

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY NEWSLETTER

OUTLOOK

SEPTEMBER 2026 - ISSUE 40



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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

We had a great holiday in Wales with time to slow down, enjoy creation and recharge our batteries. And I know many of you had good holidays – as well as some good news about exam results for the young people. But now the holiday season is coming to an end and things are starting again to get busy. Our young people are back at school or college – some with new surroundings to negotiate. I wonder what God has in store for us in the coming season?

Not everybody has had a good time. There are some among our fellowship who are hurting through bereavement, ill health or difficult circumstances. We think particularly of the families and friends of Sheila, Una and of Helen – but there are others too. As a fellowship we pray for them and support as best we can.

But through all that goes on – whatever trials, successes, celebrations we may face – we know that God is with us. The book of Lamentations was written at a very difficult time, mourning the loss of Jerusalem and the Temple. Israel had believed God would never allow Jerusalem to fall, but it was lost as a result of the people turning from God, Lamentations is a difficult read – yet even in those dark times there was a message of hope in the faithfulness of God. One passage in particular has appeared on inspirational posters inspired many songs - including one hymn often voted the favourite of all time:

²² Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Whatever is coming in this new season, we can be assured that God is with us, and if we continue to follow Him, we can look forward to great things.

God bless

Philip & Carrie James, Majors





YOU'RE INVITED TO

HARVEST

Celebrations

Join us at Bedlington Salvation Army for our Harvest Celebrations!

🌾 Saturday night is Quiz Night @ 18:30

🌾 Our Sunday Service, led by Majors Kim & Nigel Gotobed @10:00

Everyone is welcome — come along and celebrate Harvest with us!

QUIZ | FOOD | FELLOWSHIP

27TH -28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY
HARTFORD ROAD WEST NE22 6HU

Message from the CSM

As a new school year and season begins, I have been thinking about seasons in our lives. The bible famously talks about it. Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

¹” There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace”.



How many times do we feel stuck in a season? When we are going through difficult times it feels never ending, when things are going really well or we are looking forward to something, it is over in a flash! I try to remember that God is constant. He is there all the time in every situation, good or bad, and often, it's not until afterwards, perhaps in a new season, or even years later, that we can see God's hand in it and how he has helped us. Galatians 6 v 9 tells us : “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”.

Whatever season we find ourselves in at this moment, let's pray that we can hang in there with God, trusting that He is there beside us, to guide and love us and that He never fails us.

God Bless You

Jill



Bedlington Salvation Army Presents

The North East Fellowship Band

Saturday 17th October @ 19:00
Hartford Road West NE22 6HU



Bedlington Summer Schools

Over the summer, a significant number of our young people participated in the Territorial Music School, Northern Summer School, and our very own Bedlington Summer Camp.

Daniel Mercer was the only representative from Bedlington at the Territorial Music School held at William Booth College. The theme for the week was "The Faithful," linked to the popular BBC show "The Traitors." He was placed in Gavin Lamplough's band for the third consecutive year, where his band played new works, including "Speak Jesus" (Sharman), "Dýnamis" (Cordner), and "Glory Revealed" (Venables). However, their major work for the week was Eric Ball's "Resurgam," which Daniel described as moving the hall in a way he had never experienced before. He particularly noted the 20 seconds of silence during the performance as profoundly impactful.



The majority of the youth attended the Northern Summer School: Grace, Samuel, Luke, Milly, Annie, Jacob, Lucy, Abigail, and Claire. The theme of the week was "The Way," focusing on Acts 2:42-47. The week was filled with worship, rehearsals, messy games, scavenger hunts, silent discos, and talent showcases. The young people put on a wonderful final festival featuring brass, vocal performances, and drama. The concert concluded with a united rendition of Yvonne Field's "Under His Wings." All the students we've spoken to so far said they enjoyed a great week.

We also welcomed back the Bedlington Summer Camp led by Rachel Lightley. All week, we've been discussing how God transforms us for the better. We enjoyed breakfast together, sang and danced, created crafts, including air-dry clay creations, and demonstrated how some changes are permanent. The young people started with water, which turned to ice and then melted back into water, illustrating this concept. Two Bible verses that were crucial throughout the week were from Matthew: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20) and "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). These passages emphasize the importance of coming together to worship and letting our lights shine, brightening the world around us.



A heartfelt thank you to all the adults who volunteered this week: Ann, Barbara, Bev R, Brian D, Gemma, Helen, Jill, Jocelyn, Keith M, Kevin, Linda, Mandy, Mia, Rachel, Roz, Shiela, and Susan. We also appreciate our Young Leaders, Annie, Grace, and Samuel. Without each of these willing helpers, we wouldn't be able to safely work with so many children throughout the week. Thank you all!

Brian's retirement celebration



It was a wonderful weekend of celebration as we marked the retirement of Songster Leader Brian Dixon, following an incredible 39 years of dedicated service.

Brian's commitment, leadership and faithfulness over nearly four decades have been a tremendous blessing, and it was a fitting opportunity to recognise and celebrate all that he has given through his ministry.

A huge thank you goes to the Songsters of The Salvation Army, Sunderland Millfield, led by Lesley Warrington, who put on a fantastic concert on Saturday night. The program featured a wonderful variety of performances, with support from our own band. The concert concluded with a massed songster item between the two corps of "In the Army" by Darren Bartlett.

