

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY NEWSLETTER

# OUTLOOK

MARCH 2026 - ISSUE 35



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# Message from the Corps Officers

**Sunday Worship...Morning Service at 10am.**

**Sunday School at 10.45am.**

**Corps Officers : Majors Carrie & Philip James**

In The Salvation Army, the observance of a full liturgical calendar has not traditionally been a hallmark of our practice, aside from the major festivals that many celebrate, such as Christmas and Easter. Instead, we have cultivated our own unique periods of reflection, like Self-Denial, and designated special days, including Covenant Sunday and

Candidates' Sunday. In my personal experience, Lent has often been viewed simply as a time when some of our friends choose to forgo indulgences like chocolate or cake, while we also remember to pick up Easter eggs for family gatherings. However, for much of the broader Christian community, the 40 days of Lent symbolise a profound period of introspection—mirroring the time Jesus spent in the wilderness at the onset of his ministry, a time characterised by fasting, trials, and spiritual preparation.



In recent years, there has been a notable shift in our approach. We have begun to embrace collaboration with our fellow church communities through weekly Lent reflections, which this year are once again intertwined with our Thankful Friday coffee mornings. Additionally, this year, we have been invited, as a Territory, to embark on a collective journey that moves from Hidden to Whole. This journey echoes the powerful verse from Hosea 10:12, shared with us at the outset of the year on Covenant Sunday:

