

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY NEWSLETTER

OUTLOOK

MAY 2026 - ISSUE 37

Ask! Ask! Ask! And it shall be given;
Seek! Seek! Seek! And you're sure to find;
Knock! Knock! Knock! And the door will open,
For God! God! God! Is so good and kind, O yes,

So Ask! Ask! Ask! And it shall be given;
Seek! Seek! Seek! And you're sure to find;
Knock! Knock! Knock! And the door will open,
For God! God! God! Is so good and kind.



Majors Carrie & Philip James
Bedlington Salvation Army
Hartford Road West NE22 6HU

Tel Office 01670 829356
Email. Bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/bedlington

Message from the Corps Officers

Sunday Worship...Morning Service at 10am.

Sunday School at 10.45am.

Corps Officers : Majors Carrie & Philip James

Many have shared how warmly they're welcomed at Bedlington Corps, and we want to thank everyone for showing such care. It's wonderful to witness so many looking out for each other and forming caring relationships. But with busy schedules and activities, it's possible for individuals to feel overlooked or forgotten. We want everybody to know they are valued and loved.

To ensure everyone feels supported within our fellowship, we're introducing a "Buddy" scheme. Each person will have a designated buddy who will notice if they're absent, offer support when needed, and keep leadership informed of any concerns. This scheme isn't meant to restrict friendships; rather, we hope it will encourage both current and new connections while adding intention to how we care for one another. Olive and Jill have dedicated much time and prayer to preparing this initiative, which is set to launch on May 31st. We hope you'll welcome the Buddy scheme and find it beneficial.



Christian love in fellowship is not a new idea. Tertullian, a Christian writer from Carthage (155–220), was the first to use the Latin term trinitas for Trinity and is seen as the founder of Western theology. Living in a major Roman city, he observed Roman soldiers and noted that pagans were impressed by the church. He wrote that they would say "See.. how they [Christians] love one another (for they themselves [pagans] hate one another); and how they are ready to die for each other (for they themselves are readier to kill each other)."



Perhaps this should not be too surprising. Jesus had said to his disciples By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another John 13:35. The epistles – particularly John's – repeatedly call for Christian brothers and sisters to love one another. And in Romans 12, where Paul wrote about diversity within the fellowship, he reminds us in verse 5 that ... in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We hope that love continues to grow and show here in Bedlington in a way that can show Jesus love to the community around us. God bless you all.

Majors Carrie and Philip James
Corps Officers



MOVIE → NIGHT ←

**BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY BAND PRESENTS
AN EVENING FULL OF MOVIE CLASSICS**

20 June, 2026

Bedlington
Salvation Army
Hartford Road West
NE22 6HU

18:30 Start

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



Message from the CSM

May is the time of year that holds a mixture of events. Those young people sitting exams, and the teachers preparing students for them. Those who are going off on holiday, and spring has arrived with new plants, fruits and lots of weeds!

For the church there is a lot to celebrate, Ascension (May 29, 2026), Pentecost (May 24, 2026), and Trinity Sunday (May 31, 2026), and within the Salvation Army, we have Candidate's Sunday as those preparing for Officership look forward to study, either in London or remotely. It can all be very stressful and bearing in mind all that is happening currently in the world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.



In Songsters at the moment we are preparing a song called "He Will Hold Me Fast" Here are a couple of verses from it.



When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold, Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.

He must hold me fast, He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast, For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast, Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast, Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast, Till our faith is turned to sight, When he comes at last.

Songwriters: Matthew Sherman Merker

Psalm 139:10 (NIV) states, "even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

Let us endeavour to hold fast to God as he guides us through this busy month.

God Bless You

Jill



Love God
Love Others

KIDS SUMMER CAMP



**FUN & CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS
& GIRLS OVER 6
YEARS OLD**

When
**17-21 AUGUST
09:00-12:30**

Where
**HARTFORD
ROAD WEST
NE22 6HU**

Cost
£10

Activities

- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Outbound games
- ✓ Arts & Craft
- ✓ Breakfast & Lunch
- ✓ Great Fun

Theme

I've been changed for good.

How to sign up

Email: Bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk
Or Phone 01670 829356 in working hours

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



Recent Announcements



Food Bank Shortage

The Food Bank is in need of tinned or instant potatoes. If you are able to donate, the Food Bank would be very grateful, as they are currently experiencing a real shortage.

Food Bank referrals are open Monday to Wednesday and Friday, between 08:00 and 12:00.

Valentina & Richard Wearmouth Farwell

As part of recent officer transfers, friends of the Corps, Valentina Wearmouth and Richard Wearmouth, along with their two children, will be taking a big step in their lives as they move to Greenville.

