbook and to read 1 Peter 2 : 9 – 10.

As previously shared, prior to coming to faith on the 8th of November 1987 my life was a bit chaotic: leaving school before my time, and doing things my way, often on the wrong side of the law, and forever looking over my shoulder to keep safe from police and others who I may have crossed. My father asked me to leave

home when I was 18 because of my lifestyle of drink and crime. this resulted in not seeing my parents for nearly three years. Things came to a head when a person who I associated with tried to throw me out of a fifth-floor window, fighting back I was able to walk away.

I walked around Newcastle for hours wondering what to do, things were getting scary. I'd been arrested a few times and now my life had become threatened by an associate of mine.

I bit the bullet and rang my parents explaining everything and asked them if it was possible that I could return home, to try to get my life sorted out. They were hesitant because of the trouble and hurt I had caused. They eventually agreed, with some boundaries in place.

Things were on the up, settled back at home, finding a job. But the sinful nature was still working hard to drag me back to my old lifestyle, even former associates finding out where I lived and coming to the door. Things had to change! So, I decided to move away. In September 1979 I moved to Shepperton to begin all over again.

Working as a care assistant and moving up the ladder to assistant manager, and then relief manager, working across various care homes in Walton

on Thames. Chertsey etc I was becoming quite successful. Eventually being able to buy a property in Sunbury on Thames in 1984. Brilliant I thought: Money in my pocket, nice car and property. I said to myself that I had come a long way in a short space of time. And then it all went wrong, and I lost everything. Who was I kidding? This uneducated Geordie could do no good.

It was back to the Northeast: Sleeping on my brother's sofa, technically homeless, and unemployed. One thing I can be thankful for is family, little did I know that family was going to get huge.

A couple of months after being back I got a small, smelly, grotty and damp flat and then the first of an amazing God event happened (Not that I knew that at the time). I got a knock at the door, and an old school friend was standing there, "How did you know I was here" I asked. He smiled and said, "we have our ways" and invited me for tea.

My journey towards salvation was about to begin.

After renewing our friendship, Pete and his wife Annette invited me to church, "No way" I said, "It's not for me". They didn't push, but gently every now and then an invite came, eventually I said "OK" and I went along,

After a couple of weeks, a lady by

the name of Margaret led the meeting, I can't remember a word that she said! But, back in my grotty flat I sat on my bed and spoke out loud "If you're real God, prove yourself to me" I didn't know how to pray, I just asked. A miracle happened, I felt so loved and warmed, like being wrapped in a cosy duvet and I had the best sleep from memory that I ever had. That was the night of the 8th of November 1987.

The next morning, I found a telephone and phoned my friends to share my news, and they said, "Before you say anything, we know", Apparently, they went back to Margaret's house and prayed, and someone said, "That's it" and they all went home. Well! That just blew my mind. My new life with Christ was about to begin.

The uneducated Geordie wanted to know so much about this person Jesus: who would die for his sin, I wanted to know what he said, what he did, where he went, who his followers were.

I was blessed to have a number of people who would nurture me, all special brothers and sisters. My family was growing.

One brother, Mike who worked with 'Open Doors' invited me to Romania, this was just three years after becoming accepted by God. We worked in children's orphanage-

es, he encouraged me to preach at church, and at his circus tent. It was a blessed time and when I have more time I'll share more of my time in Romania.

I was then hungry to know more about Christianity; I applied to go to Bible college to study theology. Don Hinchcliffe the principle interviewed me and one question he asked was "What makes you believe that you'll be able to study here? You have no GSCE's, no O levels, or even A level!". My reply I believe was God inspired "With God's help I will " I started college within five years into my new life, it was difficult. But, with Christ by my side I did it! finishing College in 1994

I continued my work in Romania also working with 'The Pocket Testament League' set up by the Cadbury family. Their daughter Helen

was upset to see that her school friends didn't have a Bible, so the Cadbury chocolate dynasty began printing the gospels which Helen took to school. They are still doing the same today with Gary Woodall in the hot seat.