On Sunday, our service was led by Major Donald Montgomery, who spoke about Glory and Living. Our corps officer, Phillip James, shared personal testimonies, stating, "The songsters are always, for me, a very important part of our core ministry. God speaks through the message of the songsters. I'm sure there have been many occasions when we haven't discussed what the meeting would entail, yet the songster piece that has been chosen has been exactly the right one for the message. It's almost as if someone has planned it. The Holy Spirit works and speaks through the sung word. I would like to put on record my gratitude for your service over the years, and may God bless you in the years to come."

Brian Dixon then had the opportunity to share his testimony before leading the songsters for the final time: "It's been a privilege over the years. I would like to thank those songsters who have sung under my leadership. Some have gone to glory, some are still here, and some youngsters are just joining. It has been an honour to lead you. I thank you for your kindness and the great times we've had together, and I pray that we may grow as a songster brigade from strength to strength. May God bless you all."



As a final surprise for Brian, after conducting the songsters for the last time, Clare Tasker led a brand new arrangement of "He Came Right Down to Me," arranged by Nicholas J. Samuel especially for the weekend.

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

Recent Announcements



Promotion to Glory of Helen Rogers Doyle

We have sad news to share about the passing of Helen Rogers Doyle, Colin and Denise's daughter-in-law. Please keep her, her husband Phillip, and their children Jack and Oliver in your prayers. For those who knew her, a celebration of life will be held on Wednesday, September 16th, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Church in Ashton. Helen was a bright and colorful soul, and we encourage you to wear

bright colors in her memory. Let's remember her laughter, kindness, and the wonderful memories she leaves behind.

Sections returning back to normal

All of our sections are returning to normal after the summer break, which includes our Thankful Friday sessions each week. If you are interested in joining any of our sections or activities, please speak to any of the leaders or the Corps officers, and they will guide you in the right direction.



Charity Funraising within our Corps

Dr John Clifton is running in support of Eston Salvation Army's Christmas Toy Appeal, which helps families across Eston, South Bank, Grangetown and the wider Middlesbrough area. Every donation—whatever the amount—will help ensure that local children receive a gift this Christmas. We wish John all the best as he takes on the 13.1 mile challenge.



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.



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.

Torn, 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 Kitty Brewster and was educated at schools in Besside. 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."

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 to me," he said. "They often bring me cu-

"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.



Tom Park

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."

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.

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.



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

WE learn, by our mistakes. I have proved this true. On September 13, 1943, I learnt the great lesson of my life. Up to then I had always sought to get the best out of life, and enjoyed myself in every possible way. I believed in God but not in any vital sense. I attended His house only on special occasions.

Starting out on married life, I thought I had everything that mattered: a good husband, a comfortable home, I was short of nothing and everything was complete. When we were blessed with the gift of a lovely daughter whom we called Edna.

At the invitation of a school friend, Edna began attending

Army junior meetings, which made her very happy. I had no objection to her going, but I had no interest myself in The Salvation Army. Nor had I any intention of allowing Edna to become a Salvationist.

One Decision Sunday, however, Edna gave her heart to Jesus, and urged me to do likewise, asking me to help her to live up to that which she had promised, and to refrain from sending her to the shops on Sundays. I was moved, but, like many more, tried to help her in my own strength. I soon failed.

By this time, a second daughter had been born to us, and we took our children for Sunday pleasures. Trips when the weather was fine. Edna was not happy about missing the junior meetings.

of Bedlington, tells of an intimate experience

mines were at the Army today by mine," and, seeing her disappointment, I promised I would go next time.

THE FOLLOWING DAY EDNA WAS PROMOTED TO GLORY, AT NINE YEARS OF AGE. In a mud accident 100 yards away from our home, and for me life just stood still.

The Salvation Army officers at soldiers of the Bedfordshire Corps proved to us that the Salvation Army was all that I stood for. My were left with a baby girl two months.

On the Sunday evening September 13, 1943, Edna's memorial service was held, and that meeting God saved me from all my sin.

In her childhood years, Edna has shown her desire for me to travel.

(Continued in column 5)

(Continued from column 4)

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

My baby of thirteen months is now seventeen years of age, and she both loves and respects me the same. Our home is a very happy one, and I now spend my Sundays worshipping God, and striving to spread His love and glory, for I have proved that He saves and keeps from all sin. He has His rightful place in my life, and I have found that lasting happiness and peace such as I never knew before. I have proved God's promises to be true. I have answered answered prayer, and I have learned that God's grace is sufficient for all needs.

LEWIS GEORGE CORPS CADET CLASS AT BEDLINGTON



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 September

Wednesday 9th

Parent and toddler autumn session

Thursday 10th

Corps council meeting- 7:30pm

Wednesday 16th

Men's Fellowship from 7:00pm

Saturday 19th

Harvest weekend. Saturday evening 6.30pm Quiz - rotating themes each round

Sunday 20th

Harvest celebrations led by Majors Kim and Nigel Gotobed - 10am

Monday 28th

Home League

Corps Calendar In October

Wednesday 7th

Ladies fellowship

Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th

Youth Councils

Saturday 17th

Divisional Fellowship band at Bedlington, 7.00pm

Wednesday 21st

Men's fellowship

Thursday 22nd

PCC Meeting

Monday 26th

Home League

Wednesday 26th & Friday 28th

No Parent and toddlers (half term)