If you would like to send a card or share your best wishes with them, please give them to David Wearmouth or Alison Wearmouth, who will pass them on.



Telephone Update



Since the start of the year, we have been experiencing issues with our phone lines and haven't been able to answer your calls. We are very pleased to confirm that the issue has now been resolved, and the phone lines are working again.

If you need to get in touch, you can now call and speak with our Community Manager, Arleen Thompson.

Northern Summer School 2026

For anyone between the ages 12-25, bookings for this year's Northern Summer School are now open. The week will run from Saturday 8th to Saturday 15th August at the usual venue, Collingwood College.

The theme for the week is "The Way – Devoted Together and Sent." There is an early bird offer running until the end of the month, so if you would like to attend, please see the poster next to this for more information on how to book your place, or you can speak to the Jason Tasker.



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

Newcastle City Temple Band Review

On Saturday 9th May, our friends at Newcastle City Temple gave us an uplifting evening of music as the Newcastle City Temple Band joined with the Bedlington Songsters for a varied and inspiring concert programme.

The evening opened in fine style with Bram Coles' stirring march Deeds of Valour, immediately setting a confident and celebratory tone. The band then accompanied the beautifully reflective chorus arrangement You Encircle Me by Erik Silfverberg.

Following the welcome and introductions, the congregation joined together in singing Trust and Obey, before the band presented Stephen Ponsford's lively and joyful All Creatures Praise. The Bedlington Songsters also contributed warmly to the evening with their ministry in song.

One of the musical highlights came from the cornet trio performance of The Veterans by Ray Steadman-Allen, played by David R, David B and Bob. The band's rendition of When Jesus Looked O'er Galilee, arranged by Leslie Condon, brought a more devotional mood to the programme before Nigel's Eb Bass solo, Aria from The Magic Flute arranged by Ray Steadman-Allen, which was appreciated by the audience. We then had Alan who brought two piano solos: Mendelssohn's Songs Without Words Opus 30 No.3 and Elgar's Idyl Opus 4 No.1.



The lighter side of the programme featured music from the musicals, including the ever-popular Love Changes Everything arranged by Stephen Bulla, alongside Peter Graham's expressive Ask. The congregational worship continued with In Christ Alone before the band gave a moving presentation of In His Light by Niels Silfverberg.

A particularly local flavour was added with Water of Tyne, arranged by Philip Harper, which was warmly received. The final section of the programme maintained the high standard of the evening. Harold Burgmayer's Quietude and Stephen Hull's God Is Good prepared the way for the concluding selection, Kenneth Smith's triumphant Endless Victory. The concert closed with Eric Ball's march Star Lake, sending everyone home uplifted and encouraged.

The evening was a wonderful showcase of musical talent, worship and fellowship, and sincere thanks were expressed to everyone who took part in making the concert such an enjoyable occasion.

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.

Thank you!

Bedlington Corps Archive

As part of the Corps archive we are preparing for our upcoming 150th anniversary in 2028, we need your help identifying dates from some historical materials we've been given. Below are a few pictures — if you recognise any of them or know the dates they are from, please let Daniel Mercer or Jill Moore know. Thank You.



Tom the Salvation Salesman

A 75 year old pensioner can rightly claim to be the champion solo charity collector and top newspaper seller in Blyth after thirty years of standing out in all weathers and raising almost £100,000 for the Salvation Army.

Tom Park, with his smiling round face, is instantly recognized in Blyth wearing his striking Salvation Army uniform and carrying a collection box and armful of War Cry newspapers.

Tom, lives in Chestnut Avenue, less than quarter of a mile from where he was born in Barnard Street, but lived for several years with his family in Killy Brewer and was educated at schools in Bebside. He launched into his Salvation Army career by chance when he accompanied his wife, Frances, to the Citadel in Union Street to help in the distribution of the free Government butter scheme operating at that time. It led to him signing as a "soldier" and almost immediately began selling the War Cry. He said: "The butter distribution at the citadel was stopped by the Army because of the greed of some people who travelled to other depots in the town to get more than they should."



Tom Park.

Tom's selling work started on the streets of the town, notably outside Woolworths, but the building of the Presto multiple store on the old railway station site brought him indoors and when Safeway took over he was still protected by the rain. Morrisons then bought the site but Tom was cast out into the cold again because widespread flooding closed the store. When it reopened he was back in the warmth.

Because of his wide and varied jobs - welding, opencast, shipbreaking, sweetmaking and factory work - his collecting was, and is, confined to Saturdays and a set routine. He is in position when the store opens at seven o'clock and does not leave until half past one in the afternoon. "The girls are very kind to me," he said. "They often bring me cups of tea."

