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March 2026

We are now in the period of Lent, a period starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Saturday, when many people engage in a period of reflection and self examination. This is to help deepen faith and grow closer to God and also to get ready to truly celebrate Easter. This period of time echoes the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting before He began His public ministry.

It was good to see our youngsters in Breakfast church the other week thinking about what they could possibly give up to help them in their focus on the things of God for this period. Of course in this time some people may give up things, some may fast, some may follow specific Bible study and prayer books. Some people may even decide to do random acts of kindness throughout this period. But it is good for us to engage in some of these ways to help us in our personal journey of faith and to focus more on God.

Starting on Tuesday 10th March we are going to be looking at the Lent Bible study book 'Approaching Jesus' as a preparation for Easter. It is good to journey together and so I would encourage you, if you are able, to come along to that Bible study.

In Romans 12:1-2 Paul wrote these words.

'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of Your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- His good pleasing and perfect will'.

I pray that for each one of us that this time of Lent will be a time when we all grow closer to God and experience fully all that God wants to share with us in this time.

Every blessing

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)

10:30 am Café Church—4th Sunday of the month

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 April newsletter: messages, prayers or prayer requests, please let Major Kevin, Caroline, Mags or Bev know by Sunday 22nd March. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you each month, please let Bev know.



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 1st March—Visit of Una Voce to lead worship. Una Voce is a choir made up of young adults from across the United Kingdom, who are linked to and members of The Salvation Army.

Friday March 6th World Day of Prayer 10:30am

Sunday 8th Self Denial Altar Service
4pm Messy Church

Tuesday 10th; 17th; 24th & 31st March ‘Approaching Jesus’
Lent Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at the Hall

Sunday 15th March—Mother’s Day

Sunday 22nd March—Café Church—10:30 am
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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026
SA Hall - Friday 6 March, 10.30am

The World Day of Prayer (originally known as the Women’s World Day of Prayer) takes place annually, this year on Friday 6 March. Ecumenical groups of Christians across the world will be gathering for Worship and Prayer at some time on this day, using material prepared by Christians in Nigeria. The theme is drawn from Matthew 11: 28-30 – “I will give you rest, come”. The creator’s intention is to help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. It reinforces the truth that rest is not just about physical relief, but about transformation through Gods grace and community support. If you can, please come along and share for about an hour in worship and prayer with Christian friends from the town on this occasion, knowing that you will be part of a worldwide event. Prayer changes things and changes us.

Look out for information on:
Evening Walks —various routes in May, June and July
And
Alpha Course: September—December

Tickets for events will be available from the Café on the Rec and from The Salvation Army, Stowmarket, through the year. You can also scan this QR Code to order tickets for events.



Prayer Topics for the month

Week	Our Corps/Church	Our Community	Our World
2	All events planned for our 140th anniversary	Peace and unity among community members	Peace & respite for all countries affected by war.
3	Spiritual growth & maturity	Local businesses, that they will prosper, acting Responsibly and ethically	
4	A new sense of wonder and awe.	Safety and protection for emergency services	For those involved in rescue, help and support when disasters happen.
5	Wisdom and discernment for all those in leadership	For those facing financial difficulties	For the poor, destitute and people who struggle just to survive each day.

April 17th Lunchtime concert
‘Anglia Fellowship SA Band’ 12noon FREE

May 16th Come and sing... Afternoon singing workshop with Britain’s Got Talent semi finalist and international artist Charlie Green.
Evening concert, with Charlie Green 7pm
Tickets £15

June 13th Car Treasure Hunt
Register your interest by phoning 01449 614133

July 17th Golf Evening. Enjoy an evening round at the Stowmarket 9-hole course. £20 per head inc BBQ. Register your interest by phoning 01449 614133

September 12th Barn Dance and Hog Roast
@ Hart’s Farm, Combs 7pm
Tickets: Adults £15 Child (under 12) £8

October 17th Visiting Salvation Army Band from Regent Hall. Afternoon playing workshop, followed by an evening concert 7pm Tickets £10

October 19th Dwell—an evening of all age prayer and worship.

November 14th Christmas Fayre
If you would like a stall, email stowmarket@salvationarmy.org.uk

November 21st Quiz Night—further details to follow.

December Community Carols
Further details to follow.

As part of our ‘140 years in Stowmarket’ celebrations you are invited to join in the ‘Meet and Eat’ meals throughout the year. These are opportunities to bring your family, friends and neighbours along too. We have the following planned with the majority of them after the Sunday meeting. More details will be given each month but you might like to put the dates in your diaries now.

- March 22nd – Thai meal in the Hall
- April 26th – Chinese meal at Chinese Chequers
- May 24th – picnic at Felixstowe
- June 28th – picnic at Needham Lake
- July 26th – BBQ at the hall
- September 27th – Indian supper at Red Fort restaurant
- October 25th – Bring and Share buffet in the Hall
- November 30th – Christmas dinner in the Hall

If you would like to come along to the Thai dinner organised by Nessa Little, please add your name to the list on the '140' window. The cost for this is £7.50 each.