Life was exciting and then God took me in a direction that I didn't want to go. My life was in the mission field in Romania, but God's plan was different to mine! God took me to Tiverton Devon - never heard of the place before!

I was a new pastor of a growing church, my life was so far away from my previous life, and it was good. Then praise God, he gave me a wonderful wife. In seven years, God took an uneducated Geordie on a journey of unexplainable blessings, and the glories are all His.

It's only by grace.



Warmest of welcomes to Tahlia

Tahlia, seen here with her mum and Yoma Martin was born 7 July 2025.

Her parents are Ever, who was made an adherent in 2024, and Takunda Chimanga.

Welcome to our church family Tahlia.

Terrain - Ethan



Wales for the first of four residential weekends as part of Terrain — a Salvation Army programme for 18–25 year olds. The course combines online learning with time away together, creating space to explore who God is, who they are, and how that might shape the way they live and serve in the world.

Please keep Ethan in your prayers as he begins an important new venture.

Ethan recently travelled to South

Let's remember Ethan as he takes these first steps and pray that the course will be a significant and meaningful part of his faith journey.

Archbishop of Canterbury Designate Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE



The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE was born in Woking in 1962 and attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She became a Christian at the age of 16. Prior to ordination she worked as a nurse, ultimately becoming the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for Eng-

land. Having recognised a call to ordination she was ordained in 2001.

On 12 May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

Congratulation are obviously in order but more especially we offer prayers for wisdom, grace and spiritual and physical strength for when Bishop Sarah is enthroned and assumes her responsibility as the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Direct Line

Just recently I read the following in a weekly prayer/newsletter I receive. It's a story I hadn't read before and my immediate thought was that it was something I should share. It's an old song born out of one man's sorrow and distress. A song well known to an older generation but Google it to get the complete song if you're younger and unfamiliar with it.

Joseph Scriven was born in Ireland in 1819. He was educated and received a degree from Trinity College in Dublin and became a teacher. With plans to settle down and soon to marry, life was good for Joseph. Unfortunately, the day before his wedding, his future wife drowned.

The grief was more than he could bear, so Joseph moved to Canada to start again. There, he met and fell in love again, with Eliza Rice, and planned to be married, again. It is unthinkable that you could lose so much in one young lifetime but weeks before they were to be wed, Eliza became sick and died from her illness. Joseph was only 25.

From this heartache, and through faith in his God, a mission was born. Joseph took a vow of poverty and began to help the poor and the handicapped in any way he could. **For ten years he made himself available to come alongside those that were in need and he found comfort and purpose in serving.**

Then, unbelievably, heartache would strike again! His mother, still in Ireland and Scriven in Canada, became very ill and he did not have the funds to help her or to go and be with her. He penned the words to this poem **for her** and it has since comforted, encouraged and uplifted generations!

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear,
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer
Oh what peace we often forfeit! Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**

*Blessings
Freda*

She can't be . . . But she is!!

Happy 80th

To

Wendy Taylor

on

Friday 14th November

Looking good Wendy!!

Belated Congratulations

to

Audrey and Maurice

on surviving

68 years of marriage!!!



Audrey and Maurice with Gill the chief bridesmaid 68 years ago!

Praying for workers!!!

The 9:38 Prayer Challenge

The Issue

The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. (Matthew 9:37)

The Solution

Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into his harvest field.
(Matthew 9:38)

The Challenge

Set a reminder alarm at 9.38 every day
(morning or evening or both)
and ask God to send more workers
where you are.

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

or e-mail: peterfstickland@gmail.com

Please note

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

Sunday December 14th 2025

Our Mission Statement

Our fellowship exists to:-

Reach out in love and
Respect to all in our
Community.

Encourage people to connect
To Jesus and one another.

Grow mature followers of
Jesus.