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January 2026

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a happy and blessed Christmas with your family and friends and you have all known afresh the truth of 'Immanuel, God with us.'

Thank you to each and every one of you for the extra mile that you have gone over this past year, particularly over this Christmas period. We pray that God has blessed and used all that has been done over this time.

And so we look forward to this New Year and all that God has in store for us, both as individuals and as a Corps family. This year of course is our 140th Corps Anniversary and we look forward to all of the different events as we celebrate God's blessings of the past and His hope for the future.

The prophet Jeremiah says: 'blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.' (Jeremiah 17:7).

My prayer for each of us is that we continue to place our trust firmly in God so that in the days that lie ahead, we can continue to not only know the riches of His blessings for ourselves but be the means of helping others to know the truth of God's love and grace for themselves.

God bless you
Major Kevin

Regular Activities

Sunday:

9:30am Breakfast Church
10:30am Morning Worship

4pm Messy Church (2nd Sunday of the month or otherwise stated)

Fellowship Lunch (3rd Sunday of the month)

Café Church—To Be Confirmed.

Tuesday:

10:00am CAMEO Club

2:00pm Over Sixties Club

Wednesday:

Bi-weekly prayer meeting 7:00pm
7:45pm Songster Practice



Thursday:

6:00pm Music makers

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Monday to Friday

Café on the Rec - see website for opening hours and

Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Also **Sunday mornings** 8.30am to 10am for the Junior Park run.

All item(s) for the February newsletter: messages, prayers or prayer requests, please let Major Kevin, Caroline, Mags or Bev know by Sunday 18th January. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you each month, please let Bev know.

Please pray for the family of Mr David Fisher who was promoted to glory last month. May they find peace, love and comfort in knowing that he is safe in the arms of Jesus, his Lord and Saviour whom he has served and loved from a very young age. Details of David's Funeral Service to follow.

Also pray for Majors Kevin & Pam Pitt on the loss of their brother-in-law.

Pray for Mags as she recovers from the operation on her shoulder. May recovery be swift and painless.

Many are feeling under the weather at this time of the year. Watch over yourselves and your loved ones!

For all those we know residing in care homes, ask the Lord to continue to bring them peace of heart and mind; always giving thanks for the staff who take great care of them.

Lord of time and eternity, as 2026 dawns, renew our spirits. Let each sunrise remind us of Your mercy, and each sunset teach us to rest in Your peace. Guide our steps toward kindness, and may our days be filled with quiet courage.

Creator of all nations, bless the earth in 2026. Heal divisions, soften hearts, and awaken us to the dignity of every life. May justice roll down like waters, and compassion rise like the morning light.

Prince of Peace, let 2026 be a year of reconciliation. Where there is conflict, sow understanding. Where there is fear, plant trust. And where there is silence, let love speak.

Pray for our 140th Corps Anniversary commencing in February. May this be an open opportunity for us to invite people to the various activities planned introducing them to our church community.



Dates for your Diary January

Sunday morning services:

**Sunday 11th service led by
Majors Carl & Beverley Wardley**

Sunday 18th—Covenant Sunday

**Sunday 25th—Churches Together Meeting for
Christian Unity 6:30 p.m.**

CAMEO & OVER SIXTIES Return Tuesday 13th January.

**Please note that the car park is out of use on Monday 19th January
from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4). This is the theme for the Global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, arranged by the World Council of Churches. The week runs from 18 – 25 January, and locally in Stowmarket from Monday 19 to Saturday 24 January there will be opportunity to meet for prayer and reflection at 9.30 am each day at the United Reformed Church. Each session, lasting about 30 minutes will be led by a different fellowship using material prepared Internationally by Churches in Armenia. A United service arranged by Stowmarket Churches Together will be held at the Salvation Army at 6.30pm on Sunday 25 January. This ecumenical celebration provides an opportunity to focus our prayers on Christian Unity and know that in this week we are joining with our brothers and sisters in Christ across the Globe to call to work for peace for all people everywhere. Could you make time to get to one or more of the sessions or service? You would be very welcome.

My reflection on the New Year!

As we cross the threshold into a new year, you may imagine the moment as a doorway—one foot being in what has been, the other in what is yet to come. God's word reminds us that he meets us in both places. “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” That prayer from the Psalms isn't about counting time, but about inhabiting it with intention, tenderness, and trust. The year behind us holds a mixture of things: Moments we're proud of; moments we wish had gone differently; Quiet, unnoticed acts of love; Days that felt ordinary, even forgettable. And yet God has been present in all of them. Not only in the bright, triumphant moments, but in the small, faithful ones—the ones no one else saw. The ones that didn't make a story, but still shaped a soul. The year ahead is unwritten, but not empty. It is held by the same God who has carried us this far. We don't need to know everything that will unfold. We only need to trust that: Grace will meet us in the morning; Strength will rise when needed; Light will find its way into our shadows and Love will continue its quiet work in us.

The hope we have in Christ doesn't demand certainty, it simply asks us to stay open to the possibility that God is already preparing goodness we cannot yet see. May 2026 be a year where:

- We walk more gently with ourselves
- We notice the sacred in the ordinary
- We honour the quiet lives around us
- We become bearers of peace in a restless world

May God give us courage for the days that challenge us, compassion for the days that weary us, and joy for the days that surprise us, and may we step into this year not with fear, but with a deep, steady trust that we are held, guided, and loved. Every Blessing Bev x