The Blyth Citadel was closed three years ago and was purchased by a local businessman who sold it on to the Muslim community for use as a mosque. It was this which led to Tom being approached in the store by critics of the change of use.

"I told them it had nothing to do with me," he said. "I explained the citadel was closed because of a shortage of officers. We were not the only one - Ashington and Morpeth were also closed for the same reason. To become an officer you have to give up time to attend training sessions in London and not enough were coming forward."

Tom reckons he collects around £60 every Saturday at the store but this increases to £70 a week during the Christmas period. On these figures it means that over the thirty years he has raised almost £100,000 for the Salvation Army. Sales of the War Cry - he sells out every Saturday - totals over the same period almost six figures. In recognition of his efforts he was presented with a badge, now on his uniform, as the most productive collector and salesperson in the region. And Tom, a widower, for the past 24 years, plans to continue for as long as his health allows him.

BEDDLINGTON.

STILL further north? Yes, further north. We like the pitmen and we will fly the standard within sight of every colliery in the kingdom, God helping us. But there was another attraction to Bedlington besides the fact of its being the centre of a network of coal mines, and that was a newly built unoccupied theatre. This we seized, and threw the doors open on Sunday with an entire change of performance, Brother Borrill, the Happy Gardener, being the chief actor.

The first services were a success, and the work has been taken up and is being pushed forward by Sister Mary Ann Smith with energy—victory after victory having been obtained. Read the following scrap of intelligence:—"On the 9th we had a wonderful meeting, for we had a number of valiant soldiers who were heroes for the devil, but now they are heroes for the Lord, their experience was something wonderful."

SNAILS FOR THE FAMILY.

One man said I thank God that he has spared me, for I was a great sinner, I was so bad, I was too bad to live. I used to go out and spend all my wages; once I was so bad I brought a large stone into my house with a lot of snails on it, and I told my family that they had to live on these the next fortnight and get fat; but, thank God, friends, I am now restored to my right mind.

CHRIST FOR BILL.

Another man said, if any man has a right to thank God, it is me, for the devil, who I used to serve, was a bad master. I was a drunkard, was a gambler and a card player, and I would go to the theatre and play the fool for to please the people, and then for my services in that army, they sent me to Morpeth Prison for my wages. Friends, it is a poor place to go to, for to get fat. Now the people tell me I am going wrong in my mind, but, hallelujah! I am now getting right, for praise God I never was so happy in all my life. You may laugh at me, I will wait till you get your laugh out; you all know that I thought it no shame to come out into the streets and fight for the devil, and now do you think I would be ashamed to fight for God? No, hallelujah!—for he has made me happy, and you can think of me what you like—but Christ for Bill.

Our sister is fighting bravely, and waking up the whole country side. The place is very poor, any help will be very welcome, and may be sent to,
MARY ANN SMITH.



All the Other Mummies were There—but Mine!

Corps Cadet Guardian **MRS. SELCOMBE**, of Bedlington, tells of an intimate experience

...the path of righteousness, and in my heart I resolved that I would try to step into her place. **GOD TRANSFORMED MY LIFE.** Whereas once I encouraged Edna to neglect God's house now I strive to encourage other young people to do the right.

My baby of thirteen months is now seventeen years of age, and we both love and serve the same Saviour. Our home is a very happy one, and I now spend Sundays worshipping God, and striving to spread the gospel.

I give to God all praise and glory, for I have proved that He saves and keeps from all sin. He has His rightful place in my heart, and I therefore experience lasting happiness and peace such as I never knew before. I have proved God's promises to be true. I have experienced answered prayer, and I have learned that God's grace is sufficient for all needs.



MRS. SELCOMBE'S CORPS CADET CLASS AT BEDDLINGTON



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 May

Thursday 14th
Corps Council

Friday 15th
NED Officer/leaders retreat day

Wednesday 20th
Men's Fellowship

Corps Calendar In June

Monday 1st
Home League - Games afternoon from 13:00

Wednesday 3rd
Ladies Fellowship 19:30

Saturday 6th
Band Coffee morning - 10:00

Thursday 11th
PCC Meeting

Wednesday 17th
Men's Fellowship - 19:30

Saturday 20th
Bedlington at the Movies Band concert - 18:30

Sunday 21st
Corps Anniversary weekend

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th
DFL SPORT, FAITH LIFE

Saturday 27th
Youth Band and Chorus - Kirkcaldy
& Fellowship Band at Sunderland Monkwearmouth

Monday 29th
Home League