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May 2026

While I was on holiday recently one of the things that I wanted to do was to visit the historic ships in Portsmouth. A ticket enables you to see HMS Victory, The Mary Rose, HMS Warrior, HMS M33, as well as a harbour trip and entrance to all the museums in the harbour. A great day out!

First commissioned in 1778 HMS Victory amazingly is still the oldest commissioned War Ship in the world as she is still the flag ship for the First Sea Lord, the head of the Royal Navy. At the moment she is actually undergoing a £50 million pound refit in order to preserve the ship for future generations, but it was good that you were still able to walk around the ship.

On my visit to Portsmouth I was again reminded of Admiral Lord Nelson's message to the British fleet before the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 that 'England expects that every man will do his duty.' It was of course an amazing victory for the British fleet over the combined French and Spanish fleets. A victory that would also cost Lord Nelson his life. At the end of his life he said, 'thank God that I have done my duty.'

As I thought about this I thought again of the spiritual war that we are all engaged in as Christians between good and evil in the world, and how we are all called to follow the example of Jesus in the way that we live. How we are called to step out daily in faith to live for Him, out of our love for God and all that He has done for us. And we are to do that, whatever the personal cost it may be to us. Because only in that way can we truly share God's love for the world and the hope that can be found in Him.

In 1 Peter 2:4-5 we read 'as you come to Him the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him, you also like living stones are being built into a spiritual house to be a Holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.'

I pray that we will all continue to strive in response to God's love to us to live as His witnesses, so that we too will be able to say at the end of our earthly lives, 'thank God I have done my duty.'

May God bless us all as we do just that.

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 June newsletter: messages, prayers or prayer requests, please let Major Kevin, Caroline, Mags or Bev know by Sunday May 24th. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you each month, please let Bev know.



Dates for your Diary in May

Saturday 2nd All halls 8.30-15.30 Hire: Diocese

Tuesday 5th Main hall/kitchen 18.00 Hire: Filling Station

Sunday 10th 4:00 p.m. Messy Church

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

Sunday 17th 13.00 Fellowship Lunch

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

Tuesday 19th Chilton Fields 18:00 140: Evening walk

Wednesday 20th 13.00-16.00 Hire: U3A

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

Friday 22nd 09.00-16.00 DHQ: Divisional Pentecost Spiritual Day

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

Sunday 24th 10.30 Café Church Followed by a Picnic at the seaside Felixstowe 13.00 140: Meet and Eat – Picnic

Friday 29th Hire: 14.00—16.00 Bereavement Group

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

David Morgan would like people to visit Carol but please ring him first on 01449 675978.

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



November 21st Quiz Night—further details to follow.

Look out for information on: Evening Walks—various routes in June and July. Look forward to seeing you at Chilton Fields on Tuesday 19th at 6:00 p.m.

December Community Carols
Further details to follow.

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.



Meet and Eat Seaside Picnic at Felixstowe

Prayer Topics for the month

Everyone is invited to take a picnic and enjoy some food and fun in Felixstowe. After the meeting on Sunday May 24th we can take our food, chairs, games, buckets and spades and meet in the Rose Gardens near the Spa Pavilion. If you need a lift please put a T next to your name. Family and friends are welcome to join us.

Week	Our Corps/Church	Our Community	Our World
10	For those that were once part of our church family.	Healing for those affected by past trauma. Psalm 147:3	
11	Spirit filled worship Services. John 4:	For all who work with and protect the vulnerable in our Community. Psalm 41:1	World leaders and decision makers.
12	Over 60's Club	Care for the elderly and frail. Isaiah 46:4	
13	Small groups and Bible studies. Acts 2:42	Encouragement for Those struggling with their mental health. Psalm 34: 17-18	Our natural world and the environment.