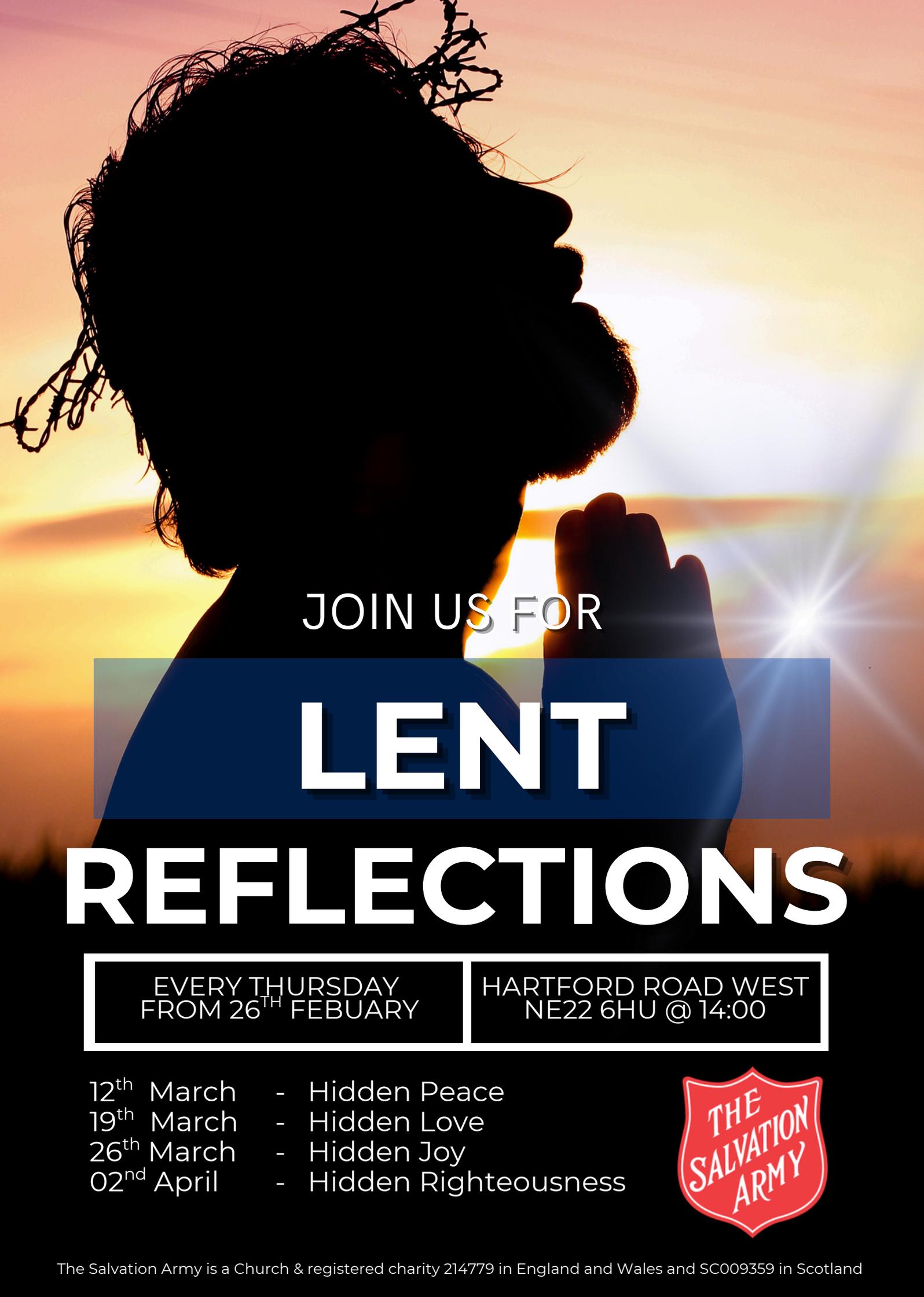


"12 Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you."

During this significant season, we are encouraged to delve into thoughts and feelings that may lie hidden within our unploughed ground—the parts of our lives that perhaps remain less accessible to God than they could be.

Throughout these weeks, we are invited to uncover and seek hidden treasures of hope, boldness, peace, love, joy, and righteousness as we navigate this transformative journey from Hidden to Whole. We warmly welcome you to join us on this path, as we explore these themes not only in our Sunday worship services but also during our reflections at 2pm each Thursday. And as we look forward to the culmination of this journey, let us all smile and say, HAPPY EASTER!

God Bless You, Carrie and Philip



JOIN US FOR

LENT

REFLECTIONS

EVERY THURSDAY  
FROM 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

HARTFORD ROAD WEST  
NE22 6HU @ 14:00

- 12<sup>th</sup> March - Hidden Peace
- 19<sup>th</sup> March - Hidden Love
- 26<sup>th</sup> March - Hidden Joy
- 02<sup>nd</sup> April - Hidden Righteousness



# Message from the CSM

Lent has officially begun, marking a sacred journey from Wednesday, February 18, 2026, to Thursday, April 2, 2026. This season invites Christians from every denomination to engage in a profound period of preparation for the celebration of Easter, a time that symbolises hope and renewal.



Who doesn't cherish Pancake Day? It's that delightful occasion when we gather all the necessary ingredients to whip up the perfect stack of golden, fluffy pancakes. There's a special joy in savouring that delightful taste, perhaps even indulging more than we originally intended.

But have you ever stopped to consider what would happen if we omitted one vital ingredient? The flavour and experience would surely fall short; we would miss out on the full delight of that celebratory day.

Similarly, as we approach Lent—a crucial lead-up to Easter—what if we neglected to include one of the essential ingredients in our spiritual preparation? This is a time for deep reflection, for sincere repentance, and for committing ourselves to reading and prayer, all of which enrich our experience of Easter. If we overlook these aspects, we risk missing out on invaluable moments with Jesus before the pivotal events of the Passion. One can only wonder if the disciples felt a twinge of regret for any missed conversations with Him—the depth of His presence, the solace of His guidance, the wisdom He imparted.

Lent calls us to be intentional about our spiritual lives, to pause and evaluate our relationship with God. It invites us to seek forgiveness for those moments when we've failed to embody God's love towards others or when the whirlwind of our busy lives has unintentionally drawn our focus away from Him. This season reminds us of the significance of preparing our hearts for the reason behind our faith, as we accompany Jesus on His journey toward the Cross.

I pray we can carve out precious time during this Lent to intentionally engage with Jesus, to walk alongside Him, and to introspectively examine our bond with Him. May we resist the distractions and temptations of our hectic lives that threaten to steal that sacred time away from us. Let us not miss out on that essential ingredient, lest we fail to fully experience and cherish the profound flavour of Christ in our lives.

God Bless,  
Jill



# BEDLINGTON CORPS ARCHIVE

We are preparing an update to our corps history in anticipation of our 150th anniversary in 2028.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance by sharing any old photos or memories you have about the Corps.

If you loan us any physical items, we promise to return them once we have finished using them.

If you are willing to help, please speak to either Jill Moore or Daniel Mercer. Alternatively, you can email us at [Bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk).

Thank you!

# Youth Makes Music

Last month, four of our young people made the 372-mile trip to Bournemouth for a week of worship, fellowship and music as they participated in the youth music programme known as the Territorial Youth Band & Choir. Grace Lightley, Abigail Cottam, Samuel Tasker and Jacob Smith all attended for their first time.



There were over 100 delegates at this year's event, with Jacob and Samuel being the second group of individuals to represent Bedlington at TYB, following Michael, who did so two years ago. However, this is the first time any member from Bedlington has been represented at TYC.

During a recent Sunday morning worship, Samuel Tasker shared a testimony and reflected on his week at TYB. He mentioned that one of the pieces he played that best connected with the theme was *The Light of the World* by Dean Goffin. The music powerfully reflected the message of Jesus as the light shining into darkness.

The theme at TYB was based on John 8:12, where Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In this verse, Jesus reveals that He is the true and only source of spiritual truth, guidance, and salvation. He promises to lead those who follow Him out of the darkness of sin and into the light of eternal life.

Samuel went on to explain that during the Tuesday worship session, the students were each given a painting that hangs in St Paul's Cathedral. The painting, *The Light of the World*, shows Jesus standing at a door, knocking, while holding a lantern. He is surrounded by darkness, yet He brings light with Him. We learned that the door in the painting only has one handle — and it is on the inside. Although Jesus is powerful enough to open any door, He chooses not to force His way in. Instead, He waits for us to open our hearts to Him. One of the biggest things I took away from that session is that we are the ones who must respond. Jesus stands ready to bring light into our lives, but we must choose to let Him in.

Grace Lightley also shared her experience with us and she told Outlook, I had never attended before I was unsure of what would happen in the week ahead of me but I can proudly say it was an amazing week!



On the first night, we braved the cold weather to join together in worship. This was where the key theme was introduced to us for the first time, being the light of the world, and to reiterate this we sang the chorus of *Here I am* to worship as this is a constant reminder that God is the light to us.

In our worship we talked about how we need to shine Jesus' light in our everyday lives and to not fear the darkness in the world as said in Matthew 5:14-16 - 'You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven'. This links to one of my favourite pieces, *There's a light in heaven's window*. In the piece it says 'When the gloom of night enfolds me I see God's guiding star'. For me personally this is a reminder that no matter what we are going through and even if we are in a dark place, God will guide us through so we can shine for him.

I cannot put into words how much I enjoyed this week. Overall, the best week making new memories, some amazing new friends growing in my faith and of course doing one of the things I love most, singing!! We are so pleased they all came back saying they had a great week.

# THANKFUL FRIDAY

Every Friday

10:00 - 12:00

Hartford Road West NE22 6HU



Tea  
Coffee  
Toasted Tea Cakes  
Biscuits



The Salvation Army is a Church & registered charity 214779 in England and Wales and SC009359 in Scotland



Friday, April 3, 2026

# Good Friday

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Bedlington Salvation Army Service  
Starting 10:00

Bedlington Churches Together in  
market place  
Starting 11:30

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Band at Churches Together "Walk  
of Witness" in Morpeth  
Starting 11:30

# Weekly Programme

## SUNDAY

**Morning Service** 10.00am

**Sunday School** 10.45am

## MONDAY

**Home League** 12.30pm

Monthly—see monthly plan

## WEDNESDAY

**Little Lambs Toddler Group** 9.15-11.15am

Children up to 3yrs must be with an adult.

Call Arleen to book a place.

**Seniors Lunch Club** 12.00pm

Two Course meal for Over 60s. £5

Please call Arleen to book a place

**Over 60s Sunshine Hour** 1.30—2.30pm

All welcome (if you're over 60)

## FRIDAY

**Little Lambs Toddler Group** 9.15-11.15am

Children up to 3yrs must be with an adult.

Call Arleen to book a place.

**Thankful Friday** 10am-noon.

Free refreshments & all welcome

# Corps Calendar In March

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Lent Reflections - Hidden Peace - 2pm

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Churches fellowship lent Friday & Worship Week 3

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

YP social on Saturday day out and Sunday Serviceled by YP

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Officers Retreat @ Slaley Hall Hotel, Hexham

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Men's fellowship - Talk - 7:30pm

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>**

Lent Reflections - Hidden Love - 2pm

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Churches fellowship lent Friday & Worship Week 4  
&  
Children and Youth Day Conference

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Youth Chorus at Stockton - 6:30pm

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**

Lent Reflections - Hidden Joy - 2pm

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Churches fellowship lent Friday & Worship Week 5

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>**

Home League, Easter theme - Bob & Barbara/Sheilagh