

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY NEWSLETTER

OUTLOOK

JULY 2026 - ISSUE 39



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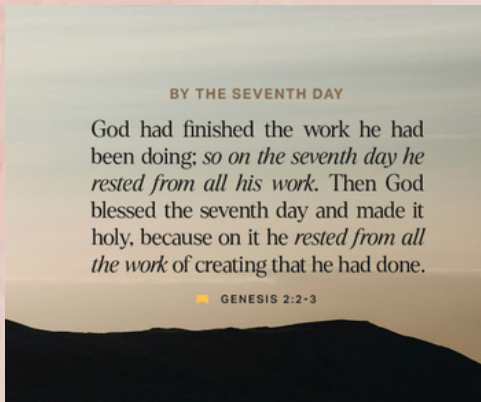
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/bedlington

Message from the Corps Officers

Sunday Worship...Morning Service at 10am.

Sunday School at 10.45am.

Corps Officers : Majors Carrie & Philip James



Genesis 2:2-3 ² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

It has been a busy time with many things going on. We all now have buddies. The band's Movie Night brought new faces into the hall and showed the value of reaching people with the message of the gospel through music, the Corps Anniversary celebrated 148 years of service here in Bedlington, the divisional youth sections had a good weekend away in Kirkcaldy and as I write this we are looking forward to the visit of Major Donald Montgomery for our songster weekend marking Brian's retirement from long faithful service as Songster Leader. We are grateful for the many years of faithful service and leadership.

And now we are entering the holiday season. It is important to take time to regroup and recharge. Sometimes holidays themselves can be stressful and we can return feeling we need another break. But research suggests that spending time away from our usual routine and stresses with our loved ones can be good for relationships and for mental health. It helps recover some perspective – and that can be true of our relationship with God. Time away from our normal pressures is valuable – and is seen in scripture. For example, Psalm 23 says He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

Whether or not you are going away this summer, there will be a period when there is less going on. Let us take the opportunity this summer to regroup, recharge and refocus.
God bless

Philip & Carrie

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

IN HONOUR OF

Brian Dixon

RETIREMENT AS SONGSTER LEADER



SATURDAY
11TH JULY



6:30 PM
TICKETS £3



HARTFORD ROAD WEST
BEDLINGTON NE22 6HU

FEATURING

- BEDLINGTON BAND
- SUNDERLAND MILFIELD SONGSTERS
- MAJORS DONALD AND ANN MONTGOMERY



Brian Dixon on being Songster leader



This month, we will mark the end of Brian Dixon's tenure as the songster leader as we celebrate the many years of service he has provided to the Corps. He has been sharing his experiences and reflections on his time in charge of the Songsters with Outlook.

It has been quite some time since I stepped into the role of leader for the Bedlington Songsters, taking over from Eric back in 1982. My journey began as his deputy from 1995 to 2000, during which I was often away due to work commitments, managing to return home only once or twice a month.

Leading the Bedlington Songsters has been an incredible privilege, allowing me the opportunity to share our faith through music with various communities. Over the years, we have travelled to numerous places for weekends of worship, proclaiming God's message in vibrant cities such as Aberdeen, Blackpool, Clowne, Letchworth, Leighton Buzzard, Paisley, Reading, Rochdale, Shiremoor, and Sunderland Monkwearmouth. Each Saturday evening, we would engage audiences in concerts at numerous Corps in our division and at other local churches, creating a warm atmosphere filled with song and joy.

One particularly memorable occasion was our weekend retreat at Epworth, the historic home church of Charles Wesley, where we mingled with tourists drawn to the rich heritage of the place. Our adventures have even taken us abroad, with unforgettable trips to Stavanger, Norway, in 1994; Fedje, Norway, in 2012; and San Diego, USA, in 2006. Each destination brought unique experiences and opportunities to connect with others through our shared love of music and faith.



The most important aspect of our journey has been our contribution to the worship within our own Corps. Over the years, we have celebrated the lives of many cherished members who have gone on to glory while warmly embracing new and eager younger members who wish to join our ranks. This dynamic has created a sense of renewal and excitement, making our time together incredibly special and blessed.

Ultimately, as I reflect on our collective experiences, I am reminded of the heartfelt words penned by Ann and Donald Montgomery in the song they created for the Songsters. My hope is that our musical contributions over the years have uplifted voices—past and present—that will continue to rise in celebration, glorifying His name through the powerful medium of music.



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



148th Anniversary Celebrations

Between the 19th and 21st of June we shared a memorable weekend together at Bedlington Salvation Army as we celebrated music, faith and 148 years of God's faithfulness.

It started on the Friday evening which saw the band entertain a packed audience with "A Night at the Movies." The programme featured a fantastic variety of well-loved film music, opening with the majestic 2001: A Space Odyssey before taking us through favourites including The Avengers, The Mission, Back to the Future, Jurassic Park, Mission: Impossible, and the stirring finale, The Dam Busters.

The evening was enriched by a number of excellent solo contributions. The piano solo Back to the Future, the Horn solo Over the Rainbow, and the Vocal solo or comedy act of James Bond Medley along with performances of My Heart Will Go On and I Do It For You, and the inspiring rendition of This Is Me all showcased the wonderful talent within our fellowship. Our various presenters kept the programme flowing smoothly, adding interesting introductions and reflections throughout the evening. It was a thoroughly enjoyable concert that entertained everyone.



The Saturday evening saw members congregate at the hall for a faith supper before the real celebrations began on the Sunday with worship led by Major Martin Hill and his wife Beverley. The worship centred on the theme "Who are we?", exploring our identity as God's people through Scripture.

The congregation joined together in heartfelt worship with songs including Holy, Holy, Holy, Light of the World, Colours of Day, As We Are Gathered, For I'm Building a People of Power, I'm Set Apart for Jesus, and concluding with Lord, for the Years. We had Bible readings from Isaiah 6, Matthew 5, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 2 reminded us that we are called to be Light, the Body of Christ, and a Royal Priesthood, challenging us to live out our faith in our community.

The service also included prayers of thanksgiving for 148 years of ministry, contributions from the Singing Company, Songsters, Young People's Band and the senior Band, making it a true celebration of every generation within the corps along with a photo presentation showing are pictures from our history.

From an evening of outstanding musical entertainment to a meaningful anniversary celebration, the weekend reflected the gifts, dedication and fellowship that continue to make Bedlington Salvation Army such a special place. We thank everyone who took part—musicians, singers, speakers, organisers and all who attended—and above all give thanks

THANKFUL FRIDAY

Every Friday

10:00 - 12:00

Hartford Road West NE22 6HU



Tea
Coffee
Toasted Tea Cakes
Biscuits



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Recent Announcements



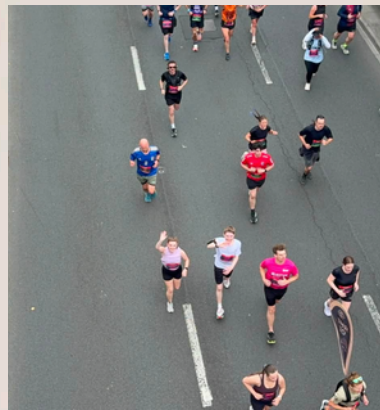
Food Bank Appeal for

If you are able to, please pick up some UHT milk for the food bank while you're shopping, as there is currently a shortage. Food bank referrals are open Monday to Wednesday and Friday, from 08:00 to 12:00. Thank you!

Sections having open practice

On Thursday, July 9th, the singing company will be hosting an open rehearsal and invites you to join in as they rehearse some new music. An ice cream van will also be at the rehearsal. Additionally, the band will hold their annual mass rehearsal with the YP Band and invites anyone who has an instrument and is free to come along at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, July 14th.

Open Rehearsal



Charity Funraising within our Corps

We have two members currently participating in sponsored runs within our corps. First, Tracey Binns is running for Alzheimer's research, and a donation form is posted on the notice board as you enter. Additionally, Jacob Smith and his cousin are taking part in the Great North 10K. They are not just running for medals or personal achievements; they are raising money for Karl's ongoing rehabilitation. You can speak to Christiana or Jacob to find out how to donate to their efforts.

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." Applications are still open so if you would like to attend, please see the poster next to this for more information on how to book your place.



BEDLINGTON CORPS ARCHIVE

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

We have already received plenty of content that will be included in the Archive but we are now looking to appeal for anything before 1970 and between the years 2000-2010

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

We have not received any indication from our previous newsletter for identification of pictures and when they were taken, 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.** Whence 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 July

Friday 10th

Parents & Toddlers last session

Saturday 11th

Music ministries festival including the retirement of Brian Dixon as songster leader - 6:30pm

Wednesday 15th

Men's Fellowship - Quoits & BBQ from 7:00pm

Sunday 19th

Divisional welcome meeting from 1:30pm
& Amble Songs of Praise (Band), 3pm

Monday 27th

Home League

Saturday 25th – Saturday 1st August

Territorial Music School

Corps Calendar In August

Saturday 8th - Saturday 15th

Northern Summer School

Wednesday 12th

Northern Summer School Midweek open night - 7pm

Saturday 15th

Northern Summer School Final Festival - Time TBC

Monday 17th- Friday 21st

Divisional Junior Camp

Monday 17th- Friday 21st

Children Holiday club

Monday 24th

Home League

Saturday 29th

Bedlington Community Day