

SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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Local ...  
Lively ...  
Loving

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## The Job Interview

I found this short story while sorting through some old 'Friendship' books that mother had. I randomly flipped through the 2016 edition and stopped at the reading for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Six young men were applying for one job at the telegraph office. They all knew Morse code so they filled out the applications the secretary gave them with confidence. Then they all sat and waited to be called into the office for an interview.

A few minutes later one young man got up and walked into the office. The others were amazed at his nerve. But the secretary explained, "While you have been sitting there, the telegraph was repeatedly tapping out a message. It said, 'if you understand this, come in. You've got the job'"

The message was there for all of them. Each of them could have deciphered it. But only one was listening.

It's intriguing to think that the world, and everything in it, might be a message sent to each of us, inviting us to play a part in God's Grand Plan. Are you listening? Do you want the job?

*Gary Matthews*

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## People

We were sad to learn that Robert, Loraine's brother, died suddenly on Monday. Please uphold Loraine and the wider family in your prayers over the coming weeks, along with those families within our fellowship who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one, including David Leonards family who are preparing for his funeral on:

- Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm at Westerleigh Crematorium

There are a number of people within our fellowship who are poorly and/or living with long term health conditions. In particular we remember those who are in hospital, including Viv who was admitted to Southmead Hospital on Thursday.

## Youth Retreat

This weekend our Young People are attending their corps youth retreat. We are sure that they will have a brilliant time and be strengthened, encouraged and inspired on their Christian journey.

## General Farewell Bulletin

This coming Thursday, officers moving in the summer receive farewell orders. Please remember all corps and officers where moves will be taking place.

## Flowers

The flowers today are for Beryl for her birthday this week, with love from Becky.

## Fairtrade

We have always tried to be careful about the products we buy and use in our building, and wherever possible we use Fairtrade goods. This is part of our '*Seek Justice & Reconciliation*' Mission Priority. This week, we finally got ourselves registered as a 'Fairtrade Church'. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in this.



## Serve Others Without Discrimination

Last Monday, an open meeting on one of our Mission Priorities took place – '*Serve Others Without Discrimination*'. Please see minutes on the noticeboard, but here are the main points:

- Suggestions to extend our programme, ensuring there is capacity to expand and avoiding duplication within the local community.
- Raise awareness of community activities by featuring on a Sunday, in the bulletin and on facebook
- Funding available for an employee – explore options e.g. Community manager/ apprenticeship, etc.

Just a reminder that every few months an open meeting is arranged to focus on one of our Mission Priorities – the ideas discussed are then presented to the Mission Council to decide what can be achieved. Tomorrow night is our next Mission Council meeting, so much of the focus will be on '*Serving Others without Discrimination*'.

## Easter is nearly here!

Palm Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	10am 4pm–6pm	Palm Sunday All Age Worship Easter Messy Church
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	8pm	CAMEO Craft Group
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	7pm	‘Journey through Easter’ <i>A reflective journey from the road to Jerusalem to the empty tomb, featuring our musical groups. Free admission, refreshments served afterwards included.</i>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	2pm – 4pm 7pm – 9pm	‘The Story Unlocked’ <i>and</i> ‘The Story Unlocked’ <i>A Journey through the streets of Jerusalem, visiting the Temple, the Upper Room, Gethsemane and the Cross to gather clues to lead you to Easter Sunday.</i>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	11.15am	Easter Thursday Church <i>A relaxed, traditional worship to reflect and celebrate Easter.</i> Passover Festival <i>An opportunity to share together in remembering the first Holy week, booking essential, donations welcome</i>
Good Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	10am 11.30am	Good Friday All Age Worship Outreach in Fountain Square
Easter Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	8.30am 10am	Easter Breakfast <i>Booking essential, donations welcome</i> Easter Sunday All Age Worship

## Join together to prepare for Easter

During the last 4 weeks of Lent, why not make time to reflect on the Easter Story? We are encouraged to watch 2 episodes of *The Chosen* Season 5 each week – at any time. And if you want to reflect further then use the material in the booklet provided with the bulletin email or as a handout. There is also an opportunity to watch with others at the hall, if you are unable to access the programme at home (each episode is 1 hour long). Read on for more details:

*The Chosen is a popular historical drama about the life of Jesus, crowdfunded by millions of viewers and currently translated in 125 languages and another 240 more language translations are currently in progress.*

*It stays true to the gospels while filling in “between the lines” with imaginative, historically grounded storytelling. From the perspectives of the various women and men who first followed him, it features fictional dialogue, subplots, and backstories. It explores relatable themes such as the complexity of relationships, political tension and social issues using artistic interpretation in a remarkably inclusive and ecumenical way. Season 5 of *The Chosen* focuses on the Last Supper and Holy Week.*

If you have not watched previous seasons of “*The Chosen*”, don’t worry, you can still participate and benefit from this activity. We hope that it will enable you to look at and experience this Easter in a new light. You can do this in the following ways:

- The Chosen App / Website: the primary, free location to watch all seasons: <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>
- The Chosen app is also available on Roku, Fire TV and Apple TV
- Amazon Prime Video UK: seasons 1-5 are available
- DVD of *The Chosen* season 5 available in Treasurer’s office

THE SALVATION ARMY  
SOUTH WEST DIVISION

# Divisional Celebration

7 JUNE  
EXMOUTH PAVILION

10:00 am Relax at the beach with your Divisional family, with activities for Children (Rain plan is to be inside Pavilion)  
Lunch, 12:30 pm Divisional Beach Picnic, bring your own  
2:00 pm Worship in the Pavilion  
4:00 pm Divisional Pulse for Teens

Throughout the day there will also be an Art Display from artists in our division

More information to be released via Divisional Bulletin



# The Week Ahead

## TODAY - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

- 10am All Age Worship *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*  
'From Start to Finish: Jesus' Mission Statement'  
[Luke 4: 14-30](#)
- 11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church

*(The Youth Group are on retreat this weekend)*

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March:

- 8pm Mission Council Meeting *at the hall*

## Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March:

- 9:30am-2:30pm Employment Plus
- 10am Episode 1 of *The Chosen*
- 10am – 2pm Open Doors *inc. homemade soup at 12.30pm*
- 10am-11am Fitness Club
- 11am-12noon Extra Slice Group (leader: Kelvin) *at the hall*
- From 6:30pm YP Band Practice and Singing Company Practice
- 8pm Songster Practice

## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March:

- 9:30am-11am Tots on the Hill
- 3:30pm-4:30pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Gerry) *online*
- 8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Linda) *at Kelvin & Linda's*
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Beth) *online*

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March:

- 10am-12noon Open Doors
- 10am Episode 2 of *The Chosen*
- 11:15am Thursday Church *(inc. Self Denial Altar Service)*
- 12:30pm Lunch Club - *booking essential*
- 6:45pm Extra Slice Group (leaders: Colin & Nicola) *at Hall*
- 8pm Senior Band Practice
- 8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Bethany) *at Bev & Jon's*
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group (leaders: Ian & Rachel) *online*



# The Week Ahead *[continued]*

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March:

7:30am-12noon Slimming World Groups  
10am-12noon Open Doors  
2pm Cleaning Hall

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March:

10am-12noon Coffee Morning



## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March:

10am Mothers' Day All Age Worship *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*

11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church and Youth  
5:30pm Pulse Youth Event *at Bristol Easton*



## Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Territorial Children's & Youth Conference
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Church2U
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Divisional Design for Life for Children at Bristol Citadel
<i>See earlier in the bulletin for Holy Week Activities</i